

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 15, 2006/Vaisakha 25, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary-General to call the hon. Member for taking oath/affirmation.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi (Raebareli)

11.02 hrs.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

[English]

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

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Saidullo Khairulloev, Chairman of Majlisi Namayandagon of Majlisi Oli and the Members of the Tajik Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Saturday, 13th May, 2006. They are now seated in the Special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Let me listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.03 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re: Killing of several persons in Doda and Udhampur District on 1st and 13th May, 2006

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Udhampur and Doda staged a dharna to protest the killing of 32 innocent people. A grenade was hurled at these people sitting on a dharna. Several people were injured in that attack. When a complaint was made to the Chief Minister, he said why did they sit on a dharna in the first instance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I had agreed to allow the matter to be raised at 12 noon. I will allow it at 12 noon.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Adjournment Motion be taken up at 12 noon?

MR. SPEAKER: Notice for Adjournment Motion, as you know, has not been given in time. It cannot be taken up today. But at 12 noon I will allow the matter to be mentioned by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not just to be mentioned. I am talking of the Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, the Question Hour be suspended and the Adjournment Motion be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am not minimising the importance of the issue. I have never minimised it. But sitting here I cannot openly ignore the rules. The rule says that the Adjournment Motion has to be given

before 10 a.m. Otherwise, it will go to next day. That is the rule. There is no request for relaxation.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, I do not know how it reached late. But I had sent it early. I would request you kindly to allow it today.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the response of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not consider that there is any case for taking up Adjournment Motion on this. This is, no doubt, a very unfortunate incident. But it is equally true that on earlier occasions also these types of massacres have taken place. Every massacre like this has to be condemned from different sides of the House. Most respectfully I would like to submit that this not a matter for taking up Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, in this situation we can give reference to Chittisinghpura and attacks on the Amamath *yatis*. I am not trading the numbers. But these are the incidents which have taken place which are condemnable. Everybody should condemn them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): What about the Chief Minister's statement? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am talking about the Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)* I am talking about the Adjournment Motion. In this House, we have never admitted an Adjournment Motion on a comment of a Chief Minister outside the House. That can never be the subject of an Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)* We are talking of the Adjournment Motion. Most respectfully. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: A grenade was hurled at the peaceful rallyists in Jammu and Kashmir. On this incident, the Chief Minister of the State asked—why did they organise a rally at all. It is despite the fact that the rallyists had properly intimated the Government in advance. Can we not take out a rally in a democratic country? Will the Government let the people get killed like this? Should the Chief Minister of the State give such a reply? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not a question of *...(Interruptions)* But it cannot be a subject of an Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please. I will allow you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: My respectful submission is that there is no case for Adjournment Motion, and I do feel that we have no problem if the issue is debated. We have no problem if the issue is debated even today. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just one minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Therefore, my most respectful submission is that if the hon. Members have concern to raise the issue, to express their views, to condemn the incident, I have no problem of accepting the discussion. Whatever time during the day you fix, it can be taken up for discussion. *...(Interruptions)* We are ready for discussion. This is my most respectful submission. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take it from me that I want a discussion to be held. I am not running away from it. It is my duty to give opportunities for important issues to be discussed, and I concede the right of the Opposition to raise this issue. Of course, it will be raised. I think, all problems can be solved, if we convert it to discussion under rule 193 and such discussions start at 12 noon. I do not mind it if we start the discussion at 12 noon.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is our right to have an Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to be raised under rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: They are adding insult to our injury *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand what do you want. I am allowing a discussion at 12 noon. Let it be started by him.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very difficult for me to admit Adjournment Motion. Rules have not been complied with. It is a matter to be discussed ordinarily.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. I am on my legs.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Even if I admit it, it will be taken up at 4 p.m. I am giving you permission to take it up at 12 noon under rule 193.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): They do not want a discussion. They do not want Calling Attention on communal situation in Baroda. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I mean, I am going to allow it under rule 193 at 12 noon today.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why at 12 noon?
...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have given a notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): They have submitted the Motion after 10 o'clock. How can we admit it? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You raise those issues at 12 noon.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.07½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Srichand Kriplani and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Kriplaniji, why are you coming to the well, other Members also will follow the suit.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested you to start discussion on Adjournment Motion at 12 o'clock, as it is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have made a request earlier that in view of the several questions that have been raised including the important question of procedure and compliance with the rules, it could be taken up under the general discussion under rule 193. It seems that is not agreeable to the main Opposition Party.

I had a discussion. Although there is no consensus on this—it should not be treated as a precedent—yet in view of the strong feelings that have been expressed, I am prepared to consider it as an Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): What will happen to our Calling Attention? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute! Let me complete. This is also a habit. I would request you to please give it up interrupting the Speaker, ignoring the Speaker when he is standing. This is not adding to the glory of this institution. I wish you could realize the job, the agony of the Speaker these days.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute! Let me complete. If you have anything to say, you take my permission and say. Now, I am prepared to reconsider the matter. But, since objection has been taken, well, I want to find out whether the numbers are there. You have to rise in your seats in support of this Motion.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: At 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it can be taken up at 12 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have a point. You are within your right to take a decision and we welcome, in whatever way possible you would like to run the House. It is because I believe that there is a definite attempt not to allow the House to run. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 422. Just a minute! Please do not dictate in every matter.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what is he saying? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What he is saying has to be recorded only if I permit. Let me hear what he is saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do that. Please do not interrupt in every matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I would like to know when our Calling Attention on communal situation in Gujarat will be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall decide it. I will decide it later on. Now, it is a Question Hour. Mr. Dasgupta, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to take only one minute. We made our position clear in the morning, by the Leader of the House that we felt it very proper to discuss it under other Rule. However, since we stand by the observations of the Speaker always to cooperate with the Chair, we shall abide by your directions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Q. 422 Shrimati Neeta Pateriya.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Centrally Assisted Irrigation Projects

*422. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about 150 centrally assisted ongoing irrigation projects are lying incomplete despite being in the priority list of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon so far, State-wise;
- (d) whether 29 of those projects brought in the ambit of fast track projects in 2002 have not been completed so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure completion of these projects expeditiously?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The details of 200 major/medium irrigation projects which have received Central Loan Assistance/grant under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 upto 2005-06 are as under:

	Completed	Deferred	Ongoing	Total
Normal	34	11	113	158
Fast Track	16	0	26	42
Total	50	11	139	200

The State-wise and project-wise details of Central Loan Assistance/grant released and expenditure incurred

under AIBP for normal and fast track projects are given in the Annexure-I.

(d) Out of 42 fast track projects/project components, 12 have been completed on schedule and 4 have been completed with delay of one to two schedule and 13 are likely to be delayed by one to three years. The details are given in Annexure-II.

(e) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. The important reasons for delay in completion of the projects are inadequate provisions of funds in State Budget, delay in transfer of funds to the executing agencies and delay in land acquisition along the Canals.

(f) The revised guidelines of the programme specify that the Central Assistance provided along with the State share must be transferred to the project authorities within 15 days and the State should ensure adequate budget provision. The general monitoring of the projects has been strengthened.

Annexure I

Centrally Assisted Irrigation Projects

CLA/grant released under Normal AIBP and expenditure incurred on Major/Medium Irrigation Projects

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State/Project Name	CLA/grant released upto 3/2006	Expenditure on AIBP components (upto 2004-05)
1	2	3	4
	Andhra Pradesh		
	Sriamsagar St. I	219.220	347.050
C	Cheyzeru (Annamaya)	15.330	40.690
1.	Priyadarshini Jurala	245.189	367.780
	Somasila	44.525	83.689
	Nagarjunsagar	26.430	41.901
	Madduvalasa	41.800	60.430
2.	Gundalavagu	4.005	11.040

1	2	3	4
3.	Maddigedda	3.792	6.710
X4.	Kanpur Canal	1.920	1.420
5.	Yerrakalva Res.	28.463	43.820
6.	Vamsdhara St-II Ph I	30.433	26.431
7.	Flood Flow Canal of SRSP	120.000	—
8.	Sriramsagar Project-II	2.269	—
Sub-Total		783.376	1030.961
Assam			
9.	Pahumara	6.140	11.720
10.	Hawaipur lift	4.965	8.720
C11.	Rupahi	0.655	2.177
12.	Dhansiri	31.690	76.107
13.	Champamati	13.733	33.038
14.	Borolia	12.537	21.732
C15.	bordikarai	7.013	19.459
16.	Burhi Dihing	4.224	8.146
17.	Intg. Irr. Scheme in Kallong Basin	12.982	65.818
X18.	Kotonga@	0.500	6.880
19.	Mod. of Jamuna Irr.	16.280	46.596
Sub-Total		110.719	300.393
Bihar			
20.	Western Kosi	173.049	400.348
21.	Upper Kiul	22.579	78.334
22.	Durgawati	65.090	171.313
-	Bansagar	83.500	144.375
23.	Orni Reservoir	11.401	28.963
C24.	Bilasi Reservoir	3.390	16.762
25.	Sone Modernisation	119.959	336.863
26.	Batane	3.335	4.257
Sub-Total		482.303	1181.215

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand			
27.	Gumani	27.302	59.453
X28.	Total+	2.500	1.360
C29.	Latratu	2.130	4.670
30.	Kansjore	11.040	23.543
31.	Sonua	18.346	32.587
32.	Surangi	12.150	21.899
C 33.	Tapkara Reservoir	0.515	0.860
34.	Upper Sankh	9.710	—
35.	Panchkhero	5.542	—
Sub-Total		89.235	1.44.372
Goa			
36.	Salauli	17.750	26.379
37.	Tillari I.S. (Goa Share)	113.300	169.740
Sub-Total		131.050	196.119
Gujarat			
	Sardar Sarovar	4042.850	6697.950
C38.	Jhuj	4.740	15.790
39.	Mukteshwar	10.863	22.986
C 40.	Sipu	6.455	15.985
C 41.	Damanganga	9.470	28.484
C 42.	Karjan	7.600	20.540
C 43.	Sukhi	5.650	13.330
C 44.	Deo	0.500	0.470
C 45.	Watrak	3.110	9.211
C 46.	Hamav-II	0.065	0.300
C 47.	Umaria	0.135	0.600
48.	Aji-IV	11.108	21.922
49.	Ozat-II	12.110	21.434

1	2	3	4
50.	Brahmini-II	4.000	3.665
51.	Bhadar-II	0.866	10.210
	Sub-Total	1419.522	6882.877
C 52	Gurgaon Canal	2.500	3.341
x 53	J.L.N. Lift Irr.	12.000	15.765
54.	WRCP	72.870	151.910
	Sub-total	87.370	171.016
Himachal Pradesh			
55.	Shahnehar Irr. Project	63.615	85.181
56.	Sidhata	10.770	9.084
57.	Changer Lift Irr. Project	3.368	4.318
	Sub-Total	77.753	98.583
Jammu & Kashmir			
x 58.	Marwal Lift*	0.300	0.000
59.	Lethpora Lift*	3.316	2.581
x 60.	Koil Lift*	0.500	0.000
61.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal*	29.193	36.040
62.	Mod. of New Pratap Canal*	9.406	10.168
63.	Mod. of Kathua Canal	7.616	9.362
64.	Rajpora Lift	13.344	11.554
65.	Tral Lift	18.102	17.896
66.	Igophey	9.630	11.082
67.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal	4.849	4.979
68.	Rafiabad High Lift Irr.	10.875	6.265
	Sub-Total	107.131	190.927
Karnataka			
69.	Upper Krishna St. I	853.853	1333.280
70.	Malaprabha	90.560	158.670
	Hirehalla	40.750	103.100

1	2	3	4
71.	Ghataprabha St. II	267.105	351.360
	Karanja	77.140	170.460
72.	Upper Krishna St. II	988.570	1460.680
73.	Gandori Nala	46.961	57.710
	Sub-Total	2364.939	3635.260
Kerala			
C 74.	Kallada	32.500	64.660
75.	Muvattupuzha	115.389	178.555
	Sub-Total	147.889	243.215
Madhya Pradesh			
76.	Indira Sagar Unit I	700.054	362.990
	Indira Sagar Unit II		659.050
77.	Bansagar (Unit I) (M.P.Share-Works)	343.547	357.995
	Bansagar (Unit II)	126.782	142.540
C 78.	Upper Wainganga	50.106	100.740
	Rajghat Dam	42.203	63.210
79.	Sindh Phase II	373.389	456.280
80.	Sindh Phase I	14.876	24.968
81.	Mahi	90.591	114.370
82.	Bariarpur LBC	73.681	85.630
C 83.	Urmil RBC	2.391	4.810
C 84.	Banjar	1.140	2.380
85.	Bawanthadi	48.670	48.490
86.	Mahan	21.770	20.110
87.	Omkareshwar, Ph.-I	100.636	84.350
	Bargi Diversion Ph-I	25.548	—
	Bargi Diversion Ph-II	11.330	—
	Sub-Total	2026.714	2527.913

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh			
	Hasdeo Bango	105.940	126.576
C 88.	Shivnath Diversion	3.540	6.561
89.	Jonk Diversion	7.600	17.096
90.	Kosarteda	12.199	25.028
91.	Mahanadi Res. Project	6.1005	—
Sub-Total		135.380	175.261
Maharashtra			
92.	Gosikhurd	219.196	130.208
x 93.	Surya	13.550	54.769
94.	Waghur (Works)	102.667	136.494
x 95.	Bhima	44.505	168.550
C 96.	Upper Tapi	7.700	77.500
97.	Upper Wardha	168.956	254.224
98.	Wan	59.564	97.930
C 99.	Jayakawadi Stage-II	43.735	91.480
100.	Vishnupuri (Works)	5.415	5.218
101.	Bahula	11.524	14.930
102.	Krishna	82.943	88.685
103.	Kukadi	173.104	215.075
104.	Upper Manar	31.978	24.790
105.	Hetwane	50.496	39.416
106.	Chaskaman	73.775	46.070
107.	Upper Penganga	52.597	32.340
	Bawanthadi	44.069	8.310
108.	Lower Dudhna	24.000	—
	Tillari	8.160	—
109.	Wama	9.000	—
Sub-Total		1226.932	1425.988

1	2	3	4
Manipur			
110.	Khuga	81.036	115.610
111.	Thoubal	99.105	119.340
112.	Dolaithabi Barrage	3.413	10.230
Sub-Total		183.554	245.180
Meghalaya			
113.	Rangai Valley	4.000	5.428
Sub-Total		4.000	5.428
Meghalaya			
113.	Rangai Valley	4.000	5.428
Sub-Total		4.000	5.428
Orissa			
114.	Upper Indravati (KBK)	189.307	236.168
	Rengali	175.800	313.811
	Subemarekha	114.667	212.647
115.	Anandpur Barr. Ph.-I	23.290	31.260
C 116.	Upper Kilab (KBK)	56.512	107.770
117.	Titlagarh St-II (KBK)	29.049	31.780
118.	Lower Indra (KBK)	197.670	161.710
119.	Lower Sakte (KBK)	51.924	41.720
C	Potteru (KBK)	9.870	20.200
	Naraj Barrage	4.670	0.000
120.	Telengiri (KBK)	21.665	21.920
121.	RET Irrigation (KBK)	16.481	6.860
122.	Kanupur	5.490	9.000
123.	Chheligada Dam	5.600	4.100
Sub-Total		901.994	1198.946
Punjab			
C 124.	Ranjit Sagar Dam	249.790	694.830
	Remodelling of UBDC	93.330	137.210

1	2	3	4
125.	Irr. to H.P. below Talwara	38.097	35.672
126.	Shahpur Kandi Dam	29.850	30.567
	Kandi Canal Extension (Ph. II)	10.500	1.858
	Sub-Total	421.567	900.137
Rajasthan			
C 127.	Jaisamand (Modernisation)	3.125	7.680
C	Chhapi	19.350	41.665
C	Panchana	22.407	37.810
128.	IGNP Stage-II	582.720	694.622
x 129.	Bisalpur	41.560	61.850
130.	Narmada Canal	523.045	615.670
C 131.	Gambhiri (Modernisation)	1.315	1.950
132.	Chauli	47.151	74.200
133.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	113.652	147.337
	Mod. of Gang Canal	49.863	72.030
	Sub-Total	1404.188	1754.814
Tamil Nadu			
x 134.	WRCP	20.000	10.510
	Sub-Total	20.000	10.510
Tripura			
135.	Manu	18.527	19.535
136.	Gumti	13.953	21.465
137.	Khowai	17.340	20.666
	Sub-Total	49.820	61.666
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal			
138.	Sarda Sahayak	131.000	268.300
C 139.	Saryu Nahar	527.770	898.233
C	Upper Ganga including	149.640	393.070
-	Madhya Ganga Canal	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4
C 140.	Providing Kharif Channel in H.K. Doab	73.270	124.165
141.	Bansagar Canal	261.015	445.059
x 142.	Lakhwar Vyasi	20.000	12.160
143.	Tehri	589.753	840.900
144.	Gyanpur Pump Canal	30.900	47.350
145.	Eastern Ganga Canal	126.012	173.920
146.	Rajghat Canal	63.192	107.190
147.	Rajghat Dam	3.000	6.000
148.	Gunta Nala Dam	1.000	1.300
149.	Mod. Agra Canal	28.800	45.438
150.	Jarauli Pump Canal	5.621	9.862
151.	Mod. of Lachhura Dam	2.400	—
Sub-Total		2013.373	3372.946
West Bengal			
152.	Teesta Barrage	124.994	214.719
C 153.	Kangsabati	26.710	113.200
154.	Mod. of Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC	1.000	1.578
155.	Tatko	0.892	1.253
156.	Patloi	1.593	2.505
157.	Hanumata	1.723	2.927
158.	Subernrekha Barrage	13.288	4.555
Sub-Total		170.200	340.776
Grand Total		17059.007	26013.503

C : Completed

x : The Project is not under AIBP now.

- : The CLAs released to Marwal Lift, Lethpora Lift and Koli Lift (J&K) during 1996-97 were transferred to Ranbir Canal and New Pratap Canal Project during the same year.

⊙ : Kolonga Project of Assam has been transferred to Minor Irrigation Sector

+ : Total Project of Jharkhand has been abandoned due to Public Agitation. Projects included under Fast Track are not numbered.

Centrally Assisted Irrigation Projects

CLA/Grant released under Fast Track programme of AIBP and expenditure incurred on Major/Medium Irrigation Projects

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State/Project Name	CLA/grant released upto 3/2006	Expenditure on AIBP components (upto 2004-05)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
c1.	Sriramsagar St. I	107.950	165.260
c2.	Cheyyeru (Annarmaya)	10.000	6.450
3.	Somasila	120.000	133.512
c4.	Nagarjunsagar	50.710	36.019
c5.	Madduvalasa	25.00	34.018
6*	Gundlakamma	59.610	—
7*	Tarakarama Thirthaa Sagaram	33.006	—
8*	Swarnamukhi	5.931	—
9*	Palemvagu	9.536	—
10.	Thotapally Barrage	63.141	—
Sub-Total		484.884	375.259
Chhattisgarh			
11.	Hasdeo Bango (Ph.-III)	137.840	264.180
12*	Barnai	2.650	4.914
Sub-Total		140.490	269.094
Gujarat			
13.	Sardar Sarovar	—	—
C-	FT Component-I	188.000	188.130
	FT Component-II	185.000	99.490
Sub-Total		373.000	288.070
Karnataka			
14.	Hirehalli	23.490	25.350

1	2	3	4
15.	Karanja	99.640	73.550
16*	Maskinallah	3.220	3.835
	Sub-Total	126.350	102.735
	Madhya Pradesh		
17.*	Bargi Diversion Ch. 16 Km. to 63 Km.	98.030	167.300
-	Bargi Diversion Ch. 63 Km. to 104 Km.	65.000	62.680
	Sub-Total	163.030	229.980
	Maharashtra		
C 18*.	Kadvi	14.000	14.000
19*.	Kumbhi	18.600	19.290
C 20*.	Kasari	1.510	1.510
C 21*.	Kasarsai	3.370	3.370
C 22*.	Jawalgaon	2.730	2.730
C 23*.	Khadakwasla	5.560	5.560
24.	Patgaon	13.975	3.890
25.	Shivna Takli	4.433	—
26.	Madan Tank	1.511	—
27.	Dongargaon	1.609	—
28.	Amravati	1.182	—
29.	Gul	4.742	—
	Sub-Total	73.121	50.350
	Orissa		
30.	Rengali	14.000	6.269
31.	Subemarekha	17.420	32.000
C 32.	Potteru (KBK)	15.560	44.720
33.	Naraj Barrage	31.135	35.720
C 34*.	Improvement to Sason Canal System	26.009	40.180
35*.	Salandi Left Main Canal-Ambahata	6.190	6.340
C 36*.	Improvement to Salki Irrigation	8.650	11.110
	Sub-Total	118.964	176.339

1	2	3	4
Punjab			
37.	Remodelling of UBDC	6.000	—
38.	Kandi Canal Extension (Ph. II)	14.220	—
Sub-Total		20.220	—
Rajasthan			
C 39.	Chhapi	18.875	19.190
C 40.	Panchana	20.970	21.670
41.	Mod. of Gang Canal	139.560	99.40
Sub-Total		179.405	140.800
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal			
C 42.	Upper Ganga Canal	84.050	89.324
-	Madhya Ganga Canal		
Sub-Total		84.050	89.324
Grand Total		1763.513	1721.951

C : Completed

x : The Project is not under AIBP now.

- : Additional Proj. under FT which are not under Normal AIBP.

Annexure II*Status of Fast Track Projects*

Sl.No.	Project Name/State	Year of Entry	Year of Completion
1	2	3	4

A. Completed Projects**1. Projects Completed on Schedule**

1.	Cheyzeru (Annamaya) (Andhra Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04
2.	Maskinallah (Karnataka)	2002-03	2003-04
3.	Kadvi (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05
4.	Kasari (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05
5.	Kasarsai (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05

1	2	3	4
6.	Jawalgaon (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05
7.	Khadakwasla (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05
8.	Improvement to Sason Canal System (Orissa)	2002-03	2004-05
9.	Improvement to Salki Irrigation (Orissa)	2003-04	2004-05
10.	Chhapi (Rajasthan)	2002-03	2004-05
11.	Panchana (Rajasthan)	2002-03	2004-05
12.	Upper Ganga Canal including Madhya Ganga Canal (Uttar Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04

Sl.No.	Project/State	Year of Entry	Scheduled Year of Completion	Year of Completion
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2. Projects Completed after due date

1.	Sriramsagar St. I (Andhra Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04	2005-06
2.	Madduvalasa (Andhra Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04	2005-06
3.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04	2005-06
4.	Potteru (KBK) (Orissa)	2001-02	2003-04	2004-05

B. Ongoing Projects

Sl.No.	Project Name/State	Year of Entry	Year of Completion
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1. Projects on Schedule

1.	Gundlakdamma (Andhra Pradesh)	2005-06	2007-08
2.	Tarakarama Thirtha Sagaram (Andhra Pradesh)	2005-06	2007-08
3.	Swarnamukhi (Andhra Pradesh)	2005-06	2007-08
4.	Palemvagu (Andhra Pradesh)	2005-06	2007-08
5.	Thotapally Barrage (Andhra Pradesh)	2005-06	2007-08
6.	Patgoan (Maharashtra)	2004-05	2006-07
7.	Shivna Takli (Maharashtra)	2005-06	2007-08
8.	Madan Tank (Maharashtra)	2005-06	2007-08

1	2	3	4
9.	Dongargaon (Maharashtra)	2005-06	2007-08
10.	Amravati (Maharashtra)	2005-06	2007-08
11.	Gul (Maharashtra)	2005-06	2007-08
12.	Remodelling of UBDC (Punjab)	2005-06	2007-08
13.	Kandi Canal Extension (Ph. II) (Punjab)	2005-06	2007-08
2. Project likely to be delayed by One Year			
1.	Mod. of Gang Canal (Rajasthan)	2003-04	2005-06
3. Project likely to be delayed by Two Years			
1.	Hasdeo Bango (Ph.-III) (Chhattisgarh)	2002-03	2004-05
2.	Barnai (Chhattisgarh)	2002-03	2004-05
3.	Hirehalla (Karnataka)	2002-03	2004-05
4.	Karanja (Karnataka)	2002-03	2004-05
5.	Kumbhi (Maharashtra)	2002-03	2004-05
6.	Salandi Left Main Canal- Ambahata (Orissa)	2002-03	2004-05
4. Projects likely to be delayed by Three Years			
1.	Somasila (Andhra Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04
2.	Sardar Sarovar (Gujarat)	2001-02	2003-04
3.	Bargi Diversion (Madhya Pradesh)	2001-02	2003-04
4.	Rengali (Orissa)	2001-02	2003-04
5.	Subernarekha (Orissa)	2001-02	2003-04
6.	Naraj Barrage (Orissa)	2001-02	2003-04

Common reasons for delay:

1. Insufficient budget provision by the concerned State.
2. Delay in transfer of AIBP funds to the Project Authorities by State Govt.
3. Problem in Land Acquisition.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why funds were not allocated prior to 1996 for completion of ongoing irrigation projects, which resulted in cost escalation and time overrun? Linking canals of Baragi Project have not been completed so far, consequently farmers are unable to derive any benefit from them so far. The pace of ongoing work is very slow and adequate funds are also not being allocated. Through you, I would like to know the reasons therefore?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: There is some misunderstanding in the question raised by Shrimati Pateriya. I would like to make it clear that irrigation is a state subject and the Central Government has been providing assistance since long. Earlier it was in the form of loan and now it is by way of grants. Shrimati Pateriyaji should clarify whether she wants to ask a question about IIBK or the fast track project and the action taken by the Central Govt. in regard thereto?

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, I want to know about fast track projects and it is also a part of the question.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: You have asked whether about 150 Centrally—assisted ongoing irrigation projects are lying incomplete despite being in the priority list of the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: She has indeed mentioned about fast track projects.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, now I come to the fast track project direct. But, first I would like to tell her that the figures provided by her are wrong. As regards actual figure—there are 158 projects under IIBK, out of which 34 have been completed, 11 have been deferred and 113 are ongoing projects which she is terming as incomplete but these are ongoing projects. There are 42 projects under fast track out of which 16 have been completed a 26 are ongoing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking the same thing which is mentioned in the reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, I would like to know the time by when these 113 projects are likely to be completed? Work is going on Bergese Project. Thirty years have since elapsed from the time this project was launched. It is yet to be completed, even canals have not been dug. The farmers are yet to derive any benefit from the said dam so far. I would like to know as to when the farmers are likely to get benefited from the said dam and by when the project would completed? Further, the time by when the remaining fast track projects are likely to be completed?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You answer only relating to fast track projects.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, she has fast track projects in her mind. As I have said there are 42 projects under fast track out of which 16 have been completed and 26 are ongoing. There are certain difficulties being faced in the ongoing projects owing to states lackadaisical approach. The states have to acquire land and arrange funds, as under the fast track the Central Government.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[English]

Neetaji, this is not the way please.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I would give her full details about fact track. First of all, it is necessary to say that delay is not on the part of the Central Government. There are certain difficulties from the State side, such as acquisition of land and arranging funds. Therefore, the delay is not on the part of the Central Government.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have details of 12 projects under fast track which have been completed and 13 are ongoing projects.

[English]

The number of projects likely to be delayed by one year is one, the number of projects likely to be delayed by two years is six, the number of projects likely to be delayed by three years is six.

[Translation]

I am ready to give details of every state.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to a matter raised by me under Rule 377 on 2nd August, 2005, I was informed by the Ministry that the idea of national project and inclusion of Teesta Barrage Project in the list of National Projects is yet to take shape. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, the reasons for non-inclusion of Teesta Barrage Project in the list of National Projects.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you give an answer?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Teesta is not under consideration and it is not related to this question. It was referred to the Planning Commission. So, I will get back to the hon. Member and see what can be done for Teesta project.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, the question of Teesta Barrage project has been languishing over the years on account of financial constraints.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it. Why are you asking it again?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is known that Teesta Barrage project has been included in the list of

mega projects. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any amount of money has been allocated, both in terms of loan and grant, to the State Government of West Bengal for the implementation of Teesta Phase-I and Stage I and how much irrigation potential has been created by Teesta Barrage project Phase I and State I?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come under this question.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, this question is related to the Planning Commission. I will take interest in that and get back to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajnarayan Budholia—not present.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the projects of two categories, relating to irrigation, have been covered under it. First is the fast track projects and second the general projects. There are eight projects of this kind in Bihar. The Hon. Minister has stated that the states have important role in it. State Government arranges land and the Central Government provides grants. Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what is the number of fast track projects out of eight projects of Bihar, included in it, and if, there is none, the reasons therefore?

[Translation]

I would like to ask that whatever projects you have included, I have information about those projects, that the State Government has already completed entire process and these projects are not being completed due to delay in providing grants to the State Government by the Centre. have you assessed till now as to how much money is to be provided? By when you will provide the above amount so that the State Government could get the projects completed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right.

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Till now Rs. 482 crore have been provided to Bihar in the form of loan and grant.

But, it is true that Bihar is not covered under fast track.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please see. Injustice is being done. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright. He is speaking.

[*English*]

He has said. 'There is no project'.

[*Translation*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I request that the case of Bihar may be a strong one. But, the responsibility lies with the Government of Bihar. The State Governments are required to submit a proposal for fast track or for their rights. Bihar is not covered under fast track.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*) I am raising point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Take you seat. This is Question Hour. Unless I ask somebody, he is not allowed to ask the question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not shout in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, shall I say something more on Bihar? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said that the states fight for their causes.

...(*Interruptions*)

I would like to know that fight means wrestling or what else. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this indiscipline in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that the states have to fight. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, it is not permitted. Second supplementary is not allowed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this. I have called the name of Shri Hiten Barman to ask the supplementary.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not cooperating with me, I will go to the next question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Nobody other than me co-operates so much with the chair. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to listen. You have asked a question and he replied to it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He has not replied.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, the Teesta Barrage project was started in 1976. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that it is a shameful conduct on the part of the hon. Members. Let the entire country see. I hope the entire country sees your known behaviour.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, could I get back to Bihar for a minute? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I would like to tell about Bihar for one-two minutes more.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not a single word will be taken down now.

[Translation]

Nobody is following the rules in the House. There is no need of rules, throw everything away.

[English]

and you will dictate to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Hon. Minister is free to speak anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If it is so, do you know some rules? Do as per rules. Shouting will not help you here.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Parliament.
...*(Interruptions)* I am the people's representative from Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your observation contrary to the Chair's direction is not being taken down. Do not shout. Please take your seat. If he wants to add anything, I can permit him. But, there should not be another question.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be taken down.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Your Government do not submit the project.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you all leaders doing? Your members are going on speaking by standing up at their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody bothers to have discipline in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said to fight, which type of battle we will have to wage? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The Government of Bihar should send proposals for fast track. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Lalu Ji, leave this issue.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as AIBP is concerned, Bihar has received any grant, loan under AIBP for many projects such as Paschimi Kosi, Upperkoel, Durgawati, Bansagar, Orni reservoir, Bilasi reservoir and Sone modernization etc. I have got the data that these projects have received grant or loan. But, so far as fast track is concerned, no proposal from Bihar is under consideration of my ministry. I said the same thing. I have not spoken any thing wrong in this regard.

[English]

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, Teestha Irrigation Project is the lifeline of north Bengal. It was started in 1976 but it has not yet been completed by the Government. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, what is the target date of completion of the Teestha Irrigation Project and how much fund has been released.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen, what is happening in the House? Will every member ask the same question?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have asked about Teestha irrigation project. Now, at this point of time, I cannot say about Teestha irrigation project because it is pending with the Planning Commission. I will inform all the hon. members after ascertaining information about it.

[English]

Review of Height of Narmada Dam

*423. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to review the height of Narmada Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the decisions of the Review Committee of the Narmada Control Authority;

(c) whether the requirements/claims from the respective States have been examined before giving clearance to raise the height of the dam;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the plans to rehabilitate the fresh evacuees due to enhancing of the Dam height alongwith the estimated number of such evacuees; and

(f) the progress made so far in the matter of rehabilitating the oustees already displaced therefrom?

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

Statement

(a) to (f) The Central Government has not taken any decision to review the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam (Narmada Dam). As per the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement of 18th October, 2000, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is to accord permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam for its construction as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award, in stages, pari-passu with the implementation of the relief and rehabilitation and on the clearance given by the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Sub-group and Environment Sub-group of NCA. Accordingly, NCA in its meeting held on 8th March, 2006 after taking into account the recommendations of both of its sub-groups and the assurances of all the party States decided to accord permission to raise the height of dam in the spillway portion from elevation level (EL) 110.64 metre to EL 121.92 metre as per the approved design.

The Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA) in its meeting held on 15th April, 2006 reviewed the permission granted by the NCA to raise the height of the dam but no decision could be arrived at as there were no consensus in the meeting of the Review Committee. Accordingly, the Chairman of the Review Committee reported the matter to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister in response to the reference made by the Chairman of RCNCA and the observations of the Supreme Court of India in its order dated 17th April, 2006 decided to constitute Sardar Sarover Project Resettlement & Rehabilitation Oversight Group to verify the status of rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh of the families affected by raising the height of the dam from EL 110.64 metre to 121.92 metre. As reported by the State Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, there are 18,093 project affected families in these States between the dam height EL 110.62 m and EL 121.92 metre and it has been reported that all the project affected families are going to be resettled parri-pasu with the construction of dam by the end of June, 2006.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, long-drawn agitation is going on throughout the country particularly in the concerning States. The persons who are evicted, and who have been displaced from their homeland have started agitation under the leadership of Medha Patkar. Also, Medha Patkar sat in an indefinite hunger strike. The hon. Minister reached the spot and met Medha Patkar as also other leaders of the country to persuade her to discontinue the indefinite hunger striker. I do not know whether any discussion was held by the hon. Minister with Medha Patkar regarding Sardar Sarovar Dam

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: My specific question to the hon. Minister is this. I would like to know whether the Government has implemented any scheme and programme for the rehabilitation of the persons who lost their jobs and for providing alternative land and other facilities to the persons who are evicted due to the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any steps; if not then why not?

Sir, part 'b' of my question is this.

MR. SPEAKER: No part 'b'. You see, statements are given and circulated by the Ministers in some of these matters. I find that most of the Supplementaries

are nothing but repetition of what information is already given in the statements. I find that this is precisely what is happening. If you have any relevant question, you put it; otherwise the answer is given.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: In the 76th Emergency meeting of the Narmada Control Authority (NCA), the permission to raise the height of the Dam was granted upto 121.92 metres.

Alongside that, there was a necessity for a review of that decision. So, by the time the review was organized on the 15th of April, there was a tie. Out of the six members, three were on the one side and three were on the other side. therefore, the whole question was referred to the hon. Prime Minister. But the very next day, the hon. Supreme Court met on this issue, where the Government of India took a position that on the question of rehabilitation—the hon. Member is concerned about the rehabilitation—the Prime Minister had done the duty by sending three Ministers to the Narmada Valley. The Report of those three Ministers is also a part of the proceedings in the hon. Supreme Court. Before the Supreme Court, our lawyer took the position that on the question of rehabilitation, raising the height of the dam is necessary because it has irrigation potential, it has hydro electric potential. Alongside this, the question of rehabilitation and resettlement of the oustees who have lost their homes, hearths and lands is also important. Therefore, a Committee was suggested, and on the 8th of May, the names of that Committee were placed before the hon. Prime Minister. That is called 'Shunglu Committee'. That three-member Committee will go into the question of rehabilitation and resettlement very minutely.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the hon. Supreme Court has made some observations in its judgment. I want to say that the Supreme Court is the supreme authority in this country. Parliament is there. So, I would like to know whether the Government would consider. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Supreme Court is the supreme judicial authority in the country.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Parliament is supreme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As a legislative body.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: My specific question to the hon. Minister is, whether he would consider raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam as per the observation of the Supreme Court or as per the demand made by the agitationists and welfare of the people of the country. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, there is no 'secondly'.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is part (b) of my question. I would like to know whether the Government would agree to submit all the correspondence between the Narmada Control Authority and the concerned States before the Parliament.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, two or three questions have been clubbed together.

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to control the Members.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, as per the hon. Supreme Court's earlier decisions of 2000 and 2005, there is no ambiguity anywhere. In fact, the Supreme Court, in its judgements, wanted that the oustees must get better settlement than they were having earlier. It has to be a *pari passu* situation. It has to be a situation of settling them before you raise the height of the dam. So, this Ministry has tried to implement the decisions of the hon. Supreme Court. But now there is a new situation. The Supreme Court has accepted that the Committee headed by Shri Shunglu would go into the question within a period of three months on the question of rehabilitation and report back to the hon. Supreme Court by the first week of July. That is what we are doing. The Shunglu Committee is operating independently. My Ministry will help this Committee to the best of its ability.

Then, the hon. Member, in his second supplementary, wanted that all the correspondence must be placed before this House. I accept the supremacy of the Parliament. If you so desire, I can place all the correspondence that have taken place between my Ministry and Gujarat Government, between my Ministry and Madhya Pradesh Government, between my Ministry and Maharashtra Government, and between my Ministry and Rajasthan Government. This House is supreme. If you so desire, I can place all these correspondence before this House.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, part (f) of my Question is: "Will the Minister be pleased to

state the progress made so far in the matter of rehabilitating the oustees already displaced therefrom?" The reply is regarding new oustees if the dam is raised. Our question was specific about the progress made on the question of rehabilitation of the oustees already displaced therefrom. The rehabilitated people are to be given a special concession as they are doing a lot of sacrifice and as they are being removed from their houses and from their lands. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is having a second thought about the rehabilitation policy by giving liberal help in these big projects.

That is the main question of agitation throughout the country, particularly in the Narmada project.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: If we go to the figures provided by Madhya Pradesh Government, up to the dam height of 110.64 metres, the number of villages affected is 104. The total number of PAFs, Project Affected Families, is 7186. The total number of PAFs settled so far in Gujarat is 2141, and in Madhya Pradesh it is 5225. The total number of PAFs resettled is 7186. That means, everybody has been settled. Then there are figures when you raise the dam's height to nearly 122 metres.

But my point is that when the Ministers went there, we found grey areas in the resettlement and rehabilitation of Madhya Pradesh. But we are a democracy. There are so many institutions. When there was a tie in the Review Committee, according to rules and according to the decision of the Supreme Court, the matter had to be referred to the hon. Prime Minister. The next day the Supreme Court was meeting. Therefore, in a broader sense, this question is before the hon. Supreme Court and a mechanism has already been devised through this Committee to go into the question of rehabilitation and resettlement. So, this is in a nutshell the situation.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has failed to resettle the oustees and as a result, the entire controversy arose. If that is so, what action the Government of India is taking to see that Madhya Pradesh Government in fact honours the relief and resettlement process of the oustees?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: As far as resettlement and rehabilitation in Maharashtra and Gujarat are concerned, there are no complaints. But as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, I must take this hon. House into confidence

and say that there are grey areas in the resettlement and rehabilitation process. Therefore, the Shunglu Committee will go into this question with reference to Madhya Pradesh only because there are grey areas, because there has been criticism, because there has been *Andolan*. This Committee is there. The hon. Supreme Court is going into this question. The hon. Prime Minister has gone deeper into this question. Therefore, as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, this Committee will go and constitute 40 teams from Sample Survey Organisation and they will go into it. There will be 40 teams which shall help the Shunglu Committee in that. They will go and talk to the oustees and within a matter of three months, there will be some document before this hon. House. Before that, first of all, we will go to the Supreme Court. Then we will take all the information that will be available. By 30th June, we shall be clear on the question of rehabilitation and resettlement in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: I would like to know this specifically from the hon. Minister. Has the Government got any information about those Narmada Bachao Andolan activists?

[Translation]

Those people do not allow any official who visits the area for carrying out rehabilitation work. They have put up a board in this regard that they cannot enter the area. Due to this the Government fails to get the factual information regarding the progress of rehabilitation work. Due to this

[English]

NBA is only interested to stall the progress of construction of dam. They are not interested in the rehabilitation. Is it a fact? Has the Government got any information about this?

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is the personal opinion of hon. Member about the agitation. We are a democratic country. We have to listen to the grievances of the activists carrying out any agitation. Infact since we are a democratic nation, we have to give a patient hearing. I cannot say that the activists do not allow work to be carried out there. Smt. Meira Kumar and Prithviraj D. Chavan Ji were also accompanying me. We spoke to the representatives of 15,000 people. There is a video

recording of that also which clearly shows that they presented their grievances in a proper and dignified manner. We did not speak to the activists over there, infact we spoke to them when they were on a hunger strike. This is a different issue. But as far as the tension of the activists not letting rehabilitation work to be carried out is concerned we must wait for that. The Committee visiting the spot would observe everything and present its report to us.

Suicide by Farmers

*424. ⁺ SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has recently visited Hyderabad to discuss the issues related to the cases of suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special package for the affected farmers was discussed during the visit;

(d) if so, the extent to which the Union Government has agreed to provide assistance to the said States under the said package;

(e) whether cases of suicide by farmers have also been reported from other States during the last one year;

(f) if so, whether similar assistance is proposed to be extended to such States; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to provide assistance/relief to the poor farmers and check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (g) A meeting was held by the Agriculture Minister with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra on 10th April, 2006

at Hyderabad. The draft rehabilitation package for thirty identified districts of these four States was presented and discussed in the meeting. Based on the suggestions and feedback, the final package is under preparation. It is drawn up for providing relief to farmers in the districts reporting high incidence of suicides. The package will address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidiary income needs, through dairy, poultry and horticulture.

Incidents of farmers' suicide have also been reported from the States of Gujarat and Orissa during the last one year.

The rehabilitation package is presently limited to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Considering the fact that indebtedness has been a major cause of distress to farmers, in order to enhance credit flow to agriculture, the Government of India announced a credit package on 18th June, 2004, which envisaged doubling of agriculture credit over the next three years. It has, inter-alia, also envisaged debt restructuring/ rescheduling in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears, special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers; and financing from the institutional sources for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private moneylenders.

The Government of India is also addressing the varied credit needs of farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. In mitigating risks of farmers, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is under implementation. The various measures for augmenting agricultural production and marketing are also expected to reduce the distress of farmers.

The target for provision of farm credit for the year 2006-07 has been fixed at a substantially higher level of Rs. 175000 crores. To reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government has decided to ensure that the farmer receives short-term credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3.00 lakh on the principal amount.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow a discussion under Rule 193 on this.

Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses

*425. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses started failing in its task after showing better results in production and productivity upto 1998-1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of this Technology Mission;

(c) the projected production and productivity of edible oil and pulses and the projected imports during 2010-11 and 2015-16; and

(d) the steps contemplated to achieve self sufficiency in this sphere and to decrease the burden of import?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds was launched in May, 1986. Buoyed by the success of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds, pulses were also brought into its ambit in 1990.

The production & productivity of oilseeds in the country during 1985-86, 1998-99, 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 are as under:

Year	(Production in lakh Tonnes)	
	Production	Productivity (in Kg./ha.)
1985-86	108.30	570
1998-99	247.50	944
2003-04	251.86	1064
2004-05	243.53	885
2005-06*	266.97	979

*IIRD Advance Estimates

The production & productivity of pulses in the country during 1989-90, 1998-99, 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 are as under:

(Production in lakh Tonnes)
(Productivity in Kg.ha.)

Year	Production	Productivity
1985-86	128.60	549
1998-99	149.10	634
2003-04	149.05	635
2004-05	131.29	577
2005-06*	139.20	590

*111rd Advance Estimates.

Oilseeds & Pulses are grown mainly on marginal and sub-marginal land under rainfed conditions with low input usage. Less than 25% of the area under oilseeds and 15% under the pulses are irrigated, exposing most oilseeds & pulses production to weather related yield risks. Consequently, oilseeds & pulses production in India is characterized by fluctuating production and low yield. Despite concerted efforts, no major breakthrough in pulses production technology and improvement of high yielding germ plasm has been possible because of inherent genetic problems and narrow adaptability in the evolved varieties of pulses.

The Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP) has been discontinued from 2003-04. However, a scheme by the name Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds & pulses and to achieve self-sufficiency is being implemented by Government of India w.e.f. 1st April, 2004 in 14 major oilseeds & pulses producing States.

(c) the projected production and productivity of oilseeds/edible oil, pulses and the projected imports for 2010-11 and 2015-16 have not been worked out.

(d) With a view to increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds & pulses and to achieve self-sufficiency, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) w.e.f. 1st of April, 2004 in 14 major oilseeds & pulses producing states.

Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for critical inputs viz. purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of minikits, Infrastructure development, distribution of Plant Protection Chemicals, Plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of *Rhizobium* culture/ Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers training, pipes for carrying water from water source to the field, officers training and publicity, etc. in order to encourage the farmers to undertake oilseeds and pulses cultivation on a large scale. Besides, to disseminate information on improved production technologies generated by research system in the country amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers, Government of India announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for oilseeds & pulses every year. The MSPs for oilseeds & pulses have been enhanced over the years to encourage farmers to grow these crops. In the event of market prices ruling below MSP, procurement operations are undertaken and these commodities are purchased from farmers at MSP.

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946

*426. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, in order to allow the industrial units to recruit manpower on fixed term contract;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Trade Unions have objected to the above proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) the Government had amended the Industrial Employment Workman" in the Schedule of the Industrial Employment

(Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Model Standing Orders annexed to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central rules, 1946, vide Notification GSR No. 936 (E) dated 10.12.2003.

A fixed term employment workman will be engaged on the basis of contract of employment for a fixed period. However, his working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits shall not be less than that of a permanent workman. He shall also be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even though his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment.

(c) and (d) The Central Trade Unions had opposed the amendment. The matter of rescinding the notification is still under consideration and a decision in this regard will be taken in consultation with all the stakeholders.

Demands of Victims of Bhopal Gas Disaster

*427. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the victims of Bhopal Gas disaster have made some specific demands to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has agreed to fulfil their demands;

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

(e) the number of victims likely to be benefited therefrom;

(f) whether the Government proposes to consider exploring legal option to hold Dow Chemical accountable; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The victims of Bhopal Gas Disaster

have made certain demands to the Union Government, which are as follows:

(i) Setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal with necessary authority and funds for health care, medical research, social and economic rehabilitation of the victims and their children for the next 30 years.

(ii) Provide Safe drinking water to the people living in the localities around the UCIL plant site.

(iii) Prosecute Union Carbide and its ex-CEO Mr. Warren Anderson by setting up a special prosecution cell in the CBI.

(iv) To make Dow Chemical Company, the present owner of Union Carbide to clean up the Union Carbide Plant site and bear the expenditure for the overall environmental damage caused by reckless dumping of chemical waste.

(v) to Blacklist Dow Chemicals and Union Carbide in India till they accept the pending liabilities of Bhopal.

(vi) To include representatives of gas victims in the project for construction of a memorial at Bhopal, declare 3rd December as National Day of mourning and to include Bhopal Disaster in the curricula of Schools and Colleges.

(vii) Ensure continuous and proper functioning of the Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre for the benefit of gas victims.

(viii) Decide upon payment of compensation to the gas victims of the remaining 20 wards.

(ix) Ensure a special social security package for the poor and unorganized workers of gas effected colonies.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken/proposes to take the following actions on the demands of the victims of Bhopal Gas Disaster:

(i) A delegation of the Bhopal Gas Victims met the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers on 29.03.2006. In consultation with the members of the delegation, a Coordination Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for effective implementation of the

various schemes/programmes for the welfare of the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, with representatives of the State Government, Gas victims and associated NGOs.

- (ii) The Union Government has sanctioned Additional Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission for supplying safe drinking water through pipelines to the localities situated around the Union Carbide Plant site, where the ground water has been contaminated. An amount of Rs. 14.31 crore has been sanctioned for this project.
- (iii) The CBI has informed that the prosecution evidence in the criminal case has since been completed and the statements of the accused persons are being recorded by the Learned Court of C.J.M., Bhopal. The request to extradite Warren Anderson is pending with the Ministry of External Affairs/U.S. Authorities and further action for speedy trial against him and the accused companies, will also be taken as soon as the accused is extradited.
- (iv) Union of India in its affidavit filed in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 10.05.2005. In the Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 had requested the High Court to direct M/s. Dow Chemical Company (formerly Union Carbide Ltd.) to bear the cost of remediation of the Union Carbide Plant site.
- (v) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to consult the representatives of Gas victims and their families for the proposed project for construction of a memorial for the Gas Victims.
- (vi) The Ministry of Human Resource Development and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have been requested to include Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster in the School and College Curricula.
- (vii) The Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust has been set up by the Supreme Court vide its orders dated 15.05.1998. In compliance with the judgement of the Supreme Court of India, the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre was commissioned in July, 2000, at Bhopal. The Supreme Court had directed that on humanitarian considerations and in fulfilment of an offer made

earlier, the UCC and UCIL should agree to bear the financial burden for the establishment and equipment of a hospital, and its operational expenses for a period of 8 years. The issue for continuation of the management of the Hospital by the Trust after the said period of 8 years is to be decided by the Supreme Court. To continue the medical research for studying the long term effects of the gas on the survivors and their children, the Government would consider additional financial support for the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies, Government of M.P., under the overall supervision of Indian Council of Medical Research.

- (viii) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had declared 30 wards as gas affected on the recommendation of the Collector, Bhopal, as decided in the meeting held on 31st August, 1985 under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary and Commission, Gas Relief, Government of M.P. Later, the State Government declared 6 more wards as gas affected vide its order dated 27.12.1985. These wards were declared as gas affected on the basis of the mortality and morbidity occurred in the wards. The State Government has been asked to furnish detailed information with related data on morbidity, mortality and other parameters in the remaining 20 wards of Bhopal.
- (ix) In addition to the various State and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for self employment, poverty alleviation and social security, if required, additional resources may be considered by the Government of India for supplementing the efforts of the State Government for ensuring social society of poor and unorganized workers of gas affected areas.
- (e) All the Bhopal Gas Victims, their families and the people residing in the localities situated around the Union Carbide Plant Site would benefit from the above mentioned measures taken/being taken by the Union Government.
- (f) and (g) Union of India in its affidavit filed in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 10.05.2005. In the Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 (Alok Pratap Singh vs. Union of India & others) had requested the High Court to direct M/s Dow Chemical Company (formerly Union Carbide Ltd.) to deposit an amount of Rs. 100 crore in advance for remediation of the Union Carbide Plant site.

Shortage of Sugar

*428. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) the current stock of sugar in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of sugar both in the Public Distribution System and the Open Market;

(c) if so, whether huge quantities of sugar were exported despite shortage in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information available in the Directorate of Sugar, the current stocks of sugar in the country as on 31.3.2006 are 148.44 lakh tonnes. A statement showing State-wise stock of sugar as on 31.3.2006 is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Stock of Sugar as on 31.3.2006

Sl.No.	State	(Provisional)
		(Figure in lakh tonnes)
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	2.80
2.	Haryana	3.12
3.	Uttaranchal	3.72
4.	Uttar Pradesh	44.55

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	10.52
6.	Maharashtra	46.70
7.	Bihar	3.11
8.	Andhra Pradesh	9.07
9.	Karnataka	13.90
10.	Tamil Nadu	9.34
11.	Others	1.61
All India		148.44

[*Translation*]

Old Stock of Foodgrains

*429. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) holds more than five years old stock of foodgrains in its godowns across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether efforts have been made by the Government for disposing the old stock; and

(d) if so, the outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As on 1.4.2006, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was holding 4511 MT of rice and nil stocks of wheat which is more than 5 years old in its godowns all over the country. The present level of more than 5 year old stocks constitutes a negligible percentage (0.028%) of the total stocks of foodgrains held by the FCI on 1.4.2006.

(b) to (d) To ensure old crop year foodgrain stocks are not held by the FCI, it follows the principle of FIFO (First in first out) while issuing foodgrains from its godowns. However, at times it is not possible to adhere

to the FIFO principle in respect of negligible quantities of foodgrains mainly due to the stocks being involved in litigation and stayed from being disposed of as per Court orders or being the subject of vigilance inquiries.

Old stocks of foodgrains available with the FCI are disposed of through tenders (in the case of rice) and under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) OMSS(D) at pre-determined prices (in the case of wheat) which is an ongoing process. The prices of wheat under the OMSS(D) are fixed crop yearwise so that the rates of older stocks are comparatively lower than fresh stocks. This facilitates fast liquidation of old stocks.

[English]

Population of Tigers

*430. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

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

(a) the number of tiger population in various tiger reserves in the country, recorded during the last three years;

(b) the number of arrests of people involved in poaching and hunting of tigers and sale of animal skins reported from different States during the above period;

(c) the reasons for disappearance of tigers from Sariska Reserve in Rajasthan despite better resources deployed in terms of manpower and protection camps;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the existing law to apprehend the poachers and hunters and provide stringent measures to monitor the utilization of allocated funds and maintain the credibility of census of tigers in various tiger reserves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The All India tiger estimation is carried out once in every four years. The tiger population in tiger reserves, based on the last such estimation carried out by States in 2001-02, is given in the enclosed Statement. Currently, the country level estimation of tigers, copredators, prey animals and monitoring of habitat status is ongoing, using the refined methodology.

(b) Details of offenders arrested for poaching, hunting or sale of wildlife body parts are not collated at the Government of India level.

(c) The Special Investigation Team of the Central Bureau of Investigation, which was mandated with the task of enquiring into the disappearance of tigers from Sariska Tiger Reserve, has indicated that the tiger population in Sariska seems to have been extinct primarily because of poaching.

(d) and (e) An expert committee has been set up to suggest amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, based on recommendations made by the Tiger Task Force and the Central Bureau of Investigation, to make its criminal provisions more effective. An independent evaluation of tiger reserves has been carried out by a panel of experts, which has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The report and the review would be placed before Parliament. The country wide refined methodology being followed in the current tiger estimation has been developed by a collaborative pilot project between Project Tiger and the Wildlife Institute of India, which involves sampling through qualified data collectors, and estimation of tiger density at different strata using a combination of methods, with peer review by panels of independent national as well as international experts. This methodology has been peer reviewed and accepted by the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Reserve	2001-02
1	2	3
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	82
2.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	56
3.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	35
4.	Bori-Satpura-Pachmani (Madhya Pradesh)	35
5.	Buxa (West Bengal)	31
6.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	137
7.	Dampha (Mizoram)	4
8.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	76*
9.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	29
10.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	127
11.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	27
12.	Manas (Assam)	65*

1	2	3
13.	Meighat (Maharashtra)	73
14.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	67
15.	Namdhapa (Arunachal Pradesh)	61
16.	Nameri (Assam)	26
17.	Pakhui (Arunachal Pradesh)	—
18.	Palamau (Bihar)	32
19.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	31
20.	Periyar (Kerala)	36
21.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	40
22.	Pench (Maharashtra)	14
23.	Ranthombore (Rajasthan)	35
24.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	22
25.	Similipal (Orissa)	99
26.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	245
27.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	38
28.	Valmiki (Bihar)	53
Total		1576

*Under compilation/vetting
N.R.-Not reported by the State.

Soil Testing Laboratories

*431. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of soil testing laboratories functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the performance of such laboratories has been assessed in physical and financial terms during the last three years and the current year;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of soil testing laboratories; and

(e) if so, the number of such laboratories proposed to be opened during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) At present there are 551 soil-testing laboratories (STLs) working in the country (426 static and 125 mobile). A Statement-I showing state-wise number of STLs working in the country during 2004-05 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The performance of all STLs is being assessed and the average per cent capacity utilization of STLs in the country during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are 70.5%, 73.2% and 71.5% respectively.

(d) The Central Government is providing assistance for establishment of STLs through the State governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers" under Macro Management of Agriculture.

(e) The State Governments have proposed to set up 21 STLs during the first four years of Tenth Plan as per details given in Statement-II.

Statement I

Number of Soil Testing Laboratories & their Capacity Utilization during 2004-05.

Name of the State	Number of Soil Testing Laboratories						Total	Annual Analyzing ('000)	Samples Analyzed	Capacity Utilization (%)
	State Govt.		Fert. Static	Industry Mobile	Total					
	Static	Mobile			Static	Mobile				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
South Zone										
Andhra Pradesh	23	4	3	1	26	5	31	523	458	87.57
Karnataka	19	3	3	0	22	3	25	419	275	65.63
Kerala	14	9	1	0	15	9	24	372	70	18.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tamil Nadu	19	16	1	1	20	17	37	828	664	80.19
Pondicherry	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	2.6	86.67
Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	12	11	91.67
Total	78	33	8	2	86	35	121	2157	1481	68.64
West Zone										
Gujarat	16	4	4	1	20	5	25	239	322	134.73
Madhya Pradesh	18	5	1	2	19	7	26	314	156	49.68
Maharashtra	29	0	7	4	36	4	40	179	106	59.22
Rajasthan	9	11	2	0	11	11	22	278	258	92.81
Goa	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	24	23.3	97.08
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.5	50.00
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Chhattisgarh	4	0	0	0	4	0	4	40	31.4	78.50
Total	78	21	14	7	92	28	120	1075	897.20	83.46
North Zone										
Haryana	30	0	1	0	31	0	31	313	273	87.22
Punjab	55	10	0	1	55	11	66	581	170	29.26
Himachal Pradesh	11	2	0	0	11	2	13	100	89	89.00
Uttar Pradesh	48	18	4	2	52	20	72	1637	1483.1	90.60
Jammu & Kashmir	5	4	0	0	5	4	9	55	36	65.42
Uttaranchal	13	2	—	0	13	2	15	84	79	94.05
Delhi	1	0	—	0	1	0	1	5	0.3	6.0
Chandigarh	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Total	163	36	5	3	168	39	207	2775	2130.40	76.77
East Zone										
Bihar	23	0	0	0	23	0	23	200	16	8.00
Orissa	11	0	0	0	11	0	11	120	119	99.17
West Bengal	19	8	0	0	19	8	27	131	47	35.88
Jharkhand	7	3	0	0	7	3	10	67	3	4.48
Total	60	11	0	0	60	11	71	518	185	35.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
North East Zone										
Assam	8	4	0	0	8	4	12	106	59	55.66
Tripura	2	4	0	0	2	4	6	20	18	90.00
Manipur	3	3	0	0	3	3	6	20	7	35.00
Nagaland	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	45	21	46.67
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	2	40.00
Meghalaya	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	10	10	100.00
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	8	8	100.00
Mizoram	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	8	8	100.00
Total	20	12	0	0	20	12	32	222	133	59.91
Grand Total	399	113	27	12	426	125	551	6747	4826	71.53

Statement II*New Soil Testing Laboratories proposed by the State Government during 2002-03 to 2005-06*

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1 mobile	—	—	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	1	2
Goa	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	1	1	2	4
Haryana	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—
Manipur	1	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	1	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
All India	3	2	5	11

Electronic Waste

*432. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to prepare a national policy on electronic waste/hazardous waste imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several companies are importing chemical wastes from affluent countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans formulated to check the import of such chemicals wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Import of hazardous wastes is regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (HW) (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003. Such import are regulated under Rules 12,13 and 14 of the HW Rules and are listed in Schedule 3 of the said rules. Imports are generally permitted for reprocessing and recycling of the wastes by the units capable of re-processing them in an environmentally sound manner. In case of waste electrical and electronic assemblies scrap,

its import is permitted under the said rules for direct re-use and not for recycling or final disposal. The imports of wastes are also regulated under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Banned Pesticides

*433. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pesticides which are banned in various countries of the world because of their dangerous effects, continue to be manufactured and used in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to ban or phase out about 38 pesticides as they are a risk to human beings and animals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Registration Committee, constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, registers pesticides for use in the country only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety. 69 pesticides which are banned/restricted in other countries are allowed to be manufactured, imported and used in the country. The use of 33 of these pesticides has been allowed to be continued as per the recommendations of Expert Groups and the Registration Committee following their thorough review (Statement-I). The remaining 36 pesticides, as well as Monocrotophos, which was also reviewed earlier have been identified for review of their toxicity, persistence, safety etc. by an Expert Group in order to decide upon their continued use or restricted use or phasing out (Statement-II).

Statement I

List of Pesticides which have been Banned/Severely Restricted in some countries of the world but are still being used in India, its review Status and Recommendations

Sl.No.	Name of the product	Reviewed by Expert Committee/Registration Committee	Recommendations of the Expert Group/Registration Committee
1	2	3	4
1.	2, 4-D	Reviewed	Use to be continued
2.	Acephate	Under Review	—
3.	Alachlor	Reviewed	Use to be continued
4.	Aluminium Phosphide	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
5.	Atrazine	Under Review	—
6.	Benfuracarb#	Under Review	—
7.	Benomyl	Reviewed	Use to be continued
8.	Bifenthrin	Under Review	—
9.	Butachlor	Under Review	—
10.	Captan	Reviewed	Use to be continued
11.	Carbaryl	Reviewed	Use to be continued

1	2	3	4
12.	Carbendazim	Under Review	—
13.	Carbofuran	Reviewed	Use to be continued
14.	Carbosulfan	Under Review	—
15.	Chlorfenvinphos	Under Review	—
16.	Chlorothalonil	Under Review	—
17.	Chlorpyrifos	Reviewed	Use to be continued
18.	Dalapon	Under Review	—
19.	Dazomet	Under Review	—
20.	DDT	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
21.	Deltamethrin	Under Review	—
22.	Diazinon	Under Review	—
23.	Dichlorovos	Under Review	—
24.	Dicofol	Reviewed	Use to be continued
25.	Diflubenzuron	Under Review	—
26.	Dimethoate	Reviewed	Use to be continued
27.	Dinocap	Under Review	—
28.	Diuron	Reviewed	Use to be continued
29.	Endosulfan	Reviewed	Use to be continued
30.	Ethofenprox	Under Review	—
31.	Fenarimol	Reviewed	Use to be continued
32.	Fenitrothion	Under Review	—
33.	Fenpropathrin	Under Review	—
34.	Fenthion	Under Review	—
35.	Iprodione	Under Review	—
36.	Kasugamycin	Under Review	—
37.	Lindane	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
38.	Linuron	Under Review	—
39.	Malathion	Reviewed	Use to be continued

1	2	3	4
40.	Mancozeb	Under Review	—
41.	Mepiquat Chloride	Under Review	—
42.	Metaldehyde	Under Review	—
43.	Methomyl	Reviewed	Use to be continued
44.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
45.	Methyl Parathion	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
46.	Metoxuron	Under Review	—
47.	Menocrotophos	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
48.	Oxyfluorfen	Reviewed	Use to be continued
49.	Paraquat Dichloride	Reviewed	Use to be continued
50.	Pendimethalin	Under Review	—
51.	Phorate	Reviewed	use to be continued
52.	Phosphamidon	Reviewed	Use to be continued
53.	Pretilachlor	Reviewed	Use to be continued
54.	Propargite	Under Review	—
55.	Propineb	Under Review	—
56.	Quinalphos	Under Review	—
57.	Simazine	Under Review	—
58.	Sodium cyanide	Reviewed	To be permitted for restricted use
59.	Thiodicarb	Under Review	—
60.	Thiometon	Reviewed	Use to be continued
61.	Thiophanate methyl	Under Review	—
62.	Thiram	Reviewed	Use to be continued
63.	Triazophos	Reviewed	Use to be continued
64.	Trichlorfon	Under Review	—
65.	Tridemorph	Reviewed	Use to be continued

1	2	3	4
66.	Trifluralin	Under Review	—
67.	Zinc phosphide	Reviewed	Use to be continued
68.	Zineb	Reviewed	Use to be continued
69.	Ziram	Reviewed	Use to be continued

The status is updated with reference to UN Publication entitled "Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale, have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not approved by Government", 7th Issue, 2002.

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the Pesticide	Consumption (M.T.) Tech. Grade year 2003-04
1	2	3
1.	Monocrotophos	3115*
2.	Mancozeb	2615*
3.	Quinalphos	1650*
4.	Butachior	1520*
5.	Dicloroyos (DDVP)	818*
6.	Acephate	440*
7.	Fenitrothion	412*
8.	Carbendazim	400*
9.	Atrazine	315*
10.	Pendimethalin	140*
11.	Deltamethrin (Decamethrin)	83**
12.	Fenthion	62**
13.	Simazine	45**
14.	Metaaldehyde	42**
15.	Diazinon	40**
16.	Carbosuffan	35**

1	2	3
17.	Chlorothalonil	35**
18.	Dalapon	17**
19.	Thiophanate-Methyl	15**
20.	Dinocap	13**
21.	Ethofenprox (Etofenprox)	11**
22.	Metoxuron	10**
23.	Trifluralin	10**
24.	Chlorofenvinphos	8***
25.	Fenpropathrin	0***
26.	Iprodione	0***
27.	Benfuracarb	Data Not Available***
28.	Bifenthrin	Data Not Available***
29.	Dazomet	Data Not Available***
30.	Dfiubenzuron	Data Not Available***
31.	Kasugamycin	Data Not Available***
32.	Linuron	Data Not Available***
33.	Mepiquate Chloride	Data Not Available***
34.	Propergite	Data Not Available***
35.	Propineb	Data Not Available***
36.	Thiodicarb	Data Not Available***
37.	Trichlorofon	Data Not Available***

*Proposed to be reviewed in the first phase.

**Proposed to be reviewed in the second phase.

***Proposed to be reviewed in the third phase.

Procurement Centres

*434. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres of Food Corporation of India presently operating in the country, State-wise, particularly in West Bengal;

(b) whether most of these procurement centres have remained non-operational and are not purchasing grains from the farmers;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such procurement centres are opened near the production areas alongwith the progress made therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The number of procurement centres of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies presently operating in the country, State-wise, including in West Bengal is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) FCI generally opens procurement centres near production areas keeping in view the convenience of farmers in consultation with local State Governments for purchase of foodgrains of fair average quality at the Minimum Support Price.

Statement

The List of Procurement Centres operated by FCI/State Agencies during Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 and Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07

State	2005-06 (KMS)				2006-07 (RMS)		
	FCI	State Agency	Jointly	Total	FCI	State Agency	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Punjab	230	1079	156	1465	370	1291	1589
Haryana	11	121	74	206	73	279	352
Uttar Pradesh	—	1756	—	1756	346	4623	4969
Rajasthan	12	—	—	12	26	22	48
Madhya Pradesh	210	390	—	600	141	923	1072
Delhi	2	—	—	2	2	—	2
Bihar	100	647	—	747	118	310*	428*
Himachal Pradesh	5	—	—	5	4	—	4
Uttaranchal	—	51	—	51	30	219	249
Gujarat	—	9	—	9	—	188	188
Jharkhand	9	—	—	9	4	—	4
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	16	—	16
Andhra Pradesh	124	58	—	182	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Bengal	—	680	—	680	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	43	—	43	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	1200	—	1200	—	—	—
Orissa	75	864	50	989	—	—	—
Maharashtra	—	819	—	819	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	1334	—	1334	—	—	—
Assam	11	—	—	11	—	—	—
Kerala	—	53	—	53	—	—	—
Total	789	9104	280	10173	1130	7855	8985

*Provisional.

Allocation of Additional Subsidy

*435. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

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

(a) whether the fertilizer companies are facing hardship and resource crunch on account of pending subsidy bills;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received a proposal seeking allocation of additional subsidy of Rs. 7,000 crore;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) It is true that fertilizer companies were facing hardship in the last quarter of the year 2005-06 on account of pending subsidy bills due to insufficient budgetary outlay. In turn, the latter was due to a substantial increase in the incidence of subsidy in the year 2005-06 over 2004-05 on account of higher consumption of fertilizers and steep increases in the international prices of raw materials/intermediates and finished fertilizer products. Steps were taken to mitigate

these difficulties by the provisions of additional funds in the second and third supplementary demand for Grants to the tune of around Rs. 2200 crore but a liability to the extent of around Rs. 6000 crore was still carried over into the current financial year.

Most of the payments against this carry over have been made and action is being taken to bring the payments upto date in the shortest possible time.

Extension of National Child Labour Project

*436. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether proposals have been received from various States to extend National Child Labour Project (NCLP) to some other districts also where the problems of poverty and child labour are acute and compelling; and

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

(c) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from Orissa, Bihar,

Rajasthan and Maharashtra states for extending the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) to some more districts in their respective states. State-wise details

of the additional districts proposed by the States for coverage under the NCLP scheme are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Districts
1.	Orissa	Sundergarh, Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jaipur, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Kandhamal, Boudh
2.	Bihar	Munger
3.	Rajasthan	Dausa, Rajasamand, Hanumangarh, Sawai Madhopur, Baran, Karauli, Jaisalmer, Kota and Sirohi
4.	Maharashtra	Prabhani, Hingoli, Akola and Chandrapur,
5.	Tripura	West Tripura
6.	Nagaland	Mokokchung, Tuensang, Mon, Wokha, Phek, Zunheboto, Kohima, Longleng, Kiphire, Peren.

(c) The Scheme of National Child Labour Projects is a Plan Scheme. The Planning Commission had given its approval for expansion of NCLP from 100 to 250 districts during the 10th Five Year Plan. All these additional 150 districts have been identified and projects sanctioned. Consideration of any new proposal will be subject to the approval of the Planning Commission for expansion of the scheme of NCLP during the 11th Plan period.

[*Translation*]

Cleaning of Ganga

*437. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to save the Ganga river from pollution after the Ganga Action Plan-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the schemes for the year 2006-07 for saving Ganga from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In addition to the works presently in progress for abatement of pollution in the

river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan-Phase II (GAP-II), the Government has signed a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for taking up pollution abatement works in the river at Varanasi. Assistance has also been sought from JBIC for similar projects at Allahabad & Kanpur for the river Ganga, at Lucknow for the river Gomti and under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP Phase-III) for the river Yamuna in the three States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, in addition to (YAP Phase-II) under implementation at present in these States.

A total of 189 schemes of pollution abatement in Ganga river are in various stages of implementation during 2006-07 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and West Bengal under GAP-II, in addition to 30 ongoing schemes for the major tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar.

Conditional Access System

*438. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken the views of the Industry, Cable Operators, consumers and other stakeholders in regard to the implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS) in the four metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Government has held a series of meetings with all stakeholders viz. Broadcasters, MSOs, Cable Operators, Consumer Organizations and concerned state Governments on 27.3.2006, 31.3.2006, 3.4.2006 & 7.4.2006 to discuss, take their views and arrive at a consensus on the issue of implementation of CAS in three metros namely Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. In Chennai, CAS is already under implementation.

(c) During discussions in the aforesaid meetings, there was a broad consensus that about 9 months time is required to take preparatory steps and to implement CAS smoothly. As such no exact time frame can be indicated.

Income of AIR/Doordarshan Through Advertisements

*439. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total income of the Akaswani Kendras and Doordarshan Kendras through advertisements, serials and other programmes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether huge amounts on account of advertisements broadcast/telecast by Akashwani/Doordarshan are outstanding against some companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for the recovery of these outstanding amounts?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The details of total revenue earned by AIR and Doordarshan during last three years is as follows;

(Rupees in Crores)		
Year	AIR	Doordarshan
2003-04	141.04	530.23
2004-05	156.39	665.27
2005-06	268.83	946.96

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of outstanding dues in AIR and Doordarshan against various companies are given in Statement-I and II respectively. Prasar Bharati has informed that the major steps taken to recover the outstanding dues from defaulting companies include encashment of bank guarantees, arbitration and legal action etc.

Statement I

Details of Accredited Agencies of AIR against whom Outstanding dues were more than Rs. 2.00 lakhs (as on January 2006)

Name of the Agency	Total Outstanding Dues (amount+Interest)
1	2
1. Adair Advertising	486650
2. Adbur P. Ltd., G'ba	2160415
3. Adhouse Advtg. & Mktg	809189
4. Anugraha Marketing	268349
5. Beautex Advertising	1308939

1	2
6. Chavara, Kottayam	855295
7. Corporate Voice, Bangalore	279905
8. EURO-RSCG	1738317
9. Friends Advertisers	480934
10. Grey World Wide (India) Pvt. Ltd.	16702480
11. Hindustan Thompson Ass., Mumbai	3046305
12. Integrated Comms	320000
13. Interface Comm., Chennai	257381
14. Jaya Advertising Agency	356736
15. Jelitta Publicity, Kottayam	1309308
16. Maa Comm., Kochi	248200
17. Madison Comm., P. Ltd., New Delhi	3489520
18. Mass Mktg. Advtg Service	342816
19. Mc Cann Erickson (I) Ltd., Mumbai	281489
20. Media Waves, Trivandrum	1590895
21. Medison Advtg., Mumbai	226526
22. Mode Advtg. & Mktg	8917688
23. Mudra Communications, New Delhi	278972
24. Musireca Cassette Incorp. Ltd.	2575057
25. Prachar Communications Ltd.	2088981
26. Pratisaad Communications P. Ltd.	1169730
27. Profad Ltd., Chennai	202623
28. Radeus Advtg., Mumbai	297407
29. Renukay Advtg. Co.	4579949
30. Result India Comm. P. Ltd., New Delhi	1526063
31. Result India Commn., Haryana	866938
32. Sista Satchi & Satchi Advt.	826128
33. Sravia, Thiruvananthapuram	314263
34. Suchandra Ad Media	378596

1	2
35. Telecraft Movies P. Ltd. TCR	1310858
36. Tritron Comm.	2033053
37. Twin Advtg.	677914
Total	56175949
The total outstanding against the agencies is Rs. 127068494/- but names of the agencies against which the outstanding amount is less than 2 lacs have been shown in the statement. The remaining amount against various other agencies is Rs. 70892545/-	7089255
Grand Total	127068494

Statement II

List of major defaulting agencies of National Network (Doordarshan)

A. Agencies against whom Arbitration Proceedings are in progress

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Agency	Principal	Interest
1	2	3	4
1.	NFDC, Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai	6327	—
2.	Creative Eye, Peeragarhi, Delhi	1298	1166
3.	Shree Madhav Khar (W), Mumbai	1156	932
4.	Fame Comm, Worli, Mumbai	1137	965
5.	Multi Channel, Khar (W), Mumbai	1102	855
6.	Plus channel, Andheri (W), Mumbai	1012	373
7.	Numero Uno, Juhu, Mumbai	1010	861
8.	Nimbus Communication, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	398	746
9.	Prime Time Media, Rajender Negar, New Delhi	345	434
10.	Market Movers, Breech Candy, Mumbai	311	74
11.	Drishti India, Andheri (W) Mumbai	294	271
12.	Advance TV Network, Naraina, Delhi	213	158
13.	Concept Advtg., Jhandewalan, New Delhi	188	78

1	2	3	4
14.	B4U Multimedia, Andheri (W), Mumbai	179	93
15.	Global ENT, Greater Kailash New Delhi	161	66
16.	Pritish Nandy Comm, Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai	154	201
17.	World Media, Jhandewalan, New Delhi	132	142
18.	Media Asia, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	122	62
19.	Alia Productions, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	60	131
20.	G.N. Comm, East of Kailash, New Delhi	43	63
21.	Joslin Comm Rajouri Garden, New Delhi	42	141
22.	Cinema Vision Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai	33	41
23.	Amateur, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	29	—
24.	Lehar Pub Service, Tula Ram Bagh, Allahabad.	27	16
25.	Neerja Films, Rohtak Road, New Delhi	23	67
Total "A"		15796	7936

B. Agencies against whom Arbitration Clause Invoked.

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Agency	Principal	Interest
1	2	3	4
1.	Film Craft, Andheri (W), Mumbai	1266	347
2.	Guruji Advtg, Preet Vihar, Delhi	318	362
3.	Universal Communication, J.S.S. Marg, Mumbai	207	103
4.	MBM, Pali Hill, Bandra (W), Mumbai	163	24
5.	L.R. ENT, Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai	155	17
6.	Magna Vision, Jungpura-B, New Delhi	105	62
7.	Prabha Films, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	80	14
8.	First Option Tele Films, Andheri (W), Mumbai	72	76
9.	Kine Scope, Khar (W), Mumbai	70	105
10.	Uranus, Khar (W), Mumbai	46	37
11.	Translink Tele, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	22	12

1	2	3	4
12.	Corrum Comm., South Extn, New Delhi	18	28
13.	Magic Box, Andheri (W) Mumbai	11	87
14.	Channel 8, Kolkata	—	—
Total "B"		2533	1274

C. Other Defaulting Agencies against whom Legal Action Initiated/being Initiated

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Principal	Interest
1.	Anand Advtg, Daryaganj, Delhi	140	111
2.	Maya ENT, Kandivli (E), Mumbai	120	123
3.	World Comm M/M, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	58	65
4.	Copy Desk, Mayapuri, New Delhi	45	6
5.	Tracer Advtg, Mumbai	33	11
6.	Star Gazer, Sukhdev Vihar, Okhla	22	6
7.	Asian AD Age, Green Park Extn., New Delhi	19	7
8.	Paras Marketing, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi	19	3
9.	Advision Multimedia, Noida	17	41
10.	Radha Publicity, Jublie Hills, Hyderabad	13	10
11.	Time Shop Advtg., Mumbai	13	3
12.	Future Comm., Goregaon, Mumbai	11	20
13.	Bidhan Advtg., Elisbridge, Ahmedabad	11	3
14.	A&A Films, Lajpat Nagar, IV, New Delhi	6	5
15.	AK INT, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi	5	2
16.	HMT, Bellari Road, Bangalore	3	0
17.	Vigyapan, New Delhi	3	16
Total "C"		538	432
Grand Total (A+B+C)		18867	9642

Grand Total (Principal+Interest) = 28,509 Lakhs

Import of Coconut Oil

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

(a) whether the import of coconut oil has increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an adverse affect of import of coconut oil on the domestic edible oil industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interests of the coconut growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information in respect of the import of coconut oil is as under:

Year (April-March)	Quantity (in tonnes)
2003-04	13760
2004-05	12713
2005-06 (April-September)	1631

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

(c) and (d) As the quantity of imported coconut oil as a percentage of domestic coconut oil is negligible, there is no adverse impact on the domestic oil industry or on coconut growers.

[English]

Water Scarcity

*441. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has warned developing countries including India against the threat of water scarcity in the coming years;

(b) if so, the facts about the present water availability and requirement in the coming years; and

(c) the specific plans being chalked out by the Government in this direction to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO) have not issued specific warning to India against the threat of water scarcity in the coming years. However, FAO has indicated the issue of increasing demand for water for various purposes and related water scarcity issues from time to time through its publications etc.

(b) and (c) The average annual water availability in the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic metre (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM only.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in its report has projected the estimates of total annual water requirements for various scenarios. The estimated water requirements for the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 are 710 BCM, 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several 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 ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and ground water 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 is providing 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. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

Export of Manganese Ore

3385. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of manganese ore is exported;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to affect domestic industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The production and export of manganese ore during the last three years is as below:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production	Export	Export as % of production
2003-04	17.8	1.8	10.1
2004-05	23.8	1.8	7.56
2005-06*	16.2	0.87	5.37

*Up to January 2006.

Source: IBM

It would be seen that exports of manganese ore has been 10% or less of the productions.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure availability of manganese ore for domestic ferro-alloys industry, the government has put restrictions on export of high grade manganese ore and has canalised exports of all other grades of manganese ore. Further there is an overall ceiling are reviewed each year in consultation with all stakeholders including industry. Besides imports are freely allowed.

Piracy in Indian Music Industry

3386. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the loss suffered by the Indian Music Industry annually due to piracy;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the Industry during each of the last three years;

(c) the loss of revenue annually to the Government on this account; and

(d) the steps taken to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Indian Music Industry (IMI) the size of the music industry has fallen from Rs. 1000 crores in 1999 to Rs. 500 crores in 2004 due to piracy.

(d) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, *inter alia*, legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences. The Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright Law. This Ministry has also made suggestions for restricting incidence of piracy in the film and music sector while considering the ongoing amendments to the Copyright Act. This Ministry has also received a proposal to enact an Optical Disc Law to counter piracy in the entertainment sector. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has been entrusted with the task of determining the need for a separate legislation for manufacture of optical discs. Apart from this, Ministry of I&B has also taken measures like organizing training programmes for police personnel on copyright issues in the film sector, National Film Development Corporation Ltd. has been commissioned to produce an anti piracy campaign. A film against piracy has been made by Public Service Broadcast Trust on behalf of this Ministry and has been telecast on Doordarshan. Audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away the price advantage available to pirated CDs etc.

[Translation]

Cleaning of Sea

3387. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in flow of waste in sea is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to check this trend;

(c) whether the Government is working on any project to keep all the three sea shores clean; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The steps/projects taken by the Government to check inflow of waste streams into the sea and mitigate pollution include the following:

- (i) Notification of standards for marine outfall;
- (ii) Regular monitoring of industrial effluents;
- (iii) Special drive for 17 categories of highly polluting industries;
- (iv) Promotion of low-waste and non-waste technology for production;
- (v) Setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for industrial cluster;
- (vi) Constitution of Coastal Zone Management Authorities for enforcing the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 which *inter-alia*, prohibits discharge of untreated effluent in the coastal areas and dumping of municipal waste in coastal areas.
- (vii) Inventorisation of polluting sources along the coast of India under Coastal-Ocean Monitoring and Prediction system.
- (viii) Preparation of a National Action Plan for prevention of pollution of coastal and marine waters from land based activities.

[English]

Sharing of Rivers Water with Bangladesh

3388. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of sharing of rivers water was discussed during the recent visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the consensus or agreement reached in this regard indicating the planned sharing of the rivers water; and

(c) the extent to which North Eastern Region and West Bengal are likely to benefit therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) During the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India during March 20-22, 2006 the two sides held comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations including sharing of river waters. It was agreed that the meetings of the concerned bilateral Institutional mechanisms such as Joint Rivers Commission would be held more frequently to ensure movement in positive direction and their outcome monitored by political leadership on a continuous basis.

Regional Language Programmes

3389. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed for broadcasting programmes in regional languages by the External Services Division;

(b) number of languages in which External Services Division of All India Radio is broadcasting its programmes;

(c) whether Oriya language has not been included so far under this programme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to include Oriya language as there has been a great demand by the people of Orissa living abroad?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that External Services Division of All India Radio (ESD: AIR) broadcasts programmes, both in foreign and Indian languages, depending on the requirement and availability of Indian population in the target areas.

(b) and (c) Presently ESD AIR broadcasts in 27 languages.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that at present there is no proposal to introduce Oriya language programme from ESD: AIR since the definite number of Oriya population living outside India has not been estimated so far.

[Translation]

Doordarshan/AIR Kendras for Uttaranchal

3390. SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ]: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval for setting up of separate Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras for Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the time by which these centres are likely to be set up and start broadcasting/telecasting their own programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) (i) **Doordarshan Kendras:** Doordarshan had installed an interim set-up at Dehradun, which is functional since August, 2001. The scheme for the establishment of a permanent Doordarshan Kendra has since been approved and is expected to be completed in about three years' time from now.

(ii) **All India Radio Stations:** A 10 kW F.M. radio station with studio and uplinking facilities is proposed to be set up at Dehradun during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, which will take about three years for installation. Further, six radio stations at Almora, Gopeshwar (Chamoli), Mussoorie, Pithoragarh, Pauri (Garhwal) and Uttarkashi are currently functional in Uttaranchal.

Besides, nine Low Power Transmitters (LPTs.) at Bacher, Bhatwari, Kathikhan, Nainital, Okhimath, Pratap Nagar, Rajgarhi, Ranikhet and Tanakpur have been installed.

In addition, proposal for setting up of eight new Radio Stations at Bagheshwar, Champawat, Dehradun, Dharchaula, Gairsain, Haldwani, New Tehri and

Rudraprayag have been approved. However, their installation and commissioning will depend on the availability of resources and the manpower requirements.

[English]

MoU Between NAFED and Earthtech Enterprises

3391. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2883 dated December 12, 2005 regarding Memorandum of Understanding between NAFED and Earthtech Enterprises Limited and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

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) Some additional information is being collected from NAFED and will be laid on the table of the House.

Programme at Agricultural Economy

3392. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre for Trade in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries, New Delhi in association with Central Institute for Cotton Research held a 2-day capacity building programme on "Globalised Agricultural Economy" at Shankarnagar in Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aim of organizing such a programme and the message for general public;

(d) the details of Organizations took part in the meet;

(e) whether such programmes will be held in future regularly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Indian Council of Agriculture Research in association with the Centre for International Trade in Agriculture and Agro-based Industries (CITA), New Delhi organized a capacity building programme on "Indian Agriculture Research, Extension and Development Organisation in Globalised Agricultural Economy" at the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur during March 3-4, 2006.

(b) This two day programme included an awareness seminar on the challenges faced by Indian agriculture and agro-based industries under the WTO regime; changes in the global scenario in world agriculture markets; changes in the global scenario in world livestock markets; innovations in the agri-food sector in the world market; ecological and social issues in agri-food trade; and transparency and ethical issues in food trade. The programme also included a capacity issues in the agri-food industry, and accountability and transparency issues in food trade.

(c) The aim of organizing this programme was to sensitize the scientists, university staff, entrepreneurs, state officials, farmers, media and other interest groups to the trade dimensions of agricultural research in order to improve the commercial viability of the agricultural produce for the benefit of the farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

(d) The programme was attended by 86 participants from 14 organizations which includes seven ICAR Institutes and seven State Agricultural Universities located in Central India.

(e) and (f) Such programmes are organized by the Government from time to time as per the felt requirements.

[Translation]

SC Directives on Cleaning of Yamuna

3393. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any project for cleaning Yamuna river after the directions of Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this project will be different from the project already going on for the cleaning of the river Yamuna; and

(d) if so, the future of the other such projects which are already running?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Central Government has not received any new proposal from the State Governments in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, Yamuna Action Plan-II, approved by the Government of India for pollution abatement works of river Yamuna, is under implementation in the three states of U.P. Haryana and Delhi at a cost of Rs. 124 crore, 62.5 crore and 387 crore respectively besides Rs. 50.5 crore for components like consultancy services, water quality management etc. In this regard till last financial year i.e. 2005-06, Rs. 18.78 crore approx has already been released to the States. Further funds are envisaged to be released on the submission of requisite Detailed Project Reports by the State Governments.

[English]

Educational Channels

3394. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the setting up of extensive educational channel in the country;

(b) the benefits likely to be achieved with the setting up of this channel;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the cost sharing between the Ministry and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Alloy Steel Plant

3395. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal has successfully developed special stainless steel for prestigious international scientific project 'cosmic evaluation';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a considerable improvement in production of liquid steel and saleable steel by the plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to upgrade/augment production and strengthen the infrastructure development in Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; and

ITEM	Unit	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Liquid Steel	Tonne	101043	116884	149631	158024	148098
Saleable Steel	Tonne	84335	99018	113356	128452	125150

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Different sustenance schemes have already been implemented to improve volume of production and quality of steel. For economic and cost competitive stainless steel production, the following major projects are under execution:

- (i) Installation of Argon Oxidation Decarburization (AOD) unit. Estimated cost = Rs. 42.0 Crore.
- (ii) Revival of Electric Arc Furnace No. 4. Estimated cost = Rs. 12 Crore.
- (iii) Oxygen Plant capacity 100T per day on Build Own and Operate (BOO) basis.

To ensure long term viability and sustainability, Corporate Plan 2012 has been prepared by SAIL, in which an investment of approx. Rs. 460 crore is proposed to be made in various schemes.

(f) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) in active synergy with Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, has developed a special large scale stainless steel conical assembly made of low magnetic permeability stainless steel. The component is made of American Iron Steel Institute (AISI)-304 L. The slab was cast at ASP's continuous casting shop into size 70mm x 128mm x 2800mm.

(c) There has been significant improvement in production of liquid steel and saleable steel during last five years. However there was marginal decline in the production during the year 2005-06 due to break down of transformer for Electric Arc Furnace No. 5.

(d) Details of production of Liquid steel and Saleable steel are given below:

Environment Protection Act

3396. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Monitoring Committee was constituted to ensure compliance with the Notification of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

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

(b) and (c) Monitoring Committees are set up by the Government from time to time to ensure compliance of Notifications issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Some such committees set up by the Ministry

of Environment & Forests are in the areas of eco-sensitive zones and management of hazardous waste. These committees have been meeting periodically and have been functioning in accordance with their respective terms of reference.

[*Translation*]

Gandhi Sagar Dam

3397. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh Inter-State Control Board for the study of Gandhi Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh constructed on Chambal river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dispute has arisen due to construction of minor dams and annicuts in the water catchment areas of Gandhi Sagar Dam by Madhya Pradesh without the consent of the other State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to intervene and resolve the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No complaint under the Provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, from the State of Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan has been received by the Central Government about the existence of water disputes between the States in this regards.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

HPT Relay Centre in Orai

3398. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for setting up a High Power Transmission (HPT) Relay Centre at Orai, Distt. Jalaun in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to set up a High Power TV transmitter at Orai in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh, and no survey in this regard has been conducted in the recent past. However, multi-channel TV coverage has been provided in the entire country (except A&N Islands) through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (including Jalaun district) with the help of small sized dish receive units. New transmitters are now not contemplated.

Upliftment of Child Labour

3399. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools set up in the country for the Child Labour during the period 2002 to January 2006 under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the number of States for which the proposal for opening of the said schools are lying pending with the Government;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be approved; and

(d) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for the upliftment of the Child Labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) During the period 2002 to January 2006, under the NCLP scheme, 3038 schools have been sanctioned by the Government for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. The state-wise breakup of number of schools sanctioned is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No proposals are pending with the Government for setting up of special schools under the scheme of NCLP.

(d) Government of India is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in 250 child labour endemic states for the benefit of children withdrawn from work. Under the scheme, children are put into the special schools where they are provided with education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health care etc. Apart from this, an Indo-US project (INDUS) is being implemented in 21 districts, which is a joint programme, equally funded by the Government of India and US-Dept. of Labour.

In addition to the above, Ministry is giving financial assistance to Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations for running special schools for rehabilitation of child labour in districts which are not covered by NCLP and INDUS Schemes.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Schools sanctioned during 2002 to Jan. 2006 under NCLP
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80
2.	Assam	95
3.	Bihar	40
4.	Chhattisgarh	103
5.	Gujarat	9
6.	Jharkhand	62
7.	Karnataka	146
8.	Maharashtra	136
9.	Madhya Pradesh	450
10.	Rajasthan	565
11.	Tamilnadu	160
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1074
13.	West Bengal	118
Total		3038

[English]

Fall in Agricultural Prices

3400. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in the agricultural prices in recent times;

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

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to stabilization of agricultural prices?

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 monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base year, 1993-94=100 of agricultural commodities from July, 2005 to March, 2006 is showing a fluctuating trend. However, in the case of vegetables and oilseeds, a declining trend in their prices has been observed. Details of price movement in terms of WPI for some important commodities are given in the Statement enclosed. The fluctuations in prices are mainly governed by changes in supply and demand situation prevalent in the market at different points of time.

(c) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities inter-alia, seeks to ensure stabilization of prices. In this regard, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major crops. MSPs enable the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative prices whenever the market prices tend to fall below the MSP. The Government also implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in respect of the agricultural commodities which are not covered under the MSP scheme. Under MIS, procurement operations are permitted to be carried out by NAFED or state designated agencies on the request of the State Governments to protect the interest of farmers from distress sale of their produce in the event of glut, provided the concerned states undertake to share the losses in such operations.

Statement**Monthly Average Wholesale Price Index of Some Important Agriculture Commodities**

(Base Year 1993-94=100)

Commodities	2005						2006		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar*
Food Articles	194.9	194.8	197.0	199.5	202.3	197.7	196.5	194.8	194.6
Cereals	184.5	185.1	185.5	186.2	186.6	187.0	190.3	191.5	191.2
Pulses	187.5	189.2	190.3	192.7	201.8	206.1	209.5	215.2	210.2
Vegetables	220.8	208.9	208.9	223.8	233.7	192.9	173.5	143.2	153.0
Fruits	218.3	226.9	254.3	252.7	253.7	246.5	243.2	245.3	242.1
Oil Seeds	175.7	176.1	175.9	173.9	172.5	155.2	155.8	154.6	154.2
Edible Oils	148.1	148.5	147.1	146.7	146.4	144.2	143.5	144.0	144.5
Sugar	161.4	163.4	162.3	163.0	164.9	162.9	166.3	172.3	172.1

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Note: *The figures for March, 2006 are provisional.

Setting up and Upgradation of TV/Radio Stations in Gujarat

3401. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from Gujarat for setting up and upgradation of TV/AIR stations during the current financial year;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) During the current financial year, no proposal for setting up/upgradation of TV/AIR station in Gujarat has been received. However, during 2005-06, requests were received for setting up of FM radio stations in Gujarat at Amreli, Jamnagar, Junagarh and Mehsana. Under the 10th

Five Year Plan Scheme, there is an approved scheme for setting up of 10 kW FM transmitters at Jamnagar and Junagarh at a capital cost of Rs. 3.20 crore and 4.05 crore respectively.

Under the Private FM Broadcasting Policy (Phase-II), sixteen FM channels have been offered in Gujarat for which auctions have been held recently. The existing coverage of AIR currently accounts for 99% both in terms of area and population in Gujarat.

As regards Doordarshan, major TV projects presently under implementation in Gujarat are as under:

(i) HPT, Radhanpur

(ii) HPTs (DD 1 & DD News) at Vadodara

(iii) Replacement of old LPTs at Mehsana, Mangrol (Surat district), Dohad, Jamnagar, Kevadia Colony and Surendernagar by automode Low Power Transmitters.

The approved cost of these Projects is Rs. 28.99 crore.

Optimum Utilization of Godowns

3402. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not been able to make optimum utilisation of its godowns;

(b) if so, the total number of FCI godowns in the country and their capacities alongwith the capacity utilisation;

(c) whether many godowns of FCI are in a dilapidated condition;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken to improve the condition of such godowns;

(f) the total quantum of food grains lying in open due to shortage of godowns; and

(g) the steps taken to provide adequate godowns for storages of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

Due to increased off-take under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes and lower stock level, the stock levels held in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India have witnessed declining trend.

(b) Statement showing the number of godowns and the storage capacity (owned and hired) covered and CAP with the FCI as on 31.3.2006 are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(c) No, Sir. All godowns of FCI are being constructed scientifically as per ISI code 607-1971 and are being properly maintained.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) Due to non-availability of adequate space in Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan Regions, stocks of 5.22 lakh tonnes (mainly paddy 4.75 lakh tonnes in Chhattisgarh) has been stored temporarily in the open.

(g) FCI stores wheat and paddy in open/CAP (cover and plinth) under a scientifically designed system as a temporary measure. These stocks are stored on wooden crates and covered with specifically fabricated low density black polythene covers (LDPE) which are water proof so as to protect the foodgrains from rains. These stocks are liquidated on priority.

Statement I

State-wise Number of Godowns (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP) Available with the Food Corporation of India as on 31.3.2006 (Provisional)

State/UT	FCI owned	Covered					CAP (Open)				
		Hired			Total	Covered	Owned	Hired	Total	Grand Total	
		State Govt.	CWC	SWC							Private parties
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bihar	14	1	7	13	10	31	45	0	0	0	45
Jharkhand	6	1	2	10	3	16	22	0	0	0	22
Orissa	23	0	8	35	1	44	67	0	0	0	67
West Bengal	26	2	7	0	6	15	41	0	0	0	41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sikkim	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
Total of East Zone	70	5	24	58	20	107	177	0	0	0	177
Assam	17	2	3	2	10	17	34	0	0	0	34
Arunachal Pradesh	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Meghalaya	3	0	1	2	0	3	6	0	0	0	6
Mizoram	4	1	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	5
Tripura	3	2	1	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	6
Manipur	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Nagaland	4	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	5
Total of NE Zone	37	5	6	4	10	25	62	0	0	0	62
Delhi	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	4	10
Haryana	36	23	9	29	11	72	108	25	0	25	133
Himachal Pradesh	5	8	3	0	0	11	16	0	0	0	16
Jammu-Kashmir	12	2	0	0	1	3	15	0	0	0	15
Punjab	111	3	11	88	29	131	242	93	1	94	336
Chandigarh	4	0	4	3	0	7	11	4	0	4	15
Rajasthan	35	0	2	2	3	7	42	15	4	19	61
Uttar Pradesh	52	2	17	17	5	41	93	28	0	28	121
Uttaranchal	5	5	5	9	1	20	25	2	1	3	28
Total of North zone	266	43	51	148	50	292	558	171	6	177	735
Andhra Pradesh	36	0	21	78	0	99	135	5	0	5	140
Kerala	23	0	0	0	0	0	23	6	0	6	29
Karnataka	21	0	9	20	0	29	50	9	0	9	59
Tamil Nadu	14	0	6	8	0	14	28	5	0	5	33
Pondicherry	3	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	5
Total of South Zone	97	0	36	107	0	143	240	26	0	26	266
Gujarat	15	2	4	0	0	6	21	6	0	6	27
Maharashtra	17	1	12	2	6	40	57	5	0	5	62
Goa	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Madhya Pradesh	23	2	8	21	4	35	58	6	0	6	64
Chhattisgarh	18	3	5	29	2	39	57	2	25	27	84
Total of West zone	74	8	29	71	12	120	194	19	25	44	238
Grand Total	544	61	146	388	92	687	1231	216	31	247	1478

Summary

Agency	Covered	CAP (Open)	Total
FCI Owned	544	216	760
Hired from State Govt.	61	3	64
C.W.C.	146	0	146
S.W.C.	388	25	413
Private Parties	92	3	95
Total	1231	247	1478

Statement II**Statewise Storage Capacity with the FCI**

As on 31.3.2006 (figures in lakhs MTs)

Zone	Sl.No.	Region/UT	Covered							CAP					
			FCI owned	Hired						Owned	Hired	Total	Grand Total	Total Stocks	Utilisation (%)
				State Govt.	CVC	SWC	Private Parties	Total Hired	Total Covered						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
East	1.	Bihar	3.66	0.03	0.44	0.51	0.53	1.51	5.17	0	0	0	5.17	2.64	51
	2.	Jharkhand	0.66	0.01	0.15	0.18	0.23	0.57	1.23	0	0	0	1.23	0.92	75
	3.	Orissa	2.93	0	0.60	2.70	0.15	3.45	6.38	0	0	0	6.38	4.84	76
	4.	West Bengal	8.64	0.23	0.65	0	0.56	1.44	10.08	0	0	0	10.08	3.60	36
	5.	Sikkim	0.10	0.01	0	0	0	0.01	0.11	0	0	0	0.11	0.01	9
		Total	15.99	0.28	1.84	3.39	1.47	6.98	22.97	0	0	0	22.97	12.01	52
NE	6.	Assam	1.99	0.02	0.16	0.05	0.37	0.60	2.59	0	0	0	2.59	1.17	45
	7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0	0	0	0	0	0.18	0	0	0	0.18	0.04	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	8.	Meghalaya	0.14	0	0.11	0.05	0	0.16	0.30	0	0	0	0.30	0.23	77
	9.	Mizoram	0.17	0.01	0	0	0	0.01	0.18	0	0	0	0.18	0.03	17
	10.	Trpura	0.22	0.05	0.07	0	0	0.12	0.34	0	0	0	0.34	0.11	32
	11.	Manipur	0.18	0	0	0	0	0	0.18	0	0	0	0.18	0.09	50
	12.	Nagaland	0.19	0	0.10	0	0	0.10	0.29	0	0	0	0.29	0.16	55
		Total	3.07	0.08	0.44	0.10	0.37	0.99	4.06	0	0	0	4.06	1.83	45
North	13.	Delhi	3.36	0	0	0	0	0	3.36	0.34	0	0.34	3.70	1.01	27
	14.	Haryana	7.70	3.95	1.88	4.05	1.30	11.18	18.88	3.17	0	3.17	22.05	5.65	26
	15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	0.06	0.07	0	0	0.13	0.26	0	0	0	0.26	0.17	65
	16.	Jammu-Kashmir	0.93	0.15	0	0	0.02	0.17	1.10	0	0	0	1.10	0.54	49
	17.	Punjab	21.84	0.15	2.30	35.13	3.92	41.50	63.34	6.34	0.18	6.52	69.86	45.85	66
	18.	Chandigarh	0.40	0	0.45	0.26	0	0.71	1.11	0.08	0	0.08	1.19	0.88	74
	19.	Rajasthan	7.06	0	0.13	0.01	0.18	0.32	7.38	1.58	0.12	1.70	9.08	2.71	30
	20.	Uttar Pradesh	14.96	0.11	1.74	4.02	0.25	6.12	21.08	4.19	0	4.19	25.27	3.95	16
	21.	Uttaranchal	0.66	0.16	0.26	0.46	0.05	0.93	1.59	0.09	0.04	0.13	1.72	1.13	0.67
		Total	57.04	4.58	6.83	43.93	5.72	61.06	118.10	15.79	0.34	16.13	134.23	61.89	46
South	22.	Andhra Pradesh	12.73	0	1.67	17.84	0	19.51	32.24	1.97	0	1.97	34.21	11.33	33
	23.	Kerala	5.12	0	0	0	0	0	5.12	0.21	0	0.21	5.33	2.34	44
	24.	Karnataka	3.68	0	0.44	0.62	0	1.06	4.74	1.37	0	1.37	6.11	2.94	48
	25.	Tamil Nadu	5.85	0	1.22	0.35	0	1.57	7.42	0.60	0	0.60	8.02	4.30	54
	26.	Pondicherry	0.42	0	0	0.03	0	0.03	0.45	0.05	0	0.05	0.50	0.23	46
		Total	27.80	0	3.33	18.84	0	22.17	49.97	4.20	0	4.20	54.17	21.14	39
West	27.	Gujarat	5.00	0.14	0.22	0	0	0.36	5.36	0.30	0	0.30	5.66	1.62	29
	28.	Maharashtra	11.77	0.13	0.72	0.91	0.55	2.31	14.08	1.42	0	1.42	15.50	4.79	31
	29.	Goa	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	0	0.15	0.13	87
	30.	Madhya Pradesh	3.37	0.14	0.58	0.60	0.42	1.74	5.11	0.35	0	0.35	5.46	1.86	34
	31.	Chhattisgarh	5.12	0.83	0.40	1.91	0.30	3.44	8.56	0.05	4.75	4.80	13.36	13.47	101
		Total	25.41	1.24	1.92	3.42	1.27	7.85	33.26	2.12	4.75	6.87	40.13	21.87	54
		Grand Total	129.31	6.18	14.36	69.68	8.83	99.05	226.36	22.11	5.09	27.20	255.56	118.74	46

Project for Environmental Clearance

3403. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Orissa and Vedant Aluminium for bauxite ore mining in the Niyamgiri Hills on Rayagada-Kalahandi boarder for forestry and environmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Present status of the proposal?

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

(b) The proposal for environmental clearance is for opening of a new mine for production of 3.0 million tonne per annum of bauxite ore. The forestry clearance proposal is for diversion of 660.749 hectares of forestland for the above mine.

(c) The environment and forestry clearances are yet to be granted.

Opening of Regional Office of AIC

3404. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to open more Regional Office of Agricultural Insurance Corporation (AIC) of India in the northern part of Karnataka at Hubli city;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which said office is likely to be established; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per information furnished by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) the Company has no proposal, at present, to open its office at Hubli.

Violation of Labour Laws

3405. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the CPWD, MES and BRO have not yet paid minimum wages to the workers engaged by them during the past several years;

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

(c) whether a gross violation of labour laws is reported to have been found in these organizations while engaging casual labours in their respective units;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inspections of these organizations to find out the truth;

(e) if so, the number of inspections conducted during each of the last three years and current year along with the outcome thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty in this regard; and

(g) the steps being taken to safeguard the interests of the workers engaged therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Clearance for Road Construction

3406. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction of road to village Sakharwadi in Karad Tehsil of Satasa district in Maharashtra is pending for a long time even after fulfillment of all the documents and procedures as laid down by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No such proposal for diversion of

forest land is pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Polluting Factories

3407. SHRI G.K. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of factories have affected the quality of water, in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether water in many metropolitan and capital cities has been unpotable due to effluents discharged by these factories; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken/proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) For abatement of water pollution, industry specific and general standards for discharge of effluents, including mode of disposal, have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 from time to time. While gap exists between the waste water generated from domestic sewage and the facilities available for treatment of waste water, priority has been accorded for setting up sewage treatment plants for cities and towns located on the banks of the major rivers.

(c) The steps initiated for control of pollution in water resources include the following:

- Notification of general and source specific standards for effluents for control of pollution;
- Regulating the siting of industries;
- Monitoring water quality for ensuring compliance to environmental standards;
- Legal action against non-complying industries.

Constitution of Consultative Committees

3408. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Ministries do not have the Consultative Committees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with name of those Ministries; and

(c) the time by which the Consultative Committees of these Ministries are likely to be constituted?

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 list of Ministries which do not have Consultative Committees is given in the Statement enclosed. As per the guidelines, Membership of a Consultative Committee is voluntary and a Member can be nominated to one Consultative Committee only. A minimum of ten Members is required for a Consultative Committee. Preferences from required number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament have not been received as a result of which the Consultative Committees of these Ministries have not been constituted. It may not be possible to give any time-frame by which the Consultative Committees of these Ministries are likely to be constituted.

Statement

List of Ministries where Consultative Committees have not been constituted

1. Ministry of Company Affairs
2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
3. Ministry of Law & Justice
4. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
5. Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs
6. Ministry of Science and Technology and Deptt. of Ocean Development
7. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
8. Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation
9. Ministry of Mines
10. Ministry of Minorities Affairs
11. Ministry of Women & Child Development
12. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

13. Ministry of Planning
 14. Department of Atomic Energy
 15. Department of Space

Food Coupons

3409. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce food coupons for distribution of foodgrains under Public Distribution System/Targeted Public Distribution System from shops other than the Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down the ration shops and depots of Food Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the alternative measures adopted for foodgrains distribution under 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) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Radio Station at Jashpur

3410. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a radio station has been sanctioned at Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress so far made in this regard; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up and made functional?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) A 5 kW F.M. transmitter at Jashpurnagar (Chhattisgarh) was approved as a part of the Tenth Five Year Plan Scheme. While the site for setting up of the transmitter has been finalized, the same is pending allotment with the State Government for which the matter is being pursued with them. Due to this delay, the project is not expected to be commissioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan period and is likely to spill-over to the Eleventh Plan period. No precise time-frame can be indicated at this juncture as its implementation will also depend on the approval and availability of resources.

[English]

Impact of WTO on Agriculture

3411. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of WTO on Indian agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Task Force set up in this regard is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has not constituted any task force to assess the impact of WTO on Indian agriculture. However, the Government have commissioned studies through various research institutions on the impact of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Looking at the trends in the export and import of agricultural items, it is seen that India continues to have a surplus positive balance of trade in agriculture. The share of agricultural imports in the GDP from agriculture is less than 4%.

(d) Subsequent to the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports in 2001, the Government has put in place a mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items. Protection to the domestic producers including farmers is provided by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariff within bound levels and safeguard action under specified circumstances. As a sequel to these

measures import duties on a number of items including edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, pulses, spices, arecanut, apple, cut flowers and vanaspati have been increased in the last 5 years.

To increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture, so that our exports can increase and farmers can get remunerative prices, the Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products. The schemes implemented by the Government towards this end, inter alia, include Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes.

Further, to provide a level playing field for the export of agricultural products, the Government implements schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme (operated by APEDA) and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna (operated by Department of Commerce) to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

Take Over the Implementation of ESI Scheme

3412. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take over the implementations of ESI scheme from the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) There is no such proposal.

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

Reforming of Water Distribution Schemes

3413. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals on the anvil for reforming the water distribution schemes by the State Governments sponsored by the World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the present status of each of these projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Water Sector restructuring/improvement projects aimed at improving system performance, efficiency and strengthening agricultural support services, setting up and enabling institutional and policy framework for water sector reform and involvement of users, are being implemented with the World Bank assistance in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In addition, Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project and Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project-II have been recommended to the World Bank for support.

(b) The details of above mentioned schemes are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

World Bank Assisted on-going Projects

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Type of Assistance	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31.3.2006 Million US\$/SDR (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN 4750-IN	30.11.2004 31.3.2011	US\$ 394.020	Loan	US\$ 22.436 Rs. 98.162

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	<u>15.3.2002</u> 31.3.2008	SDR 100.02	Credit	SDR 38.686 Rs. 251.699
3.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3602-IN	<u>08.3.2002</u> 31.10.2007	SDR 90.471	Credit	SDR 20.061 Rs. 130.364
4.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project- LN 4796-IN	<u>19.8.2005</u> 31.03.2012	US\$ 325	Loan	US \$ 31.693 Rs. 143.206

Pipeline Projects

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Status
1.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project-II	3902	Being appraised by the World Bank.
2.	Andra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project	2250	Posed to the World Bank

Sting Operation

3414. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to control the misuse of sting operation by T.V. Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

to (c) Government has constituted a Committee on 3.10.2005 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, I&B to review the Programme & Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. This issue is also being considered by that Committee. The Committee is yet to finalise the report.

[Translation]

Production of Tendu Leaf

3415. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area covered under production of Tendu leaf during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of quantum of production recorded and the profit earned 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) The information is being compiled in consultation with State Governments.

Rajeev Gandhi Foodgrains Security Mission

3416. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals worth Rs. 1015.30 lakh from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Rajeev Gandhi foodgrain security mission are pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals worth Rs. 1015.30 lakh for establishment of 2948 Grain Banks in Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) under the old scheme of Village Grain Bank. The scheme has been revised and on the basis of norms and guidelines of the revised grain bank scheme, Rajeev Gandhi Food Security Mission sent a proposal for establishment of 2784 grain banks in M.P. on 18.3.2006. They have requested to release 1,63,543 quintals of foodgrains and funds of Rs. 3,39,64,800/- for establishment of 2784 banks. As per the revised approved scheme, the Central Government sanctioned the payment of Rs. 4,20,25,3999/- for 3704 MT (1852 MT of rice & 1852 MT of wheat) as the food component to Food Corporation of India and Rs. 56,12,200/- as cash component) to Government of Madhya Pradesh for the establishment of 926 Grain Banks in Madhya Pradesh on 28.3.2006 in addition to Rs. 56,85,000 lying unspent with them.

[English]

Potential Sites of Iron-Ore

3417. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified potential sites of iron ore in the country to increase domestic steel production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No, Sir.

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

Promotion of Carbon Credit Project

3418. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain measures are taken/proposed to be taken to promote carbon credit project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992 and its Kyoto Protocol, 1997 addresses the issues related to abatement of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. India is a party to both these agreements. Kyoto Protocol sets legally binding targets for greenhouse gases (GHG) emission reduction by individual Annex-I countries during the 'first commitment period', 2008-2012, totalling 5.2% below their aggregate 1990 emissions. This quantified emission limitations and reduction commitments for the developed countries can be achieved through its flexible market mechanisms. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is the mechanism wherein developing countries can join global hands to achieve the ultimate goal of the convention for GHG reduction. Under CDM, developed countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol can go in for emission reduction projects in developing countries and avail Carbon Credits from these projects. In this way, CDM has provided significant economic opportunities to developing countries by way of investment in the projects that generate tradable carbon credits. Accordingly, Government of India established National CDM Authority (NCDMA) in December 2003 with its office in Ministry of Environment and forest. NCDMA generally meets once in a month and examines the CDM project proposals submitted to NCDMA had accorded Host Country Approval to 295 projects till April 2006. With the approval of these projects by Year 2012, India is expected to generate carbon revenues of US\$ 2.4 billion. A series of workshops and seminars have been organized to create

awareness and dissemination of information relating to CDM so that Indian Industry including the public sector can avail of the full potential benefits of carbon credit projects.

(c) Does not arise.

Census on Lakes

3419. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census has been conducted or proposed to be conducted on the number of existing lakes in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to assist State Governments to deepen the existing lakes and dig new lakes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Census of number of lakes has not been conducted. However, under Minor Irrigation Census conducted by states under centrally sponsored

plan scheme of Ministry of Water Resources, the information on minor irrigation sources namely Tanks and Storages, Ponds and Bundhies etc. have been collected for the years 1986-87, 1993-94 and 2000-01.

(b) and (c) The scheme on 'National project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture' in Ministry of Water Resources has been approved in January 2005 with total outlay of Rs. 300 crores for remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The aim and objective of the scheme is to restore and augment storage capacity of the water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. Under the scheme, projects in one or two districts each in the states are taken up for restoration of water bodies having original irrigation command area of 40 hectare to 2000 hectares. Central assistance is given to State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. Ministry of Water Resources has approved 24 District projects of 14 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra. The details of the approved projects are Statement enclosed.

Statement

Statewise approved district projects under the Pilot Scheme (As on 30.4.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of District	No. of water bodies included	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Central share released (Rs. in crore)		
					2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mahabub Nagar	224	32.84	2.44	2.7	5.14
		Anantpur	37	13.77		7.6625	7.6625
2.	Karnataka	Gulbarga	117	35.537	4.42	10.13	14.55
		Bangalore Rural	182	38.068	1	6.95	7.95
3.	Jharkhand	Saraikeela	25	3.14	0.33	0.649	0.979
		Palamu	52	11.06	11.17	0.525	1.695
4.	Chhattisgarh	Kabir Dham	10	2.236		1.1058	1.1058
5.	Orissa	Ganjam	68	12.82	1.14	6.81	7.95
		Gajapati	59	6.01	0.55	3.19	3.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Rajasthan	Ajmer	4	4.489	—	2.25	2.25
		Pali	1	2.45	—	1.5	1.5
7.	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	15	4.934	0.74	0.565	1.305
		South-24	74	18.664	0.21	1.2	1.41
		Paraganas					
8.	Tamil Nadu	Sivagangai	8	1.222	—	0.458	0.458
		Villupuram	38	9.372	—	3.5145	3.5145
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh	5	3.923	—	0.70	0.7
		Shivpuri	65	41.28	—	15.00	15
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	13	1.0401	—	0.312	0.312
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara	22	3.0588	—	1.275	1.275
12.	Kerala	Palakkad	10	1.3753	—	0.6	0.6
		Pathanamthitta	13	1.404	—	0.526	0.526
13.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	17	6.5512	—	2.654	2.654
		Banaskantha	25	7.6653		3.1	3.1
14.	Maharashtra	Beed	32	36.8828		13.831	13.831
Total	14	24	1116	299.7925	12.00	87.2078	99.2078

Jakhau Fishing Harbour

3420. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project has been accorded approval by the Union Government as 100% Centrally sponsored schemes but the initial cost of the project has escalated due to delayed environmental clearance leaving a large gap of amount of Rs. 41.48 lakhs to be claimed by the Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has asked the State Government to submit a comprehensive report with relevant techno-economic details to evaluate the reasonability of cost escalation;

(c) if so, the details of the queries raised by the Government and the extent of progress made in the meanwhile in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has received the detailed project report from the State; and

(e) if so, the time by which this assistance is likely to be provided to them?

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. The Union Government in May 1993 accorded approval for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau at an initial cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 percent grant assistance. The project was to be completed within the approved cost before May 1996. The Government of Gujarat could not achieve this target instead approached the Union Government for approval of Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) with cost escalation from Rs. 1143.60 lakhs to Rs. 2455

lakhs, and subsequently for Rs. 5291 lakhs in May 2005. The State Government reported that delay in obtaining environmental clearance is one of the reasons among the others that attributed for the cost escalation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Queries raised are on present local fishery scenario, details of facilities completed and their quantities and completion cost, deviations made from original design and reasons therefor, a comparative statement of schedule of rates adopted and tenders called/accepted, estimated yield from the project, benefits anticipated and already accrued to the beneficiaries, investigations carried out and their cost break-up, components where the changes in the project parameters occurred and reasons thereof, economic & financial evaluation including calculation of revised Financial Internal Rate of Return (FIRR) and Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) on account of increase in the project cost and its parameters, variance analysis together with relevant drawings indicating technical/structural details of the facilities.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Bio-Agriculture

3421. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes evolved by the Government for promotion of bio-agriculture;

(b) the total hectares of land covered under bio-agriculture in the country, particularly in Rajasthan; and

(c) the total funds allotted for promotion of bio-agriculture in the country, particularly in Rajasthan?

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 & Cooperation has taken up a new Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" for production, promotion and market development of organic farming (bio-agriculture) on pilot basis.

(b) The total area covered under organic farming in the country is about 12.84 lakh hectares, out of which about 5,600 hectares are in Rajasthan.

(c) Total funds amounting to Rs. 57.05 crore have been allotted for promotion of organic farming in the country during the 10th Five Year Plan. Since fund releases are proposal based, no State-wise allocation is made. However, funds amounting to Rs. 20.65 lakh have been sanctioned to different organizations in Rajasthan for promotion of organic farming during 2005-06.

[English]

Development of Fisheries Project

3422. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is providing financial assistance to the States of North Eastern Region for the development of fisheries project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of those States; and

(c) the details of assistance received for the purpose during the last three years, 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Labour Intensive Industrial Park

3423. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal for labour reforms to be applied to Labour Intensive Industrial Parks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat had sent draft Gujarat Industrial Park Ordinance, 2003 for obtaining the approval of the Central Government.

The proposal was examined and it was observed that the amendments proposed may not safeguard the interest of the workers. Therefore, the Government of Gujarat has been advised to formulate its views and submit a revised proposal after due consultation with the Central Trade Unions.

[*Translation*]

**Expenditure on Livelihood of Farmers
in Different States**

3424. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on the livelihood of the families of farmers is different in each State;

(b) if so, the average of such expenditure in each State at present;

(c) whether this expenditure is connected with the income of the family;

(d) if so, the opinion of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the income of those families whose income is very low?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A statement showing the average family size of the farmer households, monthly per capita consumption expenditure and the average monthly income as per the 59th round Survey of NSSO conducted for the reference period July 2002-June 2003 is given in statement enclosed.

(e) Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock sectors. The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity with resultant increase in the income of the farmers 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 crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimising the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/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.

In addition to the Minimum Support Price for major crops, the Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the request of a State/UT Government for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities generally perishable in nature and not covered under Minimum Support Price Scheme.

Statement

Average Family Size, Income and Expenditure of Farmer Households as per 59th Round Survey of NSSO

State	Average farmer House hold size	Average Monthly Income from all sources per farmer house hold* (in Rs.)	Average Monthly per capita consumption expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4.7	1634	512.56
Assam	5.7	3161	479.42

1	2	3	4
Bihar	6.1	1810	403.60
Chhattisgarh	5.4	1618	378.89
Gujarat	5.6	2684	562.86
Haryana	6.0	2882	741.10
Jammu & Kashmir	5.8	5488	711.82
Jharkhand	5.4	2069	352.85
Karnataka	5.3	2616	491.19
Kerala	4.7	4004	900.59
Madhya Pradesh	5.8	1430	406.30
Maharashtra	5.1	2463	524.12
Orissa	5.0	1062	341.75
Punjab	5.8	4960	828.01
Rajasthan	5.9	1498	557.45
Tamil Nadu	4.4	2072	572.81
Uttar Pradesh	6.1	1633	474.89
West Bengal	5.3	2079	507.74
All India	5.5	2115	502.83

*Excluding rent, interest and dividend

Note: The average monthly consumption expenditure includes, besides consumption expenditure out of purchases, the imputed value of consumption expenditure out of (a) home-grown stock; (b) receipts in exchange of goods and services; (c) any other receipt like gift, charity, borrowing and (d) free collection.

[English]

Thermal Power Plant at Chelpur Village

3425. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded clearance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for its proposed 500 megawatt Bhoopalaly thermal power plant at Chelpur village in Warangal district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when the Government proposes to accord clearance to this said proposal;

(d) the number of families who are expected to be displaced from their habitat at result thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed/adopted to rehabilitate such families?

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

(b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has granted environmental clearance on 16.02.2006 to the proposed 1x500 MW Bhoopalapally Thermal Power Project at Chelpur Village, Warangal District by M/s Andhra Pradesh

Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO). The said project will use coal as fuel.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As per project document, there will be no homestead oustees due to the project; however, 342 families would be affected for which the environmental clearance conditions stipulate that Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) will be carried out by the proponent, according to a plan to be prepared within three months in accordance with the norms to be decided by the State Government which shall not in any case be less than the norms prescribed in the National R&R Policy.

[Translation]

Revival of Co-operative Institutions

3426. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have sent a proposal of Rupees two and a half crore for the revival of co-operative institutions which are in worst condition; and

(b) if so, the status thereof and the time by which it is likely to be approved alongwith the time by which the first instalment is likely to be issued?

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.

[English]

Assam Gas Cracker Project

3427. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all formalities in respect of commissioning the Assam Gas Cracker Project have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including total outlay and target fixed; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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) The Project has been approved by the Government of India on 18.4.2006.

(b) and (c) This Project shall have production capacity of 2,80,000 tons Per Annum Polymers, which include High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) and Polypropylene (PP). The total outlay of the Project is Rs. 5460.61 crores (fixed cost) which includes a capital subsidy of Rs. 2138.00 crore for the project on the fixed cost basis. In addition there will be a recurring feed stock subsidy totalling Rs. 908.91 crores for 15 years of operation period. The expected time for commissioning of the project is about 60 months.

[Translation]

Fertilizers in Small Packs

3428. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide fertilizers in small packs for the farmers in remote areas and bear the expenditure involved in such packagings;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such packs are likely to be made available; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy proposed to be provided on fertilizers during 2006-07?

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) Under the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, it is

permissible to pack fertilizers in packs of the size of 2, 5, 10 and 25 kilograms. In terms of the notification No. S.O. 285 (E) dated 12.3.2003 notifying the revision in maximum retail price of urea, zincated urea and anhydrous ammonia, where the sale of any fertilizer is made in quantities not exceeding 25 kilograms, the dealer may charge the following amount on small fertilizer bags in addition to the maximum retail price:

- (i) On packing of 2 kg, Rs. 1.50 per packing;
- (ii) On packing of 5 kg, Rs. 2.25 per packing;
- (iii) On packing of 10 kg, Rs. 3.50 per packing; and
- (iv) On packing 25 kg, Rs. 5.00 per packing.

(c) A budgetary provision of Rs. 17252.91 crore has been made for subsidy on fertilizers during 2006-07.

Sugar Free Potato

3429. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar free potato is cultivated in Chhindwada district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct research in growing such potato in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being 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) There is no such thing called sugar free potato. Therefore, they are not cultivated any where in India. All potatoes contain sugar and their content varies with the varieties, place of growth and storage conditions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Declaration of Agrarian Crisis in Punjab

3430. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently been urged to declare the agrarian crisis in Punjab as a national calamity and set up an emergency fund to write off the crippling agricultural loans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Employment in Agriculture Sector

3431. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of employment in Agriculture sector;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make budgetary provisions in proportion to the said rate of employment; 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) As per the quinquennial surveys on estimates of employment and unemployment of the National Sample Survey Organisation conducted in 1993-94 and 1999-2000, employment in agriculture has increased very marginally. However, as per NSS 60th Round of employment and unemployment survey, during the year 2004, according

to usual status, out of 1000 persons employed in rural areas, 703 were in Agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates provided by CSO, the total investment (capital formation) in Agriculture sector was Rs. 67,561 crores (at current prices) which was 2.16 per cent of total GDP in the year 2004-05 and 7.9 per cent of the total investments in the country.

It may be mentioned that budget provisions are also made by the Central Government for agricultural development, irrigation, rural development, forestry and fisheries and other allied activities which generate employment in Agriculture sector. Provisions for the following areas/sectors have been made in the budget 2006-07, which, inter-alia, have a positive impact on the generation of employment in Agriculture sector;

1. Agriculture	Rs. 6,927 crores
2. Rural Development	Rs. 24,026 crores
3. Water Resources	Rs. 700 crores
4. Fertilizers	Rs. 985 crores
5. Agro and Rural Industries	Rs. 967 crores
Total	Rs. 33,605 crores

Forest Fire

3432. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire in the Kapat Guda area in Karnataka has destroyed more than 100 hectares of forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

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

(b) About 500 ha. of thorny bushes and grass land forest has been affected by the fire incident. The Kappatgudda forest (about 24,000 ha.) is surrounded with a number of temples which are visited by thousands of

devotees. Hence, these areas are prone to fire occurrences caused due to negligence of pilgrims.

(c) The following steps have been taken to avoid such incidents in future:

1. Clearing and formation of new fire lines.
2. Clearing the existing fire line and fire tracing in the areas of thick under growth.
3. Awareness programmes for general public through media, street plays, handbills etc. in local language.
4. Involvement of local communities in protection, conservation & management of natural resources through formation of village protection committees.

Construction of Malls

3433. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is mandatory to obtain environmental clearance for any construction that costs Rs. 50 crore or more, or generates 50,000 litres or more of effluents or can accommodate 1000 persons or more, before starting construction;

(b) if so, whether the shopping malls in Delhi have been/are being constructed without having environmental clearance despite costing Rs. 50 crore or more;

(c) if so, the details of the shopping malls which have been constructed and/or under construction in Delhi/New Delhi and the expenditure being incurred on their construction; and

(d) the details of the complaints received from Members of Parliament regarding illegal construction of shopping malls in Delhi/New Delhi and the reasons for not taking action on the complaints and the action the Government proposes to take against all such shopping malls now?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Complaint/Representations have been received from Shri Raghunath Jha, and Smt. Brinda Karat Members of Parliament regarding illegal construction of shopping malls in Vasant Kunj ridge area. This matter is sub-judice in W.P. No., 202/1995 being heard in Supreme Court of India.

[Translation]

Crop Loss Due to Virus Borne Diseases

3434. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether virus borne diseases cause heavy loss to crop every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to expand and boost technique of saving crops by implanting protein with the help of biotechnology developed by the researchers; 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 number of plant viral diseases occur in various parts of the country and cause varying degree of loss to crops.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated several projects to develop virus-resistant transgenic plants by employing biotechnology techniques. ICAR has also established a Network Project on Transgenics which addresses important viral diseases of field and horticultural crops. The Department of Biotechnology supports many projects for the development of viral resistant transgenic crop varieties

[English]

Discharge of Liquor in Yamuna

3435. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether some State Governments discharge huge quantity of seized liquor in river Yamuna which could pose serious threat to the environment and marine life;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Delhi Government, liquor confiscated by the office of Divisional Commissioner, Delhi used to be destroyed previously by discharging into underground sewerage system after its dilution by adding large volume of water. On an average, its quantity was about 10 cubic meter per month. It has also been reported that after further dilution in the underground sewerage system, its alcoholic character hardly posed any threat to environment and aquatic life. This practice of disposal of liquor has already been discontinued.

Projects Approved Under NHM

3436. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects approved under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in each State and the action taken thereon;

(b) the funds provided for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn up to strengthen the infrastructural facility for cold storages, marketing value additions by setting up wholesale and rural markets etc. indicating its present status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the specific measures outlined to establish quality control with an assurance of laboratories for horticultural produce to meet the strict sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards insisted upon the importing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Annual Action Plan (AAP) approved and funds provided under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during 2005-06 are given at Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Setting up of infrastructure facility for Post Harvest Management (PHM) including markets is a part of the NHM. The State-wise details of projects approved for PHM and markets as per the AAP during 2005-06 are given Statement-II.

(e) to ensure quality control, assistance is being provided to States under NHM for developing facilities like sanitary and phyto-sanitary labs, disease forecasting units, bio-control labs, plant health clinics and leaf/tissue analysis labs under the public as well as private sector.

Statement I

Total amount approved & released to the States under National Horticulture Mission during 2005-06

(Amount : Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	States	Total Outlay	Total Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8718.01	4420.96
2.	Bihar	8470.00	3100.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	5029.00	2037.83
4.	Delhi	900.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	6844.00	3239.28
6.	Goa	788.06	315.20
7.	Haryana	2097.17	1050.00
8.	Jharkhand	5990.37	2800.00
9.	Karnataka	8521.90	4455.17
10.	Kerala	7582.53	3533.98
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5971.00	2388.40
12.	Maharashtra	16128.00	8260.28

1	2	3	4
13.	Orissa	7499.00	3611.91
14.	Punjab	6021.00	2868.82
15.	Rajasthan	4102.00	2259.57
16.	Tamil Nadu	7572.00	3891.67
17.	Uttar Pradesh	11519.88	5340.25
18.	West Bengal	8451.10	4035.31
Total		122205.02	57608.63

Statement II

Number of projects sanctioned for Post Harvest Management (PHM) and Markets under NHM during 2005-06

Sl.No.	States	PHM (No.)	Markets (No.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95	61
2.	Bihar	31	69
3.	Chhattisgarh	43	28
4.	Delhi	24	—
5.	Goa	9	2
6.	Gujarat	76	15
7.	Haryana	40	—
8.	Jharkhand	15	60
9.	Karnataka	686	78
10.	Kerala	27	61
11.	Maharashtra	263	187
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12	50
13.	Orissa	20	87
14.	Punjab	8	51
15.	Rajasthan	15	23
16.	Tamil Nadu	50	182
17.	Uttar Pradesh	150	55
18.	West Bengal	227	71
Total		1791	1080

News from Southern States

3437. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that news of the Southern States are being ignored by the National Television Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Coverage under Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation

3438. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved any Centrally Sponsored Scheme on micro irrigation and to increase the coverage under drip and sprinkler irrigation;

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

(c) the cost sharing ratio between the Union/State Governments and other related agencies;

(d) whether any assistance has been provided by the Government for enhancing the seed production for agricultural crops and the fisheries sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

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

(b) The scheme is being implemented in the all the States except North-Eastern and Himalayan States. Each district is eligible for taking the advantage and all categories of farmers are covered under the scheme. Assistance will be for covering a maximum area of 56 hectare per beneficiary.

(c) The cost-sharing ratio between the Union/State Government will be 40:10 i.e. 50% of total cost and rest of 50% will be borne by the beneficiary either through her/his own resources or soft loan from Financial Institutions.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) To enhance seed production for agricultural crops, Government has provided financial assistance, during 2005-06 under two head:

(a) Seed Village Component, and

(b) Seed Infrastructure development.

The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

In fisheries sector no assistance have yet been provided for fish seed production. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Island Fisheries and Aquaculture is being implemented in 30 States/UTs through Fish Farmers Development Agencies. The assistance is shared on 75: 25 basis between Centre: State for development activities only.

Statement**Release of Funds during 2005-06****Seed Village Scheme**

(Amount Rs.)

Sl.No.	Agency	Amount
1	2	3
1.	U.P. Seed Corporation	22,08,000
2.	KVK, Bundi	21,720
	KVK, Baran	30,000

1	2	3
	KVK, Chittorgarh	30,000
	KVK, Kota	38,250
3.	KVK, Sirohi	12,000
	KVK, Dungarpur	14,375
	KVK, Rajsamund	14,375
	KVK, Hanumangarh	13,250
	KVK, Jhalwar	28,262
	KVK, Bhilwara	13,125
4.	KVK, Banswara	46,250
5.	KVK, Tukkanatti, Belgaum	1,55,375
6.	University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore	3,64,978
7.	University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore	35,866
8.	University of Agriculture Science, Dharwad	10,08,064
9.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	350,00,000
10.	Government of Uttar Pradesh	186,99,000
11.	Seva Bharti KVK, Medinipur (W.B.)	1,17,750
12.	Government of Himachal Pradesh	4,27,000
13.	Government of Punjab	29,75,000
14.	Government of Madhya Pradesh	350,00,000
15.	Government of Maharashtra	79,20,000
16.	Government of Tamilnadu	200,00,000
17.	Government of Jammu & Kashmir	7,00,000
18.	Assam State, Seeds Certification Agency, Guwahati	1,16,916
19.	Tripura	30,00,000
20.	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	3,50,250
21.	Orissa	44,74,772
22.	KVK, Tamilnadu	1,96,875
23.	Rajendra Agricultural University Samastipur (Bihar)	32,92,070
24.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (MP)	112,91,792
25.	Tamilnadu Agricultural University Coimbatore	1,03,807
	Total	14,76,99,112

*No Release of fund-04-05-03.04.

*Release of Funds during 2005-06**Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Seeds*

(Amount Rs.)

Sl.No.	Agency	Amount
1.	National Seeds Corporation	1,38,00,000
2.	State Farms Corporation of India	1,36,00,000
3.	U.P. Seeds Dev. Corporation Lucknow	3,11,54,000
4.	Chhattisgarh State Seeds & Agriculture Dev. Corpn., Raipur	2,23,16,000
5.	West Bengal State Seeds Corpn., Kolkata	12,00,000
6.	Gujarat State Seeds Corpn., Gandhinagar	12,00,000
7.	Chhattisgarh State	3,52,17,800
8.	Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi	85,32,200
Total		1270,20,000

Total Provision for 10th plan —Rs. 1270.28 Lakh

Total Release of Funds upto 31.3.06 —Rs. 1270.20 Lakhs

[Translation]

Wastage of Foodgrains

3439. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether during the cultivation and harvesting of crop, 20 million tonne of foodgrains get spoiled;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government for resolving this problem; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) During cultivation and harvesting, the loss of foodgrains happens in standing maturing crop due to various insect pests, rodents and diseases. Terminal drought or undue differential ambient temperature or other aberrant climatic conditions also cause crop loss in terms of grain weight.

(c) and (d) The farmers are advised from time to time to avoid loss of crop/grain by taking up judicious application of pesticides, cultural practices as well as other suitable pest management approaches. For increasing production & productivity and to reduce losses by diseases & pests, Government of India is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture. A separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz; Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation for increasing production and productivity of these crops including pulses & maize. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for the transfer of production &

plant protection technologies through demonstrations on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) & training of farmers & Extension workers. Besides, assistance is also provided for production & supply of seed of varieties resistant to diseases, supply of suitable farm implements/sprayers etc.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to deep Water Port

3440. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deep water port at Gangavaram in Andhra Pradesh has applied for clearance; and

(b) if so, the time required to grant Environmental clearance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a project pertaining to "Development of Port at Gangavaram near Visakhapatnam by M/s Gangavaram Port Limited" which was accorded clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 on 11.3.2005 subject to environmental safeguards and conditions.

Employment Opportunities in Public and Private Sector

3441. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment in both public and private sector has declined during the last two years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to step up employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Employment in the public and private organized sector in the country is estimated through Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment. As per this programme, employment in the public and private sector as on 31st

March, 2002, 2003 and 2004 (latest available) was given below.

Year as on 31st March	Employment (In Lakhs)		Total
	Public Sector	Private Sector	
2002	187.73	84.32	272.06
2003	185.80	84.21	270.00
2004	181.97	82.46	264.43

(c) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities were to come from the normal growth of the economy assuming 8% per annum growth of Gross Domestic Product and remaining two crore from special employment generation programmes. Besides this latest initiative taken by the Government in the rural areas is the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural house hold.

[Translation]

Pending Insurance Claims

3442. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any insurance claim is lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which this amount is likely to be paid?

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) No Sir. As per provision of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), claims are worked out and settled by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which is the implementing agency of the

scheme. As per information furnished by AIC, State-wise details of claims pending for payment during last three years alongwith reasons for their pendency are enclosed as a Statement. Most of the Claims are pending for want

of State Government's share of funds. These claims will be settled by the AIC on receipt of the State Government's share of funds.

Statement

NAIS—Pending/Approved Claims—Season

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Season	Total Claims Outstanding	Reason
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chhattisgarh	Kharif 2002	18.72	State's share awaited
2.	Meghalaya	Kharif 2002	5.87	State's share awaited
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Kharif 2002	0.30	State's share awaited
4.	Meghalaya	Rabi 2002-03	10.68	State's share awaited
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Rabi 2002-03	1.25	State's share awaited
6.	Assam	Kharif 2004	59.37	State's share awaited
7.	Meghalaya	Kharif 2004	1.43	State's share awaited
8.	Assam	Rabi 2004-05	9.57	State's premium subsidy awaited
9.	Jharkhand	Rabi 2004-05	54.17	State's share & premium subsidy awaited
10.	Meghalaya	Rabi 2004-05	0.03	State's premium subsidy awaited
11.	Goa	Rabi 2004-05	0.01	State's premium subsidy awaited
12.	Chhattisgarh	Rabi 2004-05	166.86	State's share & premium subsidy awaited
13.	Tamil Nadu	Rabi 2004-05	14.63	State's share awaited
14.	Chhattisgarh	Kharif 2005	5.86	State's premium subsidy awaited
15.	Assam	Kharif 2005	1.31	State's premium subsidy awaited
16.	Kerala	Kharif 2005	129.60	State's share & premium subsidy awaited
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Kharif 2005	233.07	State's premium subsidy awaited
18.	Haryana	Kharif 2005	66.23	State's share & premium subsidy awaited

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Tamil Nadu	Kharif 2005	1.94	State's premium subsidy awaited
20.	Pondicherry	Kharif 2005	1.30	Under Process
21.	Orissa	Kharif 2005	373.83	State's premium subsidy awaited
22.	Andhra Pradesh	Kharif 2005	29102.32	State's share & premium subsidy awaited
Total			30258.35	
	Karnataka	Rabi 2004-05	402.23	Reported
	Rajasthan	Kharif 2005	21621.37	Reported
Total			22023.60	
Grand Total			52281.95	

[English]

Establishment of Central Institute of Horticulture

3443. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Horticulture Institute functioning at present, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for the establishment of said institutes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has decided to set up a Central Institute of Horticulture in Medziphoma;

(d) if so, the details and main objectives thereof;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(f) the details of specialities and research infrastructure proposed to be provided in the said institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government of India has sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme for setting up of Central Institute of

Horticulture at Medziphoma in Nagaland during January, 2006 for the development of horticulture in North Eastern region. The financial outlay for the setting up of Institute over a period of 5 years is Rs. 20 crores with the objectives of (i) refinement/demonstration of identified technologies specific for the region, (ii) production and supply of quality seed and planting material of improved/high yielding varieties (iii) training of state department officials and field functionaries in selected aspects of horticulture development including post harvest management, processing and value addition.

(e) The Institute has already started functioning during 2005-06.

(f) The details of infrastructure proposed to be provided in the said institute are as under:

1. Greenhouses with controlled atmospheric conditions
2. Nursery Infrastructure
3. Model Floriculture Centre
4. Tissue Culture Unit
5. Plant Health Clinic
6. Nutrient Analytical Laboratory
7. Bio control laboratory
8. Integrated Mushroom Unit
9. Pilot Processing Plant including laboratory

10. Mother Blocks of selected crops
11. Demonstration plots of selected technologies for identified crops
12. Training Centres

[Translation]

**Creation of Awareness for Consumption
of Chicken and Eggs**

3444. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had banned the sale of chicken in various Government establishment due to spread of bird flu in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken a decision to lift the ban;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for creating awareness among the people for its consumption?

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) No, Sir. The Government has not banned the sale of chicken in any Government establishments due to spread of bird flu in the country. In fact, the Secretary (AH) and the Secretary (Health) have sent an advisory to the Chairman, Railway Board and Secretary (Civil Aviation) for advising the public sector undertakings of Civil Aviation and the Catering Wing of Railway Board for inclusion of chicken in the food menu in training and the aircrafts.

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

(e) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare jointly undertook an extensive campaign highlighting the

fact that properly cooked poultry products are safe for human consumption. Insertions were published in 738 editions of various national and regional language newspapers covering almost all states. During April 2006, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries undertook a similar campaign in electronic media through telecast of a 30 seconds video spot on this subject in DD News, Aaj Tak, NDTV India, Zee (Marathi, Gujarati, Bangala), ETV (Marathi and Gujarati), Surya TV, Udaya TV, Eenadu TV, etc. Further a second round of media campaign is also under consideration.

[English]

Strengthening of Forward Market Commission

3445. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the Forward Markets Commission to effectively regulate and develop the commodity futures markets;

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

(c) the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on 21.03.2006. The Bill, inter alia, seeks to strengthen the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) to regulate and develop the commodity futures market more effectively by: (i) increasing the number of Members of FMC from four to nine with up to three whole-time Members and a Chairman; (ii) enhancing the powers of FMC; (iii) conferring power upon FMC to levy fees; (iv) providing for registration of intermediaries with FMC; (v) creating FMC General Fund to which all receivables will be credited; and (vi) conferring power upon FMC to recruit its officers and employees.

(c) The Bill is yet to be considered and passed by the Parliament.

Production/Export of Sponge Iron

3446. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of each sponge iron and steel plants in the country;

(b) the production of sponge iron and steel in those plants recorded during the last three years; and

(c) the percentage/quantity that product exported during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The present capacity of the sponge iron and steel plants in the country are given below:

Capacity of Sponge Iron

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Gas based	3860	6100	6100
Coal based	6125	6871	12573
Total	9985	12971	18673

Capacity of Crude Steel

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Main producers	19106	19769	20769
EAF	8069	8151	8524
COREX/MBF-BOF/EOF	2185	2975	2975
Induction Furnace	10023	12353	12970
Total	39383	43248	45238

(b) The production of sponge iron and steel recorded during the last three years is given below:

Production of Sponge Iron

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Gas based	3976	4643	4505
Coal based	4109	5653	8352
Total	8085	10296	12857

Production of Sponge Iron

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Main producers	20012	20015	21694
EAF	6185	7844	8242
COREX/MBF-BOF/EOF	2053	2385	2846
Induction Furnace	5998	8242	8562
Total	34248	38486	41344

(c) The quantity of the products exported during the last three years is given below:

Export of Sponge Iron

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Sponge Iron	8.9	29.8	41.5

Export of Iron and Steel (Carbon)

	('000 tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Pig Iron	518.0	393.0	304.0
Semis	684.4	261.0	389.0
Finished Carbon Steel	4835.0	4381.0	4450.0

[*Translation*]

Production of Palm Oil, Oilseeds

3447. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of production of palm oil, oilseeds against the targets fixed during the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether vegetable oil is being imported from the neighbouring countries on zero percent duty which severely affects Indian Vegetable Oil Industry; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to make this industry immune from such impact?

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 percentage of production of oilseeds against the corresponding targets for the last three years is given in Statement-I, and the State-wise production of palm oil for the last three years is given in Statement-II.

(b) and (c) Vanaspati is being imported from Sri Lanka and Bhutan under Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with these two countries and from Nepal under Trade Agreement with Nepal for zero duty import. Such imports have contributed in keeping the edible oil prices depressed in the country, apart from the effect on prices due to increased oilseed production and substantial level of imports from other countries. However, under both India-Sri Lanka FTA and India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, the duty free access is subject to fulfilment of value addition requirements prescribed in the Agreement/Treaty. In the case of Nepal, import of vanaspati is further subject to annual quota which is canalised through State Trading Corporation (STC) to ensure its equitable distribution all

over India. In the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce, value addition requirement is not prescribed, but imports are insignificant. All the Agreements also have provisions for consultations to resolve trade related issues.

Further, following steps have been taken to improve the health of vegetable oil industry:

- (i) Import duty on certain vegetable oils of edible grade intended for manufacture of refined oil/vanaspati is levied at a concessional rate.
- (ii) Import duty on certain crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept low as compared to refined oils to facilitate raw material availability.
- (iii) to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced from 32% to 16%.
- (iv) Excise duty on refined edible oils/vanaspati/intersterfied fat etc. has been withdrawn.
- (v) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, intersterfied fat, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.

Statement I

State-wise percentage of production of oilseeds against the targets for 2002-03 to 2004-05

(in lakh tonnes)

State	2002-03		Percentage Achievement	2003-04		Percentage Achievement	2004-05		Percentage Achievement
	Target	Achievement		Target	Achievement		Target	Achievement	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	30.50	12.56	41.19	26.80	16.14	60.23	25.80	22.09	85.34
Assam	1.95	1.49	76.41	1.65	1.57	95.15	0.00	1.47	—
Bihar	4.55	1.05	23.05	4.00	1.24	30.95	2.02	1.17	57.87
Chhattisgarh	0.00	1.01	—	2.10	1.27	60.48	1.10	1.24	112.45
Gujarat	33.70	16.83	49.94	31.40	56.65	180.41	30.39	29.87	98.29
Haryana	10.20	7.12	69.77	9.50	9.98	105.03	8.10	8.41	103.77
Jammu & Kashmir	0.50	0.27	53.20	0.70	0.42	60.14	—	1.24	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jharkhand	0.00	0.08	—	0.15	0.08	53.33	0.00	0.07	—
Karnataka	18.05	10.74	59.49	14.08	9.34	66.34	17.61	15.70	89.15
Madhya Pradesh	58.35	31.44	53.88	57.75	56.24	97.38	64.94	47.98	73.88
Maharashtra	26.85	23.56	87.75	25.00	29.21	116.84	30.44	27.44	90.15
Orissa	6.20	0.94	15.11	4.92	1.57	31.89	1.83	1.80	98.09
Punjab	3.35	0.91	27.13	2.08	1.04	49.90	1.55	1.00	64.77
Rajasthan	34.30	17.55	51.15	32.22	39.97	124.05	38.46	55.41	144.07
Tamilnadu	18.70	7.60	40.64	15.80	9.64	60.99	19.57	10.61	54.22
Uttar Pradesh	17.00	8.81	51.85	13.37	9.28	69.39	14.44	9.52	65.95
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.23	—	0.28	0.34	121.43	0.00	0.38	—
West Bengal	4.90	4.76	97.16	4.30	6.51	151.33	5.66	6.53	115.35
All-India	270.00	148.38	54.96	247.00	251.86	101.97	262.00	243.54	92.95

Statement II*State-wise Production of Palm Oil during 2001-02 to 2003-04*

(Tonnes)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh	18974.00	18960.00	21457.47
Karnataka	573.58	606.64	645.64
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	2.94	2.94	2.83
Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	243.00	330.85	323.54
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	980.00	6572.00	6387.19
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1840.32	1696.00	0.00
Total	22613.84	28168.43	28816.67

*[English]***Survey of Fisheries**

3448. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of fishermen and fishing vessels have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether socio-economic status of fishermen has been assessed during the survey;

(d) if so, whether statistical analysis of the data is prepared; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India conducted Census on Marine Fisheries in all the Coastal States and UTs including Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep in 2005, covering parameters on fishermen population, religion, education status, occupation status, fishing implements like craft & gears and other equipments owned by fishermen or fishermen societies etc. The data has been collected and is under process.

(c) No socio-economic status of fishermen as such has been assessed during the census.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Regulatory Authority for TV**

3449. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding establishment of Regulatory Body to monitor the programmes on Television channels; and

(b) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Government is contemplating setting up of Broadcasting Regulatory Authority. The details are being worked out. As such, no time-frame can be indicated.

Annual Assistance for Storage etc

3450. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the disbursement of assistance for foodgrain storage, construction of godowns, retail outlets, purchase or vehicles has been satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether responsibility has been fixed for poor performance in disbursement of the said assistance;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) The Department of Food and Public Distribution implemented schemes of construction of godowns and purchase of vehicles (Vans/Trucks) in the 1980. Assistance was disbursed to the State Governments under the scheme for purchase of mobile vans/trucks for distribution of essential commodities in rural, hilly, remote and other dis-advantaged areas where static/regular FPS are not viable/feasible. The vehicles could also be utilized for effective door delivery of PDS commodities through FPS. Since the inception of the Scheme in 1985-86 upto 31.03.2002, a sum of Rs. 6531.51 lakhs were released for the purchase of 1569 vans/trucks. However, the Scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 01.04.2002, as a result of review of all plan schemes based on Zero based budget methodology undertaken by the Department of Expenditure.

Assistance was also provided to States/UTs for construction of smaller godowns upto 2000 MT capacity specially in remote, hilly, rural and tribal areas in order to ensure smooth flow of PDS items to fair price shops in these areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The funds under this scheme were sanctioned as 50% loan and 50% subsidy. Since the inception of the Scheme in 1983-84 an amount of Rs. 9838.26 lakhs has been released to 25 States/UTs for construction of 727 godowns having total capacity of 469146 MTs. Successful implementation of the scheme was dependent upon the State Governments/UT for almost every parameter like actual availability of land, construction of approach roads and work of actual construction of godowns. The Scheme was discontinued w.e.f. the 10th Five Year Plan, as a result of review of all plan schemes based on Zero based budget methodology undertaken by the Department of Expenditure.

Constitution of Agricultural Committees in States

3451. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments particularly Government of Bihar have not constituted agricultural committees as yet;

(b) if so, the States where such committees have not been constituted as yet and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to such States to form their agricultural committees at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The State Seeds Sub-Committee for Agriculture and Horticulture crops have been, in pursuance of the relevant provisions contained in the Seeds Act, 1966, reconstituted in respect of the States of Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The remaining State Governments have been requested to expedite suitable proposal for reconstituting these committees in their respective States.

Besides, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were advised in October, 2005 to constitute Task Force to look into the reasons for low productivity and address region's specific problems to enhance agricultural production and productivity. Such Task Forces have since been constituted by the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The remaining States and Union Territory Administrations have been reminded to expedite the matter.

Production of Oilseeds and Edible Oil

3452. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the production of oilseeds and edible oil during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various integrated programmes are being implemented for the purpose and for the production of oilseeds, pulses, palm oil and maize;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total production of oilseeds, vegetable oil and palm oil *viz-a-viz* their targets during the past three years and in the current year, State-wise;

(f) whether vegetable oil is being imported from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and other neighbouring countries on zero duty due to inadequate production of oilseeds in the country which is harming the indigenous oilseeds industry; and

(g) if so, the constructive steps 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of oilseeds was 22.10

million tonnes in 1995-96 which increased to 26.70 million tonnes in 2005-06 (3rd advance estimates). Production of edible oil which was 55.68 lakh tonnes in 1995-96 increased to 64.98 lakh tonnes in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) In order to provide flexibility to the States in implementation based on regionally differentiated approach, to promote crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and to provide focused approach to the programmes the erstwhile schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) have been merged into one Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) which is being implemented by Government of India in 14 major growing States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) in the country from 01.04.2004.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, Polythene Mulch Technology, integrated pest management, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/

dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers training, pipes for carrying water from water source to the field, officers training and publicity to encourage farmers to cultivate oilseeds in large scale. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research to popularize improved technologies among the farmers.

(e) Production of edible oil from the nine oilseeds was 36.24 lakh tones, 60.94 lakh tonnes and 64.98 lakh tonnes in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The state-wise production vis-à-vis targets in case of oilseeds during 2002-03 to 2005-06 are shown in Statement-I. The production of palm oil from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is shown in Statement-II.

(f) and (g) Vanaspati is being imported from Sri Lanka and Bhutan under Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with these two countries and from Nepal under Trade Agreement with Nepal at zero duty. However, under both India-Sri Lanka FTA and India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, the duty free access is subject to fulfilment of value addition requirements prescribed in the Agreement/Treaty. In the case of Nepal, import of vanaspati is further subject to annual quota which is canalised through State Trading Corporation (STC) to ensure its equitable distribution all over India. In the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce, value addition requirement is not prescribed, but imports are insignificant. All the Agreements also have provisions for consultations to resolve trade related issues.

Statement I

State-wise target and achievement of production of oilseeds during 2002-03 to 2005-06

(in lakh tonnes)

State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	30.50	12.56	26.80	16.14	25.89	22.09	26.68	20.05
Assam	1.95	1.49	1.65	1.57	0.00	1.47	0.00	1.52
Bihar	4.55	1.05	4.00	1.24	2.02	1.17	1.76	1.01
Chhattisgarh	0.00	1.01	2.10	1.27	1.10	1.24	1.63	1.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gujarat	33.70	16.83	31.40	56.65	30.39	29.87	38.69	43.60
Haryana	10.20	7.12	9.50	9.98	8.10	8.41	8.18	10.14
Jammu & Kashmir	0.50	0.27	0.70	0.42	—	1.24	0.00	0.38
Jharkhand	0.00	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.18
Karnataka	18.05	10.74	14.08	9.34	17.61	15.70	19.11	15.79
Madhya Pradesh	58.35	31.44	57.75	56.24	64.94	47.98	64.00	52.57
Maharashtra	26.85	23.56	25.00	29.21	30.44	27.44	30.00	33.97
Orissa	6.20	0.94	4.92	1.57	1.83	1.80	1.77	5.65
Punjab	3.35	0.91	2.08	1.04	1.55	1.00	1.33	1.32
Rajasthan	34.30	17.55	32.22	39.97	38.46	55.41	39.47	54.36
Tamilnadu	18.70	7.60	15.80	9.64	19.57	10.61	17.78	11.19
Uttar Pradesh	17.00	8.81	13.37	9.28	14.44	9.52	14.85	6.94
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.23	0.28	0.34	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.27
West Bengal	4.90	4.76	4.30	6.51	5.66	6.53	6.24	5.80
All-India	270.00	148.38	247.00	251.86	262.00	243.54	265.84	266.97

*Statement II**State-wise Production of Palm Oil during 2001-02 to 2003-04*

State	(Tonnes)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh	18974.00	18960.00	21457.47
Karnataka	573.58	606.64	645.64
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	2.94	2.94	2.83
Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	243.00	330.85	323.54
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	980.00	6572.00	6387.19
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1840.32	1696.00	0.00
Total	22613.84	28168.43	28816.67

*[English]***Seed Valley**

3453. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has selected Andhra Pradesh for developing it into the "Seed Valley" of the country for production and supply of quality seed of crops to all other States of the country;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the project;

(c) whether "Agro Economic Zone" will be created with various facilities;

(d) if so, the details of facilities proposed to be provided;

(e) whether the seeds produced here will also be exported;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government plan to open such projects in other States in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (h) Association of Seed Industry has submitted a model project on the Seed Valley Concept for Andhra Pradesh which could also be used for other states. The salient feature of the Seed Valley is the establishment of a Special Economic Zone in a designated geographical area of the state in which the seed and crop biotech industry is encouraged by the State Government to set up their research, production processing and quality facilities with the necessary infrastructure and other support. They would help the industry to invest in research and development for superior genetics and crop biotechnology within the new Intellectual Property regime. Small industry may be supported financially to set up research infrastructure like poly houses, biotech labs, etc. in these zones. This designated area will be a Seed Economic Zone. The

Seed Valley Concept has been forwarded to Government to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Orissa for their comments.

*[Translation]***Agreement between National Dairy Development Board and Pvt. Companies**

3454. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited a subsidiary company of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed any production related agreement with private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the said company;

(c) whether any prior permission of the Government has been sought with regard thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Hospital for Beedi Workers

3455. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from their divisional offices for construction of hospital for Beedi workers;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether such proposal is pending in Nagpur divisional office;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has informed the officers to complete this work in time limits keeping in views the interests of beedi workers; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Welfare Commissioner Nagpur & Welfare Commissioner Hyderabad have intimated about the receipt of proposals from the following for construction of hospitals for Beedi Workers:

- (i) M/s Lokmangal Medical Research and Development Centre, Solapur.
- (ii) M/s Prathima Educational Society, Karim Nagar (Andhra Pradesh).

There are certain requirements and conditions to be fulfilled by the Welfare Commissioner concerned and the respective State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the scheme for providing grant to State Govt/ESI/Beedi Workers Group Housing Cooperative society/Reputed NGOs/Central or State Government recognized Private hospitals/dispensaries intending to provide medical facilities to beedi workers and their dependents. These proposals will be considered as soon as these proposals are submitted by welfare Commissioners after complying with the requisite conditions and the recommendations of the State Government concerned.

Maximum Retail Price for TV Channels

3456. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to fix Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels alongwith Conditional Access System (CAS) in metropolitan cities in the country as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' of April 7, 2006;

(b) if so, whether different prices are being charged from subscribers in metropolitan cities by cable operators;

(c) if so, the reasons for not controlling/taking action against such cable operators by the Government; and

(d) the time by which approval for fixing Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government has undertaken a number of meetings with the stakeholders on 27.3.2006, 31.3.2006, 3.4.2006 to discuss the issues relating to cable TV which includes CAS. There was a strong view from the industry partners such as MSOs, cable operators and consumers as well, that Government should fix the Maximum Retail Price for TV channels.

(b) TRAI had frozen the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, cable operators to MSOs/Broadcaster and MSO to broadcasters as prevalent on 26.12.2003 through a tariff order dated 15.1.2004. These tariff orders have been amended from time to time only to take care of inflation of costs.

(c) In view of (b) above question of action does not arise.

(d) Fixing of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels will fall in the domain of TRAI as the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not provide for fixation of MRP.

Godowns Near Procurement Centres

3457. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether foodgrains procured by the Government have to be transported over long distance due to non-availability of sufficient storage facility locally;

(b) if so, the quantum of such foodgrains transported during the last two years alongwith amount spent of transportation and transit, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to construct godowns near the procurement centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Foodgrains are transported by the Food Corporation of India to the consuming States for releases under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes from the procuring States.

As per provisional figures available, a quantity of 381.48 lakh MT of foodgrains was transported during the year 2004-05 and Rs. 2,944.80 crores were spent on its transportation. As per revised estimates, a quantity of 344.23 lakh MT of foodgrains was transported during the year 2005-06 and Rs. 2,886.51 crores were spent on its transportation.

(c) The storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), as on 31.03.2006, was 25.56 million tonnes against which stocks held were 11.87 million tonnes. As the available storage capacity is sufficient in all the States it has been decided not to construct more godowns, except in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States.

Assistance to Rajasthan for River Conservation

3458. **SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance given to State of Rajasthan for river conservation;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan had submitted detailed project reports for sanction of eight schemes in Kota and Keshoraipatan. The Ministry has sanctioned seven schemes at a cost of Rs. 116.78 lakh on 100% sharing basis and an amount of Rs. 112.00 lakh has been released to the State Government. The State Government has been requested to give commitment to share 30% cost for the remaining scheme for interception & diversion and construction of sewage treatment plant at Kota, which is awaited.

[English]

Fishing Harbours

3459. **SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned for fishing harbours during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of project/proposals pending for construction of fishing harbour during the said period, 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) State-wise details of project sanctioned for construction of fishing harbours under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the last two years are as below:

Sl.No.	States	Years/Name of the fishing harbour	
		2004-05	2005-06
1.	Kerala	—	1. Koyilandi
2.	West Bengal	1. Petuaghat	—
3.	Gujarat	1. Dholai 2. Okha	—
4.	Pondicherry	—	1. Karaikal 2. Mahe

(b) State-wise details of the new proposals for construction

of fishing harbours are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*State-wise details of proposals received for construction of new harbours and their status*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Fishing Harbour	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	1. Veraval Stage-II	The State Government has been requested to consider an alternate location for development of the fishing harbour as the existing one is already congested and over crowded.
		2. Umergaon	The State Government is to confirm availability of land and acceptance of layout prepared by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore, enabling the Institute to undertake fresh investigations and finalization of Techno-Economic Feasibility Report.
		3. Bhadeli Jagaglala	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno-Economic Feasibility Report. The Government of Gujarat is to confirm availability of adequate land, enabling CICEF to finalize the project report.
		4. Porbandar Stage-II	The State Government is to conduct post construction evaluation study to evaluate utilization of the facilities already created, before Stage-II expansion is considered.
		5. Jaffrabad	The Government of Gujarat is to finalize the project report together with confirmation on availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		6. Mangrol Stage-III	The Government of Gujarat is to take a view as to whether expand the existing fishing harbour or development of a satellite fishing harbour at a suitable location and to formulate detailed proposal accordingly.
		7. Adri	The Government of Gujarat is yet to take a final view on development of fishing harbour at this location.
		8. Madhwad	The State Government, in consultation with Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore is to assess suitability of site for development as fishing harbour.
2.	Orissa	1. Chandipur	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.

1	2	3	4
3.	Karnataka	1. Alvekodi	The State Government is to take a final view on up-gradation of fish landing centre into fishing harbour, after completion of the landing centre project at this location.
4.	Tamil Nadu	1. Rameshwaram	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		2. Poompuhar	The State Government has been requested to carry out detailed hydraulic model studies together with confirmation on availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		3. Pazhyar	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		4. Mallipattinam	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provisions in the State budget.
		5. Thengapattinam	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		6. Chinnamutton stage-II	Government of Tamil Nadu is to formulate detailed Techno-Economic Feasibility Report and to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		7. Colachel	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has finalised the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR). The Government of Tamil Nadu is to convey their acceptance for TEFR together with confirm on availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Nizamapatnam	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.
		2. Biyyaputhippa/ Anthervedipalem	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has finalised the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report. Government of Andhra Pradesh is to take a view on development of the integrated fishing harbour.
6.	Kerala	1. Thalai	The proposal has been referred to Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore for examination from techno-economic angle. Accordingly, the Institute after scrutiny has communicated technical observation to Government of Kerala for compliance.

[Translation]

Demand of Iron Ore from NMDC

3460. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the State of Chhattisgarh where the iron ore mines of the National Mineral Development Corporation are located along with the ore-wise details of the mines and the period of lease thereof;

(b) the quantity of iron ore produced from these mines during the last three years along with the quantity of minerals exported, the quantity of minerals provided to the plants situated outside the State and the quantity of minerals provided to the industries in the State out of the total quantity produced;

(c) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) would meet the iron ore demand of the industries located in the State of Chhattisgarh on a priority basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Details of iron ore

mines, along with the ore-wise details of the mines and the period of lease thereof being operated by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details for quantity of iron ore produced (including reclamation) at Bailadila mines during last three years along with the quantity dispatched for export, quantity supplied to the plants situated with-in and out side the Chhattisgarh State are given in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Units in the State have traditionally largely sourced their requirements of iron ore from Orissa. Following sharp increase in the price of iron ore in 2002-03, they began approaching NMDC for supplies. In response NMDC made efforts to meet their demand by augmenting its production and making supplies to these units on a priority basis. Thus allocation of iron ore by NMDC to these units steadily increased from a level of 1.4 lakh Tonnes, during 2003-04, to a level of 20.0 lakh Tonnes during 2006-07. NMDC has also requested the Chhattisgarh State Government to allocate a specific mining lease in favour of a joint venture company proposed to be formed by NMDC along-with Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation for dedicated supply to the State.

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

Statement I

Details of iron ore mines, along with the ore-wise details of the mines and the period of lease thereof, being operated by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)

Project	Location	Balance reserves as on 1.4.06 (in million tonnes)	Lease valid up to
Dep-14	Kirandul,	147	11.09.2015
Dep-11c	District-Dantewada.	59	06.12.2015
Dep-5	Bacheli,	62	11.09.2015
Dep-10/11A	District-Dantewada.	238	Dep 10: 10.9.2015 Dep 11A: 11.9.2017

1	2	3	4
		2. Kasragod	The State Government is to confirm availability of environmental clearance and budgetary allocation in the State budget during the current financial year.
7.	Maharashtra	1. Agardanda	The State Government has been requested to complete model studies and forward the findings to CICEF for finalization of Techno-Economic Feasibility Report.
		2. Deogad (Anandwadi)	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget for sharing cost of the project.
		3. Jivana Bandar	The State Government has been requested to submit detailed project proposals after completion of techno economic feasibility studies/model studies together with confirmation on statutory clearance.
		4. Karanja	-do-
		5. Arnala	-do-
		6. Harnai	-do-
		7. Ratnagiri Stage-II	-do-
		8. Sakhrinate	-do-
8.	Goa	1. Vasco Bay (Proposal of Mormugao Port Trust)	The Mormugao Port Trust has been requested to confirm availability of environmental clearance.
9.	Daman & Diu	1. Vanakabara	The UT Administration is to confirm availability of land and environmental clearance for the project.
		2. Nani Daman	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno-Economic Feasibility Report.
10.	Pondicherry	3. Yanam	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been asked to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno-Economic Feasibility Report.

Statement II

The details for quantity of iron ore produced (including reclamation) at Bailadila mines since last three years along with the quantity dispatched for export and quantity supplied to the plants situated in the Chhattisgarh

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(A) Production including reclamation (in million tonnes)	16.4	17.6	18.9
(B) Quantity despatched for export (in million tonne)	4.8	5.7	4.8
(C) Quantity supplied within the state (in million tonne)	0.065	0.14	0.85
(D) Quantity supplied out the state (in million tonnes)	11.5	11.8	13.2

[English]

Gap between Farmers and Scientists

3461. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to bridge the gap between the farmers and scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government has arranged agriculture meets and crop exhibitions from time to time in different regions during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to bridge the gap between the farmers and scientists, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 531 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), in various rural districts of the country. The KVK aims at technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations of technology/products.

(c) and (d) During the last two years, nine Agriculture Fair/Expo were organized in Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern and North East regions. During the same period,

22110 agriculture meets and exhibitions were organized by the KVKs for creating awareness on improved agriculture technology amongst 4423 thousand farmers. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of Agriculture Meets and Exhibitions organized by the KVKs during 2004-05 to 2005-06

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number	Participants (in 000)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	185	59.05
2.	Bihar	515	129.08
3.	Chhattisgarh	639	40.05
4.	Goa	55	57.86
5.	Gujarat	4.7	119.67
6.	Haryana	584	53.38
7.	Himachal Pradesh	268	21.89
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	68	7.41
9.	Jharkhand	204	69.67
10.	Karnataka	3017	2239.08
11.	Kerala	1803	85.96

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1530	110.15
13.	Maharashtra	498	108.26
14.	Orissa	1485	68.34
15.	Punjab	400	134.88
16.	Rajasthan	667	135.26
17.	Tamil Nadu	7117	153.32
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1375	293.38
19.	Uttaranchal	117	63.90
20.	West Bengal	664	393.08
21.	North-East States	330	15.57
22.	Union Territories	172	63.82
Total		22110	4423.05

Sharing of Yamuna Water

3462. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Upper Yamuna Review Committee was recently held in New Delhi in which Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi participated;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and decisions arrived at the meeting;

(c) whether any decision was taken to allocate a share of 1.119 BCM of Yamuna Water to Rajasthan as per the earlier Memorandum of Understanding for utilization of Yamuna waters signed on May 12, 1994 by the said States;

(d) if so, whether the Government intend to intervene and direct Haryana to release water to Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of Upper Yamuna Review Committee was held in New Delhi on 12.04.2006. Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi participated in the meeting. Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation & Flood Control, Uttar Pradesh and Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation & Public Health, Himachal Pradesh also attended the meeting.

(b) The main decisions taken in the meeting were as below:

(i) It was decided to set up an "Empowered Committee" comprising Secretary Irrigation/Water Resources from Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to have a fresh look at the issue of providing water to Rajasthan from Tajewala.

(ii) Regarding the construction of storage projects in upstream reaches of river Yamuna it was decided to constitute a "Steering Committee" to formulate strategy to expedite the work.

(iii) It was agreed that the said Steering Committee will also examine the status of return flows from Delhi.

(iv) It was agreed to allow Delhi to use Yamuna water for Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plants whenever the Upper Ganga Canal is closed for maintenance.

(c) to (e) The allocation of share of 1.119 BCM of Yamuna water to Rajasthan as per the earlier Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 12, 1994 by the basin States remains unchanged. As regards giving a part of this share to Rajasthan from Tajewala in Haryana, it was decided to form an "Empowered Committee" comprising Secretary level officials from Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to have a fresh look at the issue.

[Translation]

Tainted Officers on Sensitive Posts

3463. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of officers in the corporations and undertakings under the Ministry, against whom CBI

enquiries are pending, have been posted on sensitive posts;

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

(c) the details of the efforts made by the Government so far for speedy disposal of the cases pending against such officers; and

(d) the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Only one case has been reported from one of the undertakings of this Ministry i.e. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) where four Group 'B' Officers among others were involved in a case which is being investigated by CBI. All these four officers have been transferred from their existing posts and posted elsewhere either under supervision or on lesser sensitive posts. Since, almost all the Group B officer posts in CWC are identified as sensitive, it was not possible to post them on non-sensitive posts only.

(c) and (d) All requisite assistance has been provided promptly to CBI to carry out investigation. CBI registered the said case in August, 2005 and the investigation of the case is in progress.

[English]

Loss due to Pests, Weeds and Diseases

3464. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country losses nearly Rs. 90,000/- crores annually due to pests, weeds and crop diseases; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to ensure that all cropped areas get pests protection?

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) It has been estimated that crop losses due to pests

including insect pest, diseases, rodents and weeds range between 10 to 30% every year depending on climatic and environmental conditions.

(b) Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, inter alia, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers.

[Translation]

Environment Reports

3465. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked various States to prepare regular environment reports to check pollution;

(b) if so, the details of the States which have submitted their reports to the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any further action on such environment reports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A scheme namely, 'State of Environment (SOE) Reporting System in India' is being implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) The States/UTs which have submitted State of Environment Reports are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The State of Environment Report provides an overview of the environmental scenario to the States/

UTs for their policy formulation, decision making and integration of environmental considerations in socio-economic planning. In the long run, the Report would help States/UTs to know the changes occurred on a particular environmental index and their possible causes and also help in initiating the precautionary and corrective measures including preparation of the action plan for the conservation of the rich biodiversity, control and abatement of pollution besides managing the natural resources for sustainable development.

Problems on Dairy Industry

3466. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the domestic dairy industry is facing hardship due to import of dairy products at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the dairy industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Government of India has not received any report on domestic dairy industry facing hardship due to import of dairy products at cheaper rates. Moreover, the data on import of milk and milk products (source NDDDB) during last three years shows that there is decline in import of milk and milk products during the last three years.

Years	Quantity (Metric tonnes)
2003-04	16836
2004-05	6532
2005-06 (till Sept., 05)	1232

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

[Translation]

Agricultural Landless Labourers

3467. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government has made an assessment of the total number of agricultural landless labourers in the country;

(b) if so, whether an increase has been registered in their number in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the place at which India ranks in the World in terms of landless agricultural labourers;

(e) whether an assessment of the percentage increase in the rate of unemployment has been made during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) if so, whether any scheme has been made to remove unemployment of agricultural labourers in 2006-07; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) As per the information available from the census 1991 & 2001 (latest), the number of agricultural labourers in the country has gone up from 8.6 crore in 1991 to 10.7 crore in 2001. Year wise data is not available.

(d) The number of person employed in agriculture depends on the development of the country. Generally, more developed is the country; less is the employment in agriculture. Therefore strict comparison between the countries may not reflect the actual situation.

(e) Estimates of employment & unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last two such surveys were conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

Based on these surveys, State-wise unemployment rates during 1993-94 & 1999-2000 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) and (g) The Government is implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments. Some of such schemes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Sampooma Grameen Rojgar Yojana etc. Recently, the Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Statement

State-wise Unemployment Rate during 1993-94 and 1999-2000

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	State-wise unemployment rate*							
		1993-94				1999-2000			
		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.0	0.5	3.5	4.3	1.2	0.7	4.2	4.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.7	0.3	1.7	7.7	0.9	0.1	1.4	10.0
3.	Assam	6.2	14.3	6.2	28.9	4.7	11.9	9.1	22.3
4.	Bihar	2.3	0.8	7.1	11.2	2.4	0.6	7.6	9.4
5.	Goa	9.0	17.0	8.4	18.2	7.0	18.7	15.3	35.2
6.	Gujarat	1.5	0.5	3.3	6.2	0.8	0.3	2.1	2.6
7.	Haryana	2.4	5.3	2.6	8.0	1.3	0.5	2.7	4.6
8.	Haimachal Pradesh	2.3	0.6	4.1	0.4	3.0	1.8	6.3	11.8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.3	2.2	6.2	15.2	2.6	7.1	4.7	12.8
10.	Karnataka	1.3	0.6	3.4	7.5	1.0	0.3	3.0	4.7
11.	Kerala	7.2	15.8	7.6	24.4	7.6	19.7	6.9	26.4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.8	0.2	5.7	4.6	0.7	0.2	4.3	1.6
13.	Maharashtra	1.7	0.7	4.6	5.8	2.4	1.1	6.1	7.8
14.	Manipur	1.9	1.1	5.3	4.4	2.4	2.5	7.4	10.3
15.	Meghalaya	0.4	—	1.3	3.2	0.5	0.3	3.4	6.8
16.	Mizoram	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	2.1	0.5	4.4	2.6
17.	Nagaland	2.1	—	6.9	7.0	3.0	3.8	9.3	10.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Orissa	2.6	1.7	7.3	7.8	3.1	1.6	7.2	6.7
19.	Punjab	1.4	7.1	3.3	8.6	2.3	6.2	3.1	3.5
20.	Rajasthan	0.4	0.2	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.2	2.7	3.7
21.	Sikkim	0.6	3.9	1.2	6.7	3.5	2.0	6.7	10.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.7	1.3	4.9	8.4	3.0	1.2	3.9	5.8
23.	Tripura	1.5	8.4	6.2	20.1	0.8	4.6	5.5	8.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.2	0.4	3.6	1.6	1.3	0.6	4.5	4.6
25.	West Bengal	2.8	4.6	7.7	19.6	3.4	3.8	7.7	11.1
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.0	9.4	8.0	20.8	3.3	7.6	3.8	23.9
27.	Chandigarh	2.9	3.1	3.4	23.5	1.0	—	3.9	14.4
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.9	1.8	—	—	1.6	—	1.6	—
29.	Daman and Diu	1.7	—	4.9	13.6	1.3	—	1.4	8.3
30.	Delhi	—	—	0.9	6.4	3.9	26.0	3.2	5.3
31.	Lakshadweep	6.8	50.0	16.3	35.7	10.9	52.9	8.2	26.3
32.	Pondicherry	3.5	—	5.7	12.6	4.7	2.6	3.5	6.9
	All India	2.0	1.4	4.5	8.2	2.1	1.5	4.8	7.1

*As per usual status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

[English]

Decline in Commercial Revenue of Doordarshan

3468. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross commercial revenue of Doordarshan (DD) is declining year after year since 2001-02;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for increase in operational cost of DD in these years;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps including improving marketing of programmes exploiting commercial potential etc. to meet the revenue gap of DD; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the gross commercial revenue of Doordarshan is not declining year after year since 2001-02. The details are given below:

Year	Rs. in crores
2001-02	615.21
2002-03	553.81
2003-04	530.23
2004-05	665.27
2005-06	946.96

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the increase is largely on account of increased expenditure on pay and allowance; increase in tariffs of various utilizes viz. power, water, telephone etc.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the steps taken by Doordarshan in this direction include introduction of in-house marketing, telecast of programmes in different interest formats etc.

[*Translation*]

Game Sanctuaries

3469. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing game sanctuaries in the country alongwith the details thereof; State-wise;

(b) whether the census of wildlife has been made in these game sanctuaries;

(c) if so, the date on which it was done and the status of wildlife thereof alongwith the details, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for increasing wildlife population in these game sanctuaries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per reports received from the States there are 96 National Parks and 509 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country. The State-wise details are placed at Statement I.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The State-wise population of the important wild animals of the country, based on the last two census carried out, is placed at Statement II.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The States are provided financial and technical assistance through three Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" for habitat improvement, strengthening infrastructure, research, census, eco development works, etc, all aiming at maintaining a viable population of wildlife in the Protected Areas of the country.

Statement I

No.	State/Union Territory	National Parks	Wildlife Sanctuaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	11
3.	Assam	5	20
4.	Bihar	1	11
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	10
6.	Goa	1	7
7.	Gujarat	4	21
8.	Haryana	2	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	32
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	16
11.	Jharkhand	1	10
12.	Karnataka	5	21
13.	Kerala	6	13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9	25
15.	Maharashtra	6	35
16.	Manipur	2	5
17.	Meghalaya	2	3
18.	Mizoram	2	7
19.	Nagaland	1	3
20.	Orissa	2	18
21.	Punjab	Nil	10
22.	Rajasthan	5	23
23.	Sikkim	1	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	20
25.	Tripura	Nil	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1	23

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
27.	Uttaranchal	5	6	32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	1
28.	West Bengal	6	15	33.	Daman & Diu	Nil	1
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	9	96	34.	Delhi	Nil	1
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	2	Total		96	509
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	1	Grand Total		605	

Statement II*Population Census of Important Wild Animals*

No.	State	Tiger		Leopard		Lion		Elephant		Rhino		Santal		Wild Ass	
		1997	2001-02	1997	2001-02	2001	2005	1997	2002	1999	2006	2001	2004	1999	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	171	192	138	505	—	—	57	74	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	**61	98	NR	—	—	1800	1607	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	458	354	246	248	—	—	5312	5246	1684	2004	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	103	110	203	164	—	—	618	772	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	6	5	25	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	1	0	832	999	327	350+10	—	—	—	—	—	—	2839	3863
7.	Haryana	—	—	25	NR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	821	NR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	NR	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	350	401	620	NR	—	—	6088	5838	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Kerala	73	71	16	NR	—	—	3600	3850	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	927	937	1851	2206	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	257	238	431	513	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	NR	NR	—	—	30	12	—	—	162	180	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	*	47	NR	NR	—	—	1840	1868	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	12	28	28	NR	—	—	22	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	*	23^	NR	42	—	—	158	145	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18.	Orissa	194	173	422	457	—	—	1800	1841	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Rajasthan	58	58	474	481	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Sikkim	*	NR	NR	NR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	62	60	110	41	—	—	2971	3052	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tripura	*	NR	18	NR	—	—	70	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	475	535	1412	2168	—	—	1200	1667	13	—	—	—	—	—
24.	West Bengal	361	349	108	331	—	—	276	328	120	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	—	—	15	NR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—	NR	—	—	35	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		3508	3642	7893	8203	327	359+10	25877	26413	1817	2004	162	180	2839	3863

NR=Note reported

* Tiger census was not carried out

** Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve

^ Entire State not covered.

[English]

Employment News Through Internet

3470. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide employment news through internet;

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

(c) the extent to which youths in rural areas will be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government has already launched the website of Employment News under the domain name 'www.employmentnews.gov.in' on 07.04.2006. Details regarding job highlights of vacancies published in Employment News, articles relating to various career options and career guidance series containing replies to career queries of readers of Employment News have been

put on the website. The youth in rural areas will be benefited from the launch of website since they can get updated information about the job opportunities in Government Sector through the website of Employment News.

[Translation]

Survey for Educated Unemployed in Rural Areas

3471. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have got any survey conducted or propose to get conducted to know the number of educated unemployed in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of rural educated unemployed in the country, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for not conducting survey;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme for the educated and unemployed having technical and vocational education on the line of rural employment guarantee scheme;

(e) if so, the features thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) 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 1999-2000. As per this survey, unemployment rate on usual status basis, among the educated persons (age group 15 years and above) in rural areas at all India level was around 6.7%. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) to (f) Government has targeted creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities; around 3 crore in the normal growth process and around 2 crore through special employment generation programmes during the 10th plan period. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana specially caters to the requirement of educated unemployed.

Statement

Unemployment Rate during 1999-2000*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Educated 15 yrs. & above	
		Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.8	6.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.8	3.0
3.	assam	15.2	14.1
4.	Bihar	6.5	13.2
5.	Goa	15.2	25.1
6.	Gujarat	1.1	2.8
7.	Haryana	1.1	3.9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.7	9.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.3	7.6
10.	Karnataka	4.5	5.5
11.	Kerala	19.8	17.5

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.9	5.5
13.	Maharashtra	6.1	6.9
14.	Manipur	6.0	11.0
15.	Meghalaya	3.9	7.0
16.	Mizoram	3.8	6.2
17.	Nagaland	6.5	14.3
18.	Orissa	15.7	15.3
19.	Punjab	4.9	4.4
20.	Rajasthan	2.0	3.5
21.	Sikkim	11.8	12.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.6	6.6
23.	Tripura	3.4	7.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2.8	7.3
25.	West Bengal	11.1	11.2
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15.1	12.0
27.	Chandigarh	0.7	6.3
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.0	1.6
29.	Daman and Diu	1.2	3.6
30.	Delhi	6.5	4.6
31.	Lakshadweep	22.4	13.4
32.	Pondicherry	12.5	7.1
All India		6.7	7.4

*As per usual status approach.

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to labour force.

Harinagar Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar

3472. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Harinagar Doordarshan Kendra in Bihar is not telecasting programmes as per its capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Low Power TV Transmitter (100 W) [LPT] at Ramnagar (Harinagar) is being manned by skeletal staff who have been provided by way of redeployment as the requisite manpower has not been made available. Transmission is limited to evenings only as the transmitter is operating on low capacity of 75 watt power due to failure of a sub-unit of the transmitter. Action is on the anvil to operationalise it on full power capacity of 100 W.

Loan against Godown Receipt

3473. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the proposal to provide loans to farmers against receipt issued with regard to their foodgrains stored in Godowns;

(b) whether the Government proposes to authorize private Godowns to store goods of Government agencies; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 2005, which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for examination of the Bill.

(b) There is no specific provision in the aforesaid Bill for authorisation of private godowns to store goods of Government Agencies.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Lower Procurement of Wheat

3474. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether procurement of wheat has been low since the Minimum Support Price offered by the Government is much lower than the price in open market;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has released the quality parameters for wheat procurement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering any proposal for imposing restriction on export of wheat by private traders in view of its scarcity in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) In RMS 2006-07, 91.64 lakh MT of wheat has been procured upto 10.5.2006 as compared to 143.17 lakh MT of wheat procured during the RMS 2005-06. The reasons for lower level of procurement in current RMS are lower than normal production, active participation of private traders in procurement of wheat, higher market prices than MSP in most of the wheat procuring States and less arrivals of wheat in the mandis as compared to the last year.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has issued uniform specifications for wheat procurement for the Rabi Marketing Seasons 2006-07 on 28th February, 2006.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Coconut Trees in Lakshadweep

3475. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Coconut trees estimated in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;

(b) the total number of Coconuts harvested from these trees during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government to enhance the production of Coconuts in these Islands;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) the details of projects being implemented by the Government for the value addition of the Coconut products and its by-products; and

(f) the support price offered by the NAFED for the current procurement season for coconut products of Copra and the quantity of Copra procured under this scheme till date and projected till the end of the season?

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) There are about 6.534 lakh coconut trees in an area of 2700 hectare, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, as per the All India Final Estimates (2003-04) of area and production of coconut.

(b) The production of coconut in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep during the last three years, for which published data of the Department of Economics and Statistics available, is as follows:

Year	Number of nuts in Million
2001-02	53.1
2002-03	53.0
2003-04	53.0

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Coconut Development Board is implementing, through the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, a programme on High Value Agriculture since 2004-05, under which, the activities such as Cutting

& removal of disease advanced/senile palms, Integrated Farming in coconut holdings, Laying out demonstration Plots, Establishment of Organic Manure Units, Training Programme and study tours for the farmers etc., are taken up for enhancing the production, productivity and income of coconut farmers. An amount of Rs. 33.55 lakhs is made available for utilization by 2005-06 for implementing the above schemes.

(e) The Coconut Development Board is implementing programmes for promoting establishment of integrated coconut processing units for value addition, on a project basis under the Coconut Technology Mission as part of High Value Agriculture Programme. An amount of Rs. 204.80 lakhs has been earmarked under the programme.

(f) The Minimum Support Price, for the season of 2006 is Rs. 3590/- for milling Copra per quintal and Rs. 3840/- for edible ball copra per quintal. NAFED, during the current season, has so far procured 1750 metric tones of milling copra in Lakshadweep Islands and estimated to procure around 2500 to 3000 Mt. by the end of the season.

[Translation]

Urdu Channel

3476. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2731 dated August 11, 2005 regarding Urdu Channel and state:

(a) whether the Urdu Channel has been launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made for it; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) As stated in the reply to unstarred question No. 2731 answered on 11th August, 2005, the 'Urdu channel' could not be launched in January, 2006 due to non-availability of the required budgetary allocation during the fiscal year 2005-06. However, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 40 crore has been made during the current financial

year against the projected requirement of approximately Rs. 78.40 crore. The proposal has been taken up with the Planning Commission for 'in-principle' approval of the project.

[English]

Subsidy on Buffer Stock of Sugar

3477. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several claims of sugar factories for release of Buffer Stock Subsidy are pending before the Government even after fulfilling all the requirements;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the details of total claims received and disposed off/cleared till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has already settled a large number of buffer subsidy claims. the remaining claims are pending mainly for want of some clarification/ documents from the concerned sugar factories.

(c) The details of the total claims received and disposed off/cleared till dated is indicated below:

Particulars	Advance claim for the period 18.12.2002 to 17.12.2003	Final Claim for the period 18.12.2002 to 17.12.2003	Extended period claim for the period 18.12.2003 to 30.09.2004	Extended period claim for the period 1.10.2004 to 17.12.2004
Total claims	360	360	340*	340*
Total sanctions issued	357	318	200	0
Claim still to be cleared	1**	42	140	340

*20 Sugar factories dismantled the buffer stock during the extended period.

**Two of the claims for the period 18.12.2002 to 17.12.2003 were directly finalized without sanctioning any advance.

Purchase of Foodgrains by Private Companies

3478. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector companies are also purchasing foodgrains for storage in Government godowns;

(b) if so, the names of such private companies engaged in purchases of foodgrains;

(c) the locations in North India where such companies have opened purchase centres; and

(d) the difference in purchase price of foodgrains offered by these private companies and Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Large corporate buyers like Cargil, ITC, Mahindras, Birlas, Adani and Reliance are engaged in purchases of wheat in some States in Northern India including Uttar Pradesh at prices ranging from Rs. 730 per qtl. to Rs. 920 per qtl, which is Rs. 30—Rs. 220 per qtl. above, the price offered by Food Corporation of India.

Ban on Production of Endosulphan Pesticides

3479. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of Endosulphan pesticide has created health problems for the people in the country especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban the production of Endosulphan pesticides in the country; and

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

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) There were some reports of unusual health related problems in one of the cashew plantation areas (Padre village) of Kerala where aerial spray of Endosulphan was done. Government of India (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) had constituted an Expert Committee headed by Dr. C.D. Mayee, Agriculture Commissioner. As per the findings of this Committee there is no link established between use of Endosulphan and health problems reported in Padre village. After considering the various factors and available reports, the Committee recommended that use of Endosulphan be continued as per provisions of the Insecticide Act, 1968. However, considering the apprehensions in the minds of the public of Kerala, the Government has put the use of Endosulphan on hold in Kerala since October 2005.

Prediction on Monsoon

3480. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted monsoon failure during this year;

(b) if so, its expected impact on foodgrains production (both Kharif and Rabi crops) during current year;

(c) if so, the details of areas which are expected to be badly affected, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has in place some crisis management scheme to face the expected drought condition;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to make good the shortfall in production of foodgrains;

(g) if so, whether the Government proposes to compensate the farmers that would be affected by the failure of monsoon; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The India Meteorology Department's operational Long Range Forecast for the 2006 South-west Monsoon season (June—September) is that the rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 93% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error or \pm 5%.

(b) and (c) It is too early to estimate the impact on the foodgrain production since the production performance also depends on the temporal and spatial distribution of the rainfall.

(d) and (e) In this regard, the State Governments have funds in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to take up necessary relief measures in the areas affected by natural calamities including drought. In case of shortage of funds in CRF the State Government can avail additional financial assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has contingency plans prepared for the rainfed regions in the country in case of delay on poor monsoon rainfall and are made available through local newspapers apart from putting them on the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and CRIDA websites.

(f) The Government has decided to import 3.5 million tonnes of wheat to augment the buffer stocks in the country.

(g) and (h) Apart from giving the assistance through CRF and NCCF, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is also being implemented to provide insurance coverage and compensation to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops.

Notices issued by NPPA

3481. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has issued notice to nine companies for abnormal increase in the price of twenty one medicines;

(b) if so, the names of the companies, products and the price of each medicine and the extent of increase in price; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

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) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon and under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

During the course of its monitoring activity for non Scheduled formulations, the NPPA has detected some cases where the price increase was more than 20% during a span of 12 months as per ORG-IMS data. The NPPA has referred these cases to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for appropriate action.

Captive Co-Generation Power Plants by Sugar Firms

3482. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of captive co-generation power plants being set up by sugar firms in different States; and

(b) the amount of surplus power so produced and made available for sale to State Electricity Boards?

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) Government is implementing a programme for promotion of surplus power generation from bagasse in sugar mills. The power generated from bagasse based cogeneration is used in the sugar mills for captive consumption and the surplus power is fed to the grid. A total surplus power capacity of 526 MW has been installed till 31.3.2006. The State-wise information is given as under:

State	Installed Capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	73.05
Haryana	2.00
Karnataka	150.98
Maharashtra	32.50
Punjab	12.00
Tamil Nadu	134.00
Uttar Pradesh	121.50
Total	526.03

Water Harvesting in North East

3483. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for rain water harvesting have been submitted for Central aid by various State Governments in the North East this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Water Resources, has received following

four proposals for rain water harvesting for Central aid from various agencies of the States of Mizoram and Nagaland in the North East this year:

- (i) Proposal on roof top rain water harvesting and storage for multi-purpose use in 7 villages in Mokokchung district, Nagaland received from Director, Soil & Water Conservation, Government of Nagaland.
- (ii) Rain water harvesting in New Market Colony received from Kohima Municipal Council.
- (iii) Community roof top rain water harvesting for Mara Autonomous district Council, Mizoram.
- (iv) Individual roof top rain water harvesting systems for four villages under Mara Autonomous District Council, Mizoram.

However, no aid could be provided to the above proposals, as presently there is no approved scheme on rain water harvesting in CGWB/Ministry of Water Resources.

[Translation]

Death of Wild Animals on Railway Crossing

3484. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohania Ganj): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has raised the issue with the Ministry of Railways in regard to the deaths of large number of wild animals due to accidents at the railway line passing through the Dudhwa National Park of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) A list of sensitive sections of railway lines prone to accidents and other suggestions were communicated to Railways. The suggestion of this Ministry for decreasing the speed of the trains in the vulnerable areas was not acceptable to the railway authorities for operational reasons. However, the loco drivers were directed to whistle frequently in the range to warn the animals.

[Translation]

Project for Development of Forests

3485. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand has submitted any project for the development of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Government of Jharkhand had submitted the executive summary of a project proposal namely Jharkhand Forestry project. The proposal envisaged an investment of Rs. 11,467 million over a project period of ten years. The proposal has been proposed to the World Bank seeking financial assistance. The State Government is formulating detailed project with the assistance of the World Bank.

[English]

Smuggling of Wildlife Items

3486. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cache of skins of tigers, cheetaas and other wild animals killed in Ranthambore Tiger Project has been caught anywhere in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to stop smuggling of skins and other items of animals killed in sanctuaries and tiger projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected from the State and would be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tigers and other wildlife are Statement enclosed.

Statement

Smuggling of Wildlife Items

Steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of tigers and other wildlife are as under:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protect.
- (iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
- (iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
- (vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Plantation of Trees

3487. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge wall of trees is being planned along the railway line near the proposed Commonwealth Games Village NH No. 24 to check pollution;

(b) if so, the number of trees proposed to be grown; and

(c) the expenditure likely to incur thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Northern Railway, about 60,000 saplings have been planted. Total expenditure involved is approximately Rs. 50.00 lakhs, including cost of maintenance.

[Translation]

Merger of NSC with SAIL

3488. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge Nilanchal Steel Corporation, Maharashtra, Electrosmelt and Manganese Ore (India) with SAIL;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to take decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to merge Nilanchal Steel Corporation with SAIL. However, the Government proposes to merge Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and further steps are underway.

As regards the merger of Maharashtra Elektrosmet Ltd. (MEL) and Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL) with SAIL, both the issues were referred to the Expert Group, constituted by the Ministry of Steel, to evaluate the feasibility of various proposals for merger of PSUs under the Ministry. The Expert group in its report has recommended the merger of MEL with SAIL. In respect of MOIL, the Group has advised to retain MOIL for the present as an independent Company. The Ministry has accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group. The process for merger of MEL with SAIL has been initiated.

[English]

Rehabilitation Allowance for Disabled

3489. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand to raise the Rehabilitation Allowance for the disabled;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon so far;

(c) whether the ESIC proposes to bear the entire expenditure on the implementation of medical care scheme throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Rehabilitation Allowance under ESI Act is paid to double the Standard Benefit Rate, which is approximately equal to the daily wages lost by a person who remains admitted in the Artificial Limb Centre for fixation/repair or replacement of artificial limb. However, no such demand to raise the Rehabilitation Allowance for the disabled is pending with ESI Corporation.

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

(c) There is no such proposal.

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

Clearance to Projects of Karnataka

3490. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted two projects namely Kalasa Nala Diversion Scheme and Bandura Nala Diversion Scheme;

(b) if so, whether these projects envisage diversion of 7.56 TMC of water to Malaprabha Dam by constructing dam across nalas and diversion canals;

(c) if so, whether any inter-state meeting of secretaries was held on 2001;

(d) if so, whether the report has been submitted to the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The Government of Karnataka in April, 2002 requested for clearance of proposal from inter-State angle for diversion of 7.56 TMC of water from Madei basin to Malaprabha basin through implementation of Kalsa and Bandurinala schemes to meet the drinking water needs of Hubli/Dharwad cities. An inter-state meeting was held on 29.5.2001 under the Chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC with the Secretaries & officials of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Ministry of Water Resources gave an in principle clearance to the proposal to meet the drinking water need of Hubli/Dharwad from water availability angle on 30th April, 2002. The Government of Goa in July, 2002 took strong exception to the grant of this clearance by the Ministry and requested for setting up of an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for resolution of the dispute. In view of this, the 'in-principle' clearance granted by the Ministry was placed 'in abeyance' in September, 2002 with a view to resolve the matter by an agreement between the two States, failing which by an award of the Tribunal. The two States have so far not concluded any agreement on the sharing of Madei Water.

*[Translation]***Payment under NAIS**

3491. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the areas which have suffered loss due to untimely rains and hailstorm during 2006 are covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with insurance claims paid till date, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to grant compensation/financial help to the areas not covered under NAIS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a yield-based and multi-perils scheme. It indemnifies loss in yield of crops due to various natural factors including rains and hailstorm.

Insurance claims are worked out and settled by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) on the basis of yield data made available by the implementing states/UTs. the admissible claims for rabi 2005-06 have not been worked out/paid so far, as yield data from the States is yet to be received.

(c) and (d) To provide financial assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), a Central Team consisting of representatives of different Ministries has visited the State of Madhya Pradesh to make an assessment of the losses in the areas affected by hailstorm. The Central Team has submitted its report which will be considered by High Level Committee for decision on the quantum of assistance to the State Government.

*[English]***Viability of Agriculture**

3492. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the viability of agriculture has to be focused on raising productivity by stepping up public investment, adopting cost reducing technologies, removing restrictions on agricultural trade, marketing process within the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for viability of Indian agriculture?

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

(b) and (c) A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of irrigation expansion through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, increased credit coverage by enhancing institutional credit flow with the reduced interest rate of 7 percent, crop diversification, dryland farming, marketing infrastructure, agricultural insurance against production loss, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. The process of growth is strengthened through farm mechanization, Agri-clinics and agri-business centres.

Further, the schemes for rice, wheat and coarse cereals are under implementation to augment their production and productivity under macro-management mode of agriculture in which States have been given the flexibility to choose any scheme or its components according to their specific needs. These initiatives are expected to make Indian agriculture viable and achieve better growth performance both in cereal and non cereal crops.

Forest Cover in Himalayan Region

3493. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to prevent the problem of erosion of forest land and reduction of forest cover in the Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposal received for conservation of forest wealth in Himalayan region, State-wise; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take to create awareness among the people of Himalayan region in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing three major schemes, namely National Natural Resource Management Scheme (NNRMS), support to G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), and Integrated Eco-development Research Programme (IERP) where under the assessment and mapping of Himalayan forest resources and evolving integrated management strategies for their conservation is undertaken. In addition, the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme of the Ministry provides financial support to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) in the country for participatory development of forest resources under the framework of Joint Forest Management (JFM).

(c) As on 31.03.2006, 237 FDA project proposals have been received from the 11 Himalayan States. Out of the total proposals, 217 FDA projects have been approved under the NAP Scheme. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The GBPIHED undertakes knowledge dissemination of the relevant Research and Development activities by organizing on-site training programmes, conferences, workshops, meetings, awareness camps, etc.

Statement

FDA Projects in Himalayan States

(As. on 31.03.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Project Proposals received	No. of FDA Project Proposals approved
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	19
2.	Assam	29	29
3.	Manipur	14	13
4.	Nagaland	18	16

1	2	3	4
5.	Sikkim	7	7
6.	Tripura	13	12
7.	Mizoram	30	19
8.	Meghalaya	7	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	27
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31
11.	Uttaranchal	40	37
Total		237	217

[Translation]

Approval for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project

3494. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the proposal for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The proposal for diversion of 2,961.102 ha of forest land for construction of Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in District Bhandara, Maharashtra was approved by the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 19.02.1988. The proposal involved 1,487.61 ha of forest land for submergence and 1,473.492 ha for construction of Right Bank Canal (RBC). Subsequently, the State Government submitted three proposals for modification in the alignment of the RBC from 0 to 10 kms., 11 to 25 kms. and 25 to 27.93 kms. respectively. These proposals for modification in alignment of RBC have also been approved by this Ministry in 1999, 2000 and 2005 respectively.

Apiculture Industry

3495. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that apiculture industry in entire North India particularly in Punjab and Haryana has been destroyed upto 50 to 70 per cent due to the outbreak of varroa mite epidemic; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check this disease?

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 occurrence of Varroa mite in some colonies of honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, in some parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Rajasthan were noticed by All India Coordinated Project on Honeybee Research Training (Hissar). The losses inflicted by the Varroa mite varied within an area being more in poorly managed/neglected colonies and less in scientific managed/well kept bee colonies. The migratory bee keeping which is increased being followed by a large number of bee keepers in North India as contributed towards involuntary spread of Varroa mite from one region to another region along with bees on these migratory routes.

(b) The emerging problem of Varroa mite has been given the center stage in the research and training programmes of All India Coordinated Project on Honey Bee Research and Training. All the 9 centres are entrusted the responsibilities to undertake survey work and monitor the occurrence and incidence in their respective region/States, and devise appropriate management strategies which are economically viable, ecologically safe and easy to adopt. Greater thrust is laid to educate the beekeepers through conduct of specialized trainings on management of Varroa mite including the scientific management strategies to be adopted.

Adoption of scientific beekeeping management strategies, restricting the movement of infested colonies to new areas, strengthening the weaker colonies, regular inspection and cleaning of hives and timely application of appropriate dose of sulphur powder on wooden frames, application of formic acid and systemic acaricide/miticide under the guidance of experts, are some of the strategies which are advocated/recommended. Adoption of all these technologies has yielded the desired results so far.

[English]

Onion and Potato Producing States

3496. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major onion and potato producing States in the country at present;

(b) the extent of production of onions and potatoes recorded during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the quantity of onions, potatoes and fruits procured by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) from Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra during the said period;

(d) the names of the States which have suffered losses by purchasing fruits and vegetables on support prices during the said period; and

(e) the extent to which their loss was compensated by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The major Onion producing States are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa. The main Potato producing States are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Gujarat, Karnataka and Assam.

(b) The State-wise production of Onion and Potato during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) are given in the Statement-I and II, respectively.

(c) During the last three years, NAFED has procured the following quantities of Onion and Potato in the Commercial Account:

(Qty. in MTs/Value in Rs. lakhs)

Commodity/ State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Onion	17430	1243	18076	1049	8248	391.54 (T)
Maharashtra						
Potato	—	—	—	—	1146	92.52 (T)
Madhya Pradesh						

There were no purchases in Delhi.

Source: NAFED, New Delhi

(d) On the request of Government of Himachal Pradesh, MIS has been implemented for procurement of 32500 MT "C" grade Apples at the procurement price of Rs. 400/- per qtl. from 1.8.2004 to 31.10.2004 during 2004-05 and 50000 MT "C Grade" apples at the procurement price of Rs. 425/- per qtl. from 1.8.2005 to 31.10.2005 during 2004-05. The total estimated loss for 2005-06 is Rs. 17.71 crore whereas during 2004-05. The total estimated loss for 2005-06 is Rs. 17.71 crore whereas during 2004-05 the estimated loss was Rs. 3.39 crore.

During the year 2003-04, NAFED procured a quantity of 734 MTs of Potato in the State of U.P. under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) at Rs. 190 per qtl. Loss of Rs. 12.69 lakh was incurred in the above operation.

NAFED has not participated in procurement of Apples in Himachal Pradesh as their actual losses under MIS are not fully reimbursed under MIS as per the revised MIS guidelines effective from 30.7.2001.

(e) Procurement under MIS is made by NAFED as a Central Agency and by the State designated agencies. Losses if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government on the 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). The amount of loss to be shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government is restricted to 25 percent of the procurement cost.

Statement I

State-wise Production of Onion

('000 Tonnes)

State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Final)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	412.6	520.0	603.0
Assam	17.0	17.0	16.8
Bihar	116.8	138.0	106.5
Chhattisgarh	34.8	32.5	25.7

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	717.4	1479.3	1223.0
Haryana	226.1	294.7	294.7
Himachal Pradesh	4.5	7.3	7.3
Jammu and Kashmir	1.2	1.1	0.1
Karnataka	535.8	360.5	856.0
Madhya Pradesh	345.0	416.2	535.6
Maharashtra	1427.0	1645.0	1645.0
Manipur	0.5	2.1	2.1
Meghalaya	3.4	1.3	1.3
Mizoram	0.2	0.2	0.2
Nagaland	26.4	20.6	20.6
Orissa	29.7	240.3	241.9
Punjab	13.1	20.6	20.6
Rajasthan	155.7	249.1	347.9
Tamil Nadu	198.0	211.2	256.4
Tripura	0.2	0.2	0.2
Uttar Pradesh	232.8	245.8	210.0
Uttaranchal	6.6	18.4	18.4
Pondicherry	0.0	1.0	1.0
Delhi	1.3	0.1	0.3
All India	4506.1	5922.5	6434.6

Statement II*State-wise Production of Potato*

('000 Tonnes)

State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (final)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	18.7	24.0	27.0
Arunachal Pradesh	30.2	29.6	27.5

1	2	3	4
Assam	590.0	543.0	589.1
Bihar	1476.6	1351.8	1062.8
Chhattisgarh	61.1	49.2	54.7
Gujarat	780.0	738.8	1088.7
Haryana	321.1	440.1	323.9
Himachal Pradesh	143.1	173.2	158.8
Jammu and Kashmir	18.5	18.4	14.2
Karnataka	149.3	342.8	361.0
Madhya Pradesh	487.9	667.7	752.6
Maharashtra	76.0	74.0	74.7
Manipur	22.1	26.1	15.7
Meghalaya	167.9	149.4	152.8
Mizoram	0.7	0.9	2.5
Nagaland	12.2	44.1	95.0
Orissa	70.3	75.8	79.0
Punjab	1386.0	1382.6	1338.1
Rajasthan	27.3	27.0	48.2
Sikkim	23.8	33.1	32.6
Tamil Nadu	79.9	70.1	79.1
Tripura	112.1	89.6	93.5
Uttar Pradesh	10162.8	8825.6	9821.7
Uttaranchal	148.1	261.2	261.2
West Bengal	6902.5	7621.6	7076.6
Delhi	0.5	0.4	0.3
All India	23268.7	23060.1	23631.3

Source: Directorate of Economic & Statistics

Development of Sabarimala

3497. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project proposal for development of forest land at Sabarimala situated in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the land sought and the decision taken on above proposal as on date;

(c) whether there is also any proposal submitted by the Competent Authority for clearance of a detailed Road Development Project for Sabarimala; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) On the basis of the proposal received from the State Government of Kerala, the Central Government has diverted 12.675 hectares of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Periyar Tiger Reserve for providing facilities to the pilgrims and for development of Sabarimala Temple.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received by the Central Government for clearance of a detailed Road Development Project for Sabarimala. However, in the past, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Government, the Central Government has diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 1.922 hectares of forest land for widening of the existing Chalakkayam-Pamba Road and another 6.04 hectares of forest land for construction of Erumeli-Chalakkayam Road (Phase-III) in 1997 and 2002 respectively in Pathanamthitta district for development of Sabarimala Temple.

Management/Training for Parks/Sanctuaries

3498. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to handover the management and maintenance of zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries to industrial houses or non-governmental/voluntary organizations;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring improvement in the management of zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country so far;

(d) whether the zero management courses are not available and the people are being sent abroad for training;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to start any Academy for zoological park management; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to handover the management and maintenance of Zoological Parks to industrial houses or non-governmental/voluntary organizations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India provides technical and financial assistance through the Central Zoo Authority to various zoos in the country for modernization of the animal housing, veterinary healthcare and other facilities.

(d) No, Sir. The Wildlife Institute of India organizes annual zoo management course for middle level and senior level personnel working in the Indian Zoos. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute organizes annual course on wildlife health and medicine for the zoo veterinarians. The Central Zoo Authority also provide financial assistance to identified zoos to organize keeper level training programmes on annual basis.

In order to provide exposure to the advances made in the field of zoo science, a veterinarian and a zoo manager are deputed by the Central Zoo Authority every year to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, U.K. for three weeks training programme.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Social Security to Workers of Unorganised Sector

3499. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to bring a series of welfare measures for the benefits of labourers as reported in the *Times of India* dated May 1, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of such welfare schemes proposed to be launched by the Government;

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Government propose to bring a comprehensive central legislation for the workers in the unorganized sector. The details of the welfare schemes proposed to be launched are being finalized a consultation of all concerned including the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, National Advisory Council, Life Insurance Corporation and other agencies. The exact time frame to finalize the proposal can not be indicated.

Soil and Land use Survey

3500. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Soil and Land use survey conduct Soil Survey of different intensities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of targets fixed and achievements made 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(d) the reasons for non-achievement of targets; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed by the organization in future?

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

(b) Soil Mapping on 1:50,000 scale. Detailed Soil Survey on 1:4000/1:15,000 scale. Rapid Reconnaissance survey on 1:50,000 scale and district-wise land degradation mapping on 1:50,000 scale.

(c)

(Total surveyed area in lakh ha.)

	Target	Achievements
2002-03	63.0	43.1
2003-04	176.3	190.80
2004-05	149.4	197.5

(d) Except in 2002-03, targets have been exceeded. The shortage in 2002-03 was due to inadequacy of funds.

(e) Fund allocation has been increased and other measures like filling up of the vacant post etc. have been taken to meet the targets fixed in future.

National Cotton Mission

3501. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since launched the 'National Cotton Mission';

(b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the Mission; and

(c) if not, the time-frame within which the Mission is likely to be operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton in the country, a Technology Mission on Cotton was launched by the Central Government in February, 2000 which is implemented in 13 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Mission has four Mini Missions. The Mini Mission-I deals with the research and development of improved cotton production and crop protection technologies. This Mini Mission is implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Mini Mission-II deals with the development programmes for increasing production and productivity of cotton. Under this Mini Mission, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer of technology through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, insecticide resistance management, plant protection measures including IPM demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc. Mini Mission-II is implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India. The Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of market yards, auction centres, grading

facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton quality etc. The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is undertaken under Mini Mission-IV. Mini Mission-III & IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Shortfall in Sugar Production due to Closure of Mills

3502. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills closed down during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of shortfall in production of sugar due to closure of the said mills, year-wise;

(c) the number of new sugar mills established during the above period alongwith the location thereof; and

(d) the details of assistance extended by the Government to revive the closed sugar mills, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A statement showing state-wise number of sugar mills which remained closed during 2002-2003 to

2005-06 sugar seasons is enclosed as Statement-I. These sugar mills remained closed or became sick from time to time because of a variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age & bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence etc.

(b) A statement showing sugar production during 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 is enclosed as Statement-II. The decline in sugar production during 2003-2004 and 2004-05 seasons was mainly due to draught and woolly aphid infestation in major sugar producing states like Maharashtra, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. During the current 2005-2006 sugar season, the estimated sugar production is 191.00 lakh tones.

(c) The number of year-wise new sugar mills established during 2002-2003 and 2005-2006 is as under:—

Sl.No.	Sugar season	No of new sugar mills established
1.	2002-2003	21
2.	2003-2004	12
3.	2004-2005	04
4.	2005-2006	15

A statement alongwith addresses of the new established sugar mills is enclosed at statement-III.

(d) It is the responsibility of the concerned entrepreneur to take steps to revive the closed sugar mills.

Statement I

The State-wise number of closed sugar mills during the sugar seasons 2002-2003 to 2005-2006

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	1	1	3	4
2.	Haryana	—	—	2	1
3.	Rajasthan	2	2	2	2
4.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Uttar Pradesh	18	19	17	16
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5	5	5	5
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat	5	7	5	6
9.	Maharashtra	20	49	89	48
10.	Bihar	18	18	19	19
11.	Assam	3	3	3	3
12.	Orissa	4	4	2	3
13.	West Bengal	1	1	1	1
14.	Nagaland	1	1	1	1
15.	Andhra Pradesh	7	14	8	5
16.	Karnataka	8	13	12	12
17.	Tamil Nadu	3	4	4	3
18.	Pondicherry	—	1	1	1
19.	Kerala	1	2	2	2
20.	Goa	—	—	—	—
	All India	97	144	176	132

Statement II

State-wise production of Sugar from 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 Sugar Season (Oct.-Sept.)

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 2002-03 (P)	Sugar Season 2003-04 (P)*	Sugar Season 2004-05 (P)*	Sugar Season 2005-06 (P)* (Upto 31.03.2006)
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	5.11	3.88	3.37	3.89
Haryana	5.99	5.86	3.98	3.55
Rajasthan	0.00	0.10	0.11	0.05
Uttaranchal	4.59	3.93	3.36	4.14

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	58.74	46.08	51.52	51.75
Madhya Pradesh	0.85	0.94	0.78	0.94
Chhattisgarh	0.01	0.17	0.13	0.20
Gujarat	12.38	10.77	8.32	11.59
Maharashtra	61.64	31.99	23.03	51.29
Bihar	4.21	2.77	2.70	3.98
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.37	0.44	0.87	0.40
West Bengal	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.07
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	11.88	8.81	12.03	11.84
Karnataka	17.98	11.57	11.32	16.92
Tamil Nadu	17.04	11.90	14.75	10.88
Pondicherry	0.32	0.20	0.19	0.18
Kerala	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00
Goa	0.13	0.10	0.09	0.11
All India	201.32	139.58	136.60	171.78

P—Provisional.

*Includes sugar produced from raw sugar.

Statement III

List of Sugar Factories along with their location which have gone into production during 2002-03

- M/s Naranja SSK Ltd., Village Chillergji, Distt-Bidar, Karnataka.
- Shri Makai SSK Ltd., Bhilarwadi, Tk. Karmala, Distt.-Solapur, Maharashtra.
- M/s Shivshakti Shetkari SSK Ltd., Washi, Taluka Washi, Distt.-Osmanabad, Maharashtra.
- M/s Smbhu Mahadev Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Havargaon, Tk. Kallam, Distt. Osmanabad, Maharashtra.
- Shri Sant Shrimani Maruti Maharaj SSK Ltd., Maulinagar, Belkund, Tk. Ausa, Distt.-Latur, Maharashtra.
- M/s Udaysingrao Gaikwad SSK Ltd., Sonawade, Distt.-Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- M/s Kranti SSK Ltd., Kundal, Tal.-Palus, Distt.-Sangli, Maharashtra.
- M/s Shivshakti Adiwasi & Magasvargiya SSK Ltd., Pahuzria, Tehsil-Shegaon, Distt-Buldhana, Maharashtra.
- M/s Krishna SSK Ltd., Kokatnur, Tehsil-Athani, Distt-Belgaum, Karnataka.

10. M/s Priyadarshini Shetkari SSK Ltd., Arvindnagar, Tondar, Tk. Udgir, Distt.-Latur, Maharashtra.
11. M/s Pratapgad SSK Ltd., Kalghar, Tal. Jawali, Distt.-Satara, Maharashtra.
12. M/s Sarvodaya SSK Ltd., Karandwadi, Tk-Waiwa, Distt.-Sangli, Maharashtra.
13. M/s Jai Shivshankar SSK Ltd., Mohannagar, Tk.-Miraj, Distt.-Sangli, Maharashtra.
14. M/s Mohanrao Shinde SSK Ltd., Mohannagar, Tk.-Miraj, Distt.-Sangli, Maharashtra.
15. M/s Raver Tk. SSK Ltd., Onkareshwar, Tk.-Raver, Distt.-Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
16. M/s Indira Gandhi Bhartiya Mahila Vikas SSK Ltd., Tambale, Tk.-Bhudargad, Distt.-Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
17. M/s Kukadi SSK Ltd., Pimpalgaon, Tk.-Shrigonda, Distt.-Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
18. M/s Hiwaramai Sugar Industries Ltd., Mondhale, Tal.-Pachora, Distt.-Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
19. M/s Gem Sugars Ltd., Kundargi Village, Tk. Biligi, Distt.-Bagalkot, Karnataka.
20. M/s Bhramdev Sahakari Sakhar Utpadak Karkhana Maryadit, At & Tehsil & distt.-Kavardha, Chhattisgarh.
21. M/s Narshina SSK Ltd., Indapur, Tk.-Washi, Distt.-Osmanabad, Maharashtra.

List of sugar factories along with their location which have gone into production during 2003-04

1. M/s Mahatma Gandhi SSK Ltd., Bhalki, Distt.-Bidar, Karnataka.
2. M/s Pad. Dr. D.Y. Patil SSK Ltd., Dnyanshantinagar, Tal.-Gagan-Bavada, Distt.-Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
3. M/s Rana SSK Ltd., Niwada, Tq.-Renapur, Distt.-Latur, Maharashtra.
4. M/s Dnyanyogi Shri Shiv Kumar Swarniji Sugars Ltd., Hirebenur, Tk.-Indi, Distt.-Bijapur, Karnataka.
5. M/s Haidergarh Chini Mills, Haidergarh, Distt. Barabanki U.P.

6. M/s Bhimashankar Sugar Mills Ltd., Pangaon, Tk. Washi, Distt.-Osmanabad, Maharashtra
7. M/s Vaishnavi Sugar (India) Ltd.; Shiv Bhaskar Nagar, At Post Shendurjan, Tk. Sindkhed raja, Distt.-Buldana, Maharashtra.
8. M/s Sagar Sugar & Allied Products Ltd., Nelavoy Village, Sri Rangrajapuram Mandie, Distt. Chittoor, A.P.
9. Shri Gurudatt Sugars Ltd., Takaliwadi, 416108 TK Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
10. M/s Aadiwasi SSK Navapura, Nandurbar Vibhag Ltd., Dokare, Tal. Navapura, Distt. Nandurbar, M.S.
11. M/s SCM Sugars Ltd. Koppa, Maddur Taluka, Distt. Mandya, Karnataka.
12. M/s Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd.; Walgeon Surul, Unit No. 2, Post Walegaon, Tk. Waiwa, Distt. Sangli, Maharashtra.

List of Sugar factories along with location which have gone into production during 2004-05

1. M/s Puri Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Village-Khusapur (Bela), The Umrer, Distt.-Nagpur, M.S.
2. M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Kinnouni, Teh & Distt. Meerut U.P.
3. M/s Anand Agrochem India Ltd., (S.N. Chaturvedi) At Gopi-Ladhua, The-Kol Sikandara Rao, Distt.-Aligarh, U.P.
4. M/s Bhawani Khandasari Sugars Ltd., Vill-Baroor, Tal & Distt.-Bidar, Karnataka.

List of Sugar factories along with location which have gone into production during 2005-06

1. M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Unit Thana Bhavan, Distt.-Muzaffarnagar, U.P.
2. M/s Bjaaj Hindustan Ltd., Unit Bhalsana, Distt.-Muzaffarnagar, U.P.
3. M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Unit Bilai, tehsil-Haldaur, Distt.-Bijnor, U.P.

4. M/s Shreenath Mahaskoba Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Patethan, Tk.-Daund, Distt.-Pune, Maharashtra.
5. M/s Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Maghaura, Akbarpur, Distt.-Ambedkarnagar, U.P.
6. M/s Gokak Power & Distilleries Ltd., Hunashyal P.G., Tal.-Gokak, Distt.-Belgaum, Karnataka.
7. M/s Mawana Sugars Ltd., (Unit Nanglamal Sugar Complex), Nanglamal, Tehsil & District Meerut, U.P.
8. M/s Dwarikesh Sugar Industries Ltd., Bahadarpur, Tehsil-Dhampur, Distt.-Bijnor, U.P.
9. M/s Bilagi Sugar Mills Ltd., Badagandi, Taluka Bilagi, District-Bagalkot, Karnataka.
10. M/s Parle Biscuits Pvt. Ltd., Parsendi, Tehsil-Kaisarganj, District-Baharaich, U.p.
11. M/s Vidarbha Sugar Mills Pvt. Ltd., Kurha, Tal.-Tiwasa, Distt.-Amravati, Maharashtra.
12. M/s Uttam Sugar Mills Ltd., Pudrikhurd, Tehsil-Nazibabad, Bijnore, U.P.
13. M/s Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd., Sabitgarh, P.O. Karora, Tehsil-Khurja, Distt.-Bulandshahar, U.P.
14. M/s Govardhan Sugar Industries Ltd., Kukarmunda, Tehsil-Nizar, Distt.-Surat, Gujarat.
15. M/s Someshwar SSK Niyamit, Bailhongal, Distt.-Belgaum, Karnataka.

Maintenance of Banks of River Ganga

3503. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over the maintenance of banks of River Ganga to private institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds for Fresh Water Aquaculture Development Scheme

3504. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 100 Lakhs has been sanctioned and released out of the proposed central share of Rs. 224.24 Lakhs for the implementation of Fresh Water Aquaculture Development Scheme through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the remaining central share is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government implements Centrally Sponsored macro Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for development of inland fisheries in the country including state of Madhya Pradesh. Under this scheme, Central assistance of Rs. 150.00 lakh has been extended to Government of Madhya Pradesh in two installments *i.e.* Rs. 100.00 lakh in June 2005 and Rs. 50.00 lakh in January 2006 against central share of Rs. 224.24 lakh sought by the State Government. The release of balance amount depends upon receipt of financial and physical progress report and proposal from the State Government.

[English]

Water/Effluent Treatment Plants

3505. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has surveyed 16 soft drinks Units in the country for characterization and to determine the sludge generated by the Effluent treatment Plants of these units;

(b) if so, the list of those Soft Drink Units that were surveyed by the CPCB and the details of their findings regarding each of the units;

(c) whether the Government has taken any penal measures against any Unit whether the sludge has been found not in conformity with the limits under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has surveyed 16 soft drink Units for characterization of sludge generated by the Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPS) of these units. List of the units is given in the Statement. The analysis of the sludge has revealed that in 8 plants the Cadmium concentration was more than 50 mg/kg of the sludge and in the rest it was ranging from 5 to 50 mg/kg. It was also observed that there was variation in the concentration of other heavy metals.

(c) to (e) The concerned State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to direct the units 1 to 8 to dispose the sludge generated from the ETPs as industrial waste and units 9-16 have been asked to dispose the ETP sludge as hazardous wastes as prescribed under Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2003.

Statement

List of the Soft Drink units surveyed by the CPCB

1. M/s Pepsico Holding Pvt. Ltd. West Bengal
2. M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt. Ltd. Mahul, Maharashtra.
3. M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt. Ltd. Deonar, Maharashtra.
4. M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt. Ltd. Kanpur, U.P.
5. M/s Varun Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Mathura, U.P.
6. M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore, Kamataka.
7. M/s Pepsico India Holding Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore Kamataka.
8. M/s Jai Drinks Ltd. Jaipur, Rajasthan.
9. M/s Bengal Beverages Pvt. Ltd. West Bengal.
10. M/s Diamond Beverages Pvt. Ltd. West Bengal.
11. M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Wada, Maharashtra.
12. M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Mehandiganj, U.P.
13. M/s Hindustan Aqua Ltd. Kanpur, U.P.
14. M/s Moori Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Sahibabad, U.P.
15. M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Dasna, U.P.
16. M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd. Palghat, Kerala.

Loss of Cultivable Land in Assam

3506. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of permanent loss of cultivable land area of Assam during the last decade by way of erosion, unfertile silt deposition and diversion of river channel;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government to ascertain the extent of such annual loss and damages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to check loss of cultivable land in Assam?

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) As per available estimate, the cultivable land has been 3.23 million ha. in 1994-95 and 3.22 million ha. in 2003-04 in the State of Assam, as such there is no major change in cultivable land. According to the assessment made by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), about 2.22 million ha. area (28.21%) is suffering from various categories of land degradation, out of total geographical area of 7.84 million ha. in the State of Assam as per details given below:-

Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
Water erosion	0.69
Water logging	0.04
Soil acidity	0.61
Complex problem	0.88
Total Degraded area	2.22

Government of India is implementing four Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), and (iv) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) for checking the soil erosion and thereby prevention of land degradation in the country, including Assam. Scheme-wise physical and financial achievements during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2006) for the State of Assam are as under:—

Name of the Programmes	Achievement during X Plan (2002-2006)	
	Phy. (lakh. ha.)	Fin (Rs. lakh)
NWDPR	0.10	468.13
RVP & FPR	0.05	248.27
WDPSA	0.16	1405.00
IWDP	4.87	9747.00
Total	5.18	11868.40

[*Translation*]

Sidhmukh-Nohar and Amarsingh Jassana Irrigation Projects

3507. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the construction cost of fold channels for Sidhmukh-Nohar and Amarsigh-Jassana irrigation projects;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide the amount equal to the cost incurred on Indira Gandhi Canal Project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The cost norm for construction of field channels under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme for Sidhmukh Nohar and Amarsingh Jassana Irrigation Project is Rs. 10,000 per hectare (ha) out of which Rs. 5000 per ha (limited to 50% of actual cost) is provided by the Central Government as grant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of Rajasthan has requested for consideration of cost norm of construction of field channels in Sidhmuk Nohar and "Amarsingh Sub-Branch and Jassana Distributary of Bhakra System" Projects at par with Indira Gandhi Nohar Project *i.e.* from present Rs. 10,000 per ha to Rs. 15,000 per ha. It has been mentioned that higher cost of construction of field channels in these two projects is due to 100% lining. According to the guiding principles for implementation of CADWM Programme, 20% lining of field channels is advocated in general. As per these guiding principles, lining of field channels is advocated in general. As per these guiding principles, lining beyond 20% can be done (where it is required due to topography and soil type) but no additional central assistance beyond the prescribed cost norms is admissible for the same.

Shortage of Hybrid and Coconut Saplings

3508. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hybrid, disease resistant and quality seeds and saplings of coconut are not sufficiently available in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet this situation;

(c) whether the Government proposes to utilise the services of unemployed youths to start nurseries with the assistance and supervision of the Coconut Development Board and also the Agriculture Department of the State Government; 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 hybrid seeds and samplings released by the Central Plantation Crop Research (CPCRI), Kasargod and State Agricultural Universities are inadequate because of the non-availability of the sufficient number of dwarf mother palms that are used as one of the parents in the hybridization programme. Besides there are also difficulties involved in the artificial hybridization, low setting percentage of nuts and low recovery of hybrid seedlings.

(b) The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has evolved a multi pronged strategy for addressing this problem by strengthening the infrastructure in the State Government nurseries, providing quality seedlings through the CDB farms and also by supporting private nurseries. Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargod, Kerala with the help of Department of Agriculture, Kerala have established four seed gardens in Kerala for planting field tolerant Root (wilt) disease progenies, so as to generate disease resistant hybrids for distribution to the farmers.

(c) and (d) CDB is implementing a Scheme of Production and Distribution of Planting Materials under which, financial assistance is provided to private entrepreneurs. Including unemployed youth for promoting coconut nurseries so as to produce and supply quality samplings. An assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakh is provided for starting a coconut nursery with the production capacity of 25,000 seedlings annually. CDB also provides training to nursery owners and unemployed youths for nursery management and hybridization techniques at the Demonstration-cum-Seed Production farm, Neriamangalam, Kerala to promote hybrid and quality seedling production in the private sector.

Storage Capacity of Godowns

3509. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the storage capacity of godowns under various agencies in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Orissa and West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) the investment made by various agencies in construction of the godowns in the said States during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the implementation of the scheme/plan for the construction of Godowns has been very slow; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken for speedy implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The State-wise storage capacity of godowns available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) in the country as on 1.4.2006 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Location-wise details of storage capacity available with FCI, CWC and SWCs as on 1.4.2006 in the States of Orissa and West Bengal are Statement-II to VII enclosed.

(b) The investment made by FCI, CWC and SWCs in construction of the godowns in the State of Orissa and West Bengal during the last three years and the current year is given in Statement-VIII enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise storage capacity (Owned+Hired) available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) as on 1.4.2006

(Capacity in lakh MTs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	FCI	CWC	SWCs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	0.03	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14.70	14.02	22.56

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	—	—
4.	Assam	2.38	0.66	2.49
5.	Bihar	4.22	1.02	2.42
6.	Chandigarh	0.48	0.14	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	11.05	2.09	6.76
8.	Delhi	3.70	1.49	—
9.	Goa	0.15	0.48	—
10.	Gujarat	5.44	5.97	2.13
11.	Haryana	16.12	4.95	14.21
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.19	0.07	—
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.10	—	—
14.	Jharkhand	0.90	0.35	—
15.	Karnataka	5.05	4.19	9.05
16.	Kerala	5.33	1.23	1.91
17.	Madhya Pradesh	4.28	6.26	11.41
18.	Maharashtra	13.87	15.22	12.11
19.	Manipur	0.18	—	—
20.	Meghalaya	0.14	—	0.11
21.	Mizoram	0.18	—	—
22.	Nagaland	0.19	0.13	—
23.	Orissa	3.08	1.90	4.07
24.	Pondicherry	0.47	0.12	—
25.	Punjab	32.43	6.89	58.71
26.	Rajasthan	8.94	7.03	11.64
27.	Sikkim	0.11	—	—
28.	Tamil Nadu	6.45	6.77	6.25
29.	Tripura	0.27	0.24	—
30.	Uttar Pradesh	19.51	11.19	29.06
31.	Uttaranchal	1.00	0.75	—
32.	West Bengal	9.43	7.19	2.16
Total		171.52	100.38	197.05

Statement II

Location-wise owned storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India in the State of Orissa as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1.	Rupea	10.00
2.	Jaleswar	5.00
3.	Ranital	20.00
4.	Keonjhar	7.50
5.	Barbul	5.00
6.	Badampahar	10.00
7.	Bhuaneswar	8.14
8.	Khurda Road	16.48
9.	Parikhamandi	10.00
10.	Jagannathpur	14.42
11.	Phulbani	7.50
12.	Dhenkanal	12.50
13.	Angul	10.00
14.	Jaypore (Umeri)	17.50
15.	Nowrangpur	10.00
16.	Rayaguda	10.00
17.	Kesinga	13.34
18.	Dungarpalli	15.00
19.	Attabira	8.34
20.	Balijhari	40.00
21.	Jharsuguda	10.00
22.	Hirakud	20.00
23.	Flourkela	12.50
Total		293.22

Statement III

Location-wise owned storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India in the State of West Bengal as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in '000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Adra	80.00
2.	Bikna (FSD)	24.48
3.	Bikna MRM)	2.31
4.	Suri (Abdarpur)	43.20
5.	Bahurhat	5.00
6.	Chunsurrah	5.00
7.	Dhankuni	20.00
8.	Sree Rampur	6.24
9.	Mangalbari	26.50
10.	Midnapore	35.78
11.	Berhampur	11.28
12.	Bhatjungla	20.00
13.	Nabadwip	1.26
14.	Balrampur	8.20
15.	Chharah	17.56
16.	Ashoknagar	5.00
17.	Buniadpur (FSD)	21.20
18.	Buniadpur (MRM)	1.20
19.	Raniganj	7.50
20.	Bebgram	68.00
21.	Calcutta (Port)	19.00
22.	Jinjurapoor (JJP)	174.00
23.	OJM (Budge-Budge)	110.47
24.	Kalyani	117.38

1	2	3
25.	Durgapur	25.26
26.	Stiarampure	8.20
Total		864.02

Statement IV

Location-wise owned storage capacity (Owned+Hired) available with Central Warehousing Corporation in the State of Orissa as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in MT)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1.	Balasore	11000
2.	Bargarh	11600
3.	Berhampur	45000
4.	Choudwar	11650
5.	Cuttack	16400
6.	Jajpur Road	7500
7.	Jeypore	19656
8.	Junagarh	18300
9.	Paradeep	30200
10.	Rayagada	11400
11.	Sambalpur	7000
Total		189706

Statement V

Location-wise storage capacity (Owned+Hired) available with Central Warehousing Corporation in the State of West Bengal as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in MT)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Baldogra	10423
2.	Baranagar	30582

1	2	3
3.	Belda	5645
4.	Berhampur	20000
5.	Birati	8069
6.	Bishnupur	16000
7.	Bonhooghly	35166
8.	Burdwan-I	5405
9.	Burdwan-II	11713
10.	Chandrakona Road	9955
11.	Cooch Behar	11500
12.	Durgachak	32400
13.	Falta	2000
14.	Goara/Pandua	5000
15.	Haldia	42500
16.	Kantapur	25151
17.	Kharagpur	29000
18.	Kolkata-CFS	32230
19.	Kolkata-I&E	38902
20.	Lake Depot	3675
21.	Mahestala	5825
22.	Majerhat	2600
23.	Malda	10000
24.	Matigara	5000
25.	Mogra	13500
26.	Nimak Mahal Road	3632
27.	Paanchpara	47055
28.	Panihati	30333
29.	Petrapole	109600
30.	Raninagar	5000
31.	Rishra	13800

1	2	3
32.	Sainthai	7500
33.	Saragachi	15000
34.	Surul	26700
35.	Serampore	23173
36.	Strand Bank road	6092
37.	Taratola Road	4183
38.	Uluberia	15000
Total		719309

Statement VI

Location-wise storage capacity (Owned+Hired) available with State Warehousing Corporations in the State of Orissa as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in MT)

SI.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	7100
2.	Bhadrak	7500
3.	Chandabati	1250
4.	Baripadi	2500
5.	Karanja	500
6.	Udala	500
7.	Rairanpur	1500
8.	Khurda	7559
9.	Jatni	8000
10.	Sakhigopal	1500
11.	Nayagarh	1000
12.	Jagannathpur	7500
13.	Paralakhemundi	1000
14.	Phulbari	5200

1	2	3
15.	Bhawanipatna-I	5500
16.	Bhawanipatna-II	22000
17.	Jinagarh	13500
18.	Kesinga	23000
19.	Jaipatna	3500
20.	Dhamagarh	4000
21.	Jagatpur-II	1200
22.	Banki	1000
23.	Kendrapara	1000
24.	Jagatsinghpur	2500
25.	Dhanmandal	3500
26.	Keonjhar	1000
27.	Angul	3200
28.	Talleher	500
29.	Bhubaneswar	7200
30.	Jagatpur-I	29500
31.	Rayagada	10400
32.	Jemedineta	500
33.	Gunupur	11800
34.	Nowraagpur	4500
35.	Umerkote	2700
36.	Raighar	500
37.	Borigumma	500
38.	Kotpad	1000
39.	Jeypore	6000
40.	Mallikangiri	7100
41.	Durgapalli	8500
42.	A. Katapalli	19800
43.	Nagenpalli	16000

1	2	3
44.	Kendupalli	10000
45.	Attabira	6000
46.	Godabhaga	15000
47.	Barpalli	2700
48.	Sundargarh	500
49.	Jharsuguda	3500
50.	Bolangir	10000
51.	Titilagarh	2250
52.	Charbhata	20000
53.	Maimunda	21000
54.	Kantabanji	20970
55.	Mahadevpalli	635
56.	S. Rampur	500
57.	Boondh	1000
58.	Khariar Road	7500
59.	Dumeripani	19400
60.	Raj Khariar	1886
Total		406850

Statement VII

Location-wise Storage Capacity (Owned-Hired) Available with State Warehousing Corporations in the State of West Bengal as on 1.4.2006

(Fig. in MT)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Alipurduar	5000
2.	Balurghat	4950
3.	Bankura	5800

1	2	3
4.	Beliaghata	8000
5.	Cassimbazar	10126
6.	Dakshindari	11440
7.	Dinhaata	4550
8.	Garneta	3700
9.	Hide road	7984
10.	Jalpaiguri	7891
11.	Jessora Road	4028
12.	Jessora Road-II	5000
13.	Kaliaganj	8250
14.	Krishnagar	7290
15.	Malda	8210
16.	Memari	10350
17.	Memari-II	3500
18.	Nadkapara	4032
19.	New Jalpaiguri	12500
20.	Paharpur	12000
21.	Raiganj	8250
22.	Ranaaghat	6250
23.	Sealdah	10028
24.	Sibpur	8000
25.	Siliguri	13816
26.	Tarakeswar	13500
27.	Taratala-I	5300
28.	Taratala-II	3885
29.	Tollygunge	2610
Total		216150

Statement VIII

The detail of investment made by FCI, CWC and SWCs in construction of the godowns in the State of Orissa and West Bengal for the last three years and the current year

Food Corporation of India

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of Orissa	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of West Bengal
2003-04	193.04	No storage capacity has been created by FCI in the State of W.B. during the last three years
2004-05	25.09	
2005-06	Nil	
2006-07	Nil	

Central Warehousing Corporation

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of Orissa	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of West Bengal
2003-04	Nil	356.03
2004-05	Nil	322.58
2005-06	Nil	24.25
2006-07	Nil	Nil

State Warehousing Corporations

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of Orissa	Investment made in the construction of godown in the State of West Bengal
2003-04	242.98	Nil
2004-05	150.00 (as per R.E.)	Nil
2005-06	300.00 (as per B.E.)	Nil
2006-07	Information not readily available	Information not readily available

Indo-US Project to Rehabilitate Child Workers

3510. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether a project in association with United States of America (USA) is being undertaken to rehabilitate 80,000 child workers in the country as appeared in *The Hindu* dated April 18, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the funds for the project is being equally shared by India and USA; and

(d) if so, the details of funds disbursed so far during Tenth Five Year Plan to the States under The National Child Labour Projects and the extent of utilization of the same by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India and the US Department of Labour have launched a joint project titled INDUS (Indo-US) for the rehabilitation of child labour in 21 districts of the country.

The Project aims at complete elimination of child labour in hazardous industries in the project area in a focused and integrated manner. Over 80,000 children withdrawn from work will be benefited under the project.

(c) The US Deptt. of Labour would provide US \$ 20 million to be matched with equal funding from Government of India. The Government of India funding would be shared between Ministry of Labour & Employment and the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(d) Details of funds released during the Tenth Plan under the scheme of National Child Labour Projects is as follows:-

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
2002-03	6510.00
2003-04	6672.00
2004-05	8310.70
2005-06	10232.57

Funds to Maharashtra under NHM

3511. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to Maharashtra during the Tenth Five Year Plan, Year-wise;

(b) whether any potential belt has been identified in the State to cover the same under the Mission;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has prepared any concrete plans for production and marketing of horticulture products since the Mission is going to be extended upto the next 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched during the Tenth Plan with effect from the year 2005-06 for the holistic development of horticulture sector. During 2005-2006, an amount of Rs. 8260.28 lakh was provided to the State of Maharashtra under NHM.

(b) and (c) The Mission envisages area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticulture crops having comparative advantage. As per the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for Maharashtra for 2005-06 four clusters covering 23 districts have been identified for developing eleven crops.

(d) and (e) An integrated approach is adopted while formulating the AAP duly ensuring an end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stakeholders.

[Translation]

Installations of Close-Circuit Cameras in Forests

3512. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to instal surveillance cameras in the forest/sanctuaries in order to assess the situation of animals/tigers/extinct vultures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Camera traps are being used in the ongoing, refined process for country level estimation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

[English]

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

3513. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

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

(a) whether constitution of a wildlife crime control bureau has been under consideration of the Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in its constitution; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A revised proposal for constitution of a National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, incorporating the suggestions made by the Tiger Task Force has submitted to the Union Ministry of Law and Justice for the needful.

[Translation]

Concept Paper for Improvement of Forests

3514. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any concept paper from Government of Madhya Pradesh for improvement of forests in the State which has been damaged; and

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be provided for this purpose and the time by which the Government is likely to take action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through a 2-tier decentralized setup of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level, on a 100% Central funding basis during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Till date 49 FDA project proposals have been received from Madhya Pradesh under NAP Scheme, all of which have already been approved. An amount of Rs. 68.23 crore has been provided to the 49 FDA Projects till 31.3.2006.

[English]

Bt. Cultivation

3515. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area of Bt. Cotton cultivation has increased during 2005-2006 as compared to previous years;

(b) whether the Government is providing any help to farmers to grow Bt. brinjal, groundnut and cauliflower etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) None of these crops have yet been approved for commercial cultivation in the country.

Afforestation

3516. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether many State Governments have not achieved the targets fixed for afforestation during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the percentage of decline in afforestation rate during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the targets fixed for afforestation during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the targets within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Some States could not achieve the targets fixed for afforestation during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The reasons for this shortfall ranged from inadequate budgetary support, non-availability of lands, and adverse climatic conditions.

(c) The decline in afforestation during Ninth Five Year Plan was in respect of tree planting on private lands with 503.63 crores seedlings being planted as against 558.7 crores in Eight Five Year Plan. However, taking into account the afforestation on public lands including forest lands there was no decline on an overall basis.

(d) The State-wise cumulative annual targets fixed for tree planting under 20-Point Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The steps taken to achieve the targets within the stipulated time comprise provision of assistance for High-tech nurseries and Satellite nurseries for production of Quality Planting Material, augmentation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) with additional component of assistance to Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) for their constitution and formulation of micro-plans, substantial step-up in budgetary allocation, decentralized implementation of NAP, securing people's participation and comparatively improved position of manpower in some states. Besides the process of promoting tree planting on private land, including farm lands, is on for which the States have been advised to rationalize the regulations relating to felling and transit of trees grown on private lands.

Statement*Cumulative annual targets for tree planting under 20 Point Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Total Tenth Five Year Plan Target	
		Pt. No. 16A*	Pt. No. 16B**
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17000	1245000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32	36500
3.	Assam	240	97500
4.	Bihar	875	105000
5.	Chhattisgarh	1125	340000
6.	Goa	60	5100
7.	Gujarat	9200	375000
8.	Haryana	1580	121000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	135	110000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	200	130000
11.	Jharkhand	900	325000
12.	Karnataka	2250	310000
13.	Kerala	100	58000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2450	855000
15.	Maharashtra	6600	430000
16.	Manipur	65	36500
17.	Meghalaya	135	26000
18.	Mizoram	112	40500
19.	Nagaland	305	75000
20.	Orissa	1500	276510
21.	Punjab	170	105000
22.	Rajasthan	520	151500
23.	Sikkim	96	50000
24.	Tamil Nadu	940	585000

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	165	55500
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9000	320000
27.	Uttaranchal	925	590000
28.	West Bengal	1600	230000
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10.5	14500
30.	Chandigarh	4.5	705
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	37	1550
32.	Daman and Diu	3.5	150
33.	Delhi	64	750
34.	Lakshadweep	5	265
35.	Pondicherry	11	425
Total		58415.5	7101955

*16A—Tree plantation of Private Land (Seedlings in lakhs).

**16B—Area Covered Public and Forest Land (Area in hectare).

Plantation of Trees3517. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

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

(a) the States where National Afforestation Programmes has been launched;

(b) the number of trees planted under the said programme during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the funds allocated to the States for the implementation of the said programmes during the above period; and

(d) the time by which the Government will achieve the target of plantation on one third area of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is being implemented in 28 States of the country.

(b) and (c) The NAP Scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) at the village level. Seven different types of plantation models, with different plant densities, have been prescribed under the NAP Guidelines. The actual number of trees planted under NAP varies according to the plantation model and the local site conditions. The Ministry does not keep the record of number of trees planted, but approves the area to be covered under each FDA project. During the last three years and the current year (upto 28.04.2006) 431 FDA projects covering a project area of 4.46 lakh hectare have been approved by the Ministry. An amount of Rs. 699.98 crores has been released during the period under the scheme.

(d) Planning Commission has fixed a monitorable target of 33% of forest and tree cover in the country by the year 2012.

[Translation]

Offer from Japan for Environment Conservation

3518. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government of Japan has offered to provide to India technical and scientific assistance in the field of environment conservation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As far as Ministry of Environment and Forests is concerned, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided technical assistance for the Development Study relating to "Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga" with focus along stretches of four towns namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi.

[English]

Self Help Groups Schemes in Agriculture

3519. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme under the name of Self Help Groups (SHG) has been introduced in the Agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a scheme is likely to be introduced?

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) There is no scheme as such under the name of "Self Help Groups (SHGs)" being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. However, some of schemes contain a provision to associate, *inter alia*, self help groups in their implementation.

[Translation]

Rural Godowns

3520. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored Rural Godowns scheme;

(b) the number of rural godowns with their capacity functioning in the country and the assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of said godowns to be sanctioned and assistance provided during 2006-07, State-wise; and

(d) the number of farmers benefited therefrom?

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) This Ministry is implementing a capital investment subsidy scheme titled 'Construction of Rural Godowns' with effect from 01.04.2001. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet various requirements of

farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit. Under the original scheme, back ended subsidy @ 25% of capital cost of the project was provided. In case of North East States, hilly areas and Scheduled Castes (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes (ST) entrepreneurs, subsidy was provided @ 33.33% of the capital cost of the project. The Scheme has since been modified with effect from 20.10.2004, limiting the subsidy @ 25% to farmers, Agriculture graduates, cooperatives & Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are now given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of North Eastern State/hilly areas & SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives, subsidy shall be 33.33%. The scheme has been made farmers' friendly by allowing subsidy for smaller godowns of 50 MT size in general and of 25 in hilly areas. Five lakh tonnes capacity to be created is reserved for small farmers. The scheme is

being implemented through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

(b) A statement indicating the details of the rural godowns sanctioned by NABARD and NCDC during the last three years is enclosed as Statements-I, II and III.

(c) An amount of Rs. 70 crore has been made in the budget of 2006-07 for implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Construction of Rural Godowns. No allocation of funds is made to the State Governments. The Scheme is being implemented throughout the country and the State Governments/entrepreneurs are free to construct and godown depending upon the economic viability of the project.

(d) NABARD/NCDC have sanctioned 11525 rural godowns upto 31.3.2006 thus benefiting that many number of farmers directly and large number of farmers indirectly.

Statement I

Progress of Rural Godown Scheme (1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004)

Sl.No.	State	Sanctioned by NABARD & NCDC		
		No. of Projects	Capacity in tonnes	Subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	194	820510	2780.25
2.	Assam	20	34840	44.81
3.	Bihar	12	2100	2.11
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	147655	609.02
5.	Gujarat	92	42519	230.86
6.	Haryana	21	39433	246.89
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2050	0.25
8.	Karnataka	300	298855	817.23
9.	Kerala	10	3547	3.57
10.	Madhya Pradesh	288	471776	631.70
11.	Maharashtra	466	689922	1145.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Meghalaya	1	7983	19.95
13.	Nagaland	1	4000	3.50
14.	Orissa	41	55609	78.33
15.	Punjab	20	67604	1681.07
16.	Rajasthan	7	15356	28.90
17.	Tamil Nadu	9	23622	39.29
18.	Uttar Pradesh	604	1160761	400.71
19.	Uttanchal	2	2500	7.50
20.	West Bengal	500	131433	304.15
21.	UTs	1	1000	—
Total		2625	4023075	9075.09

Statement II*Progress of Rural Godown Scheme (1.4.2004 to 31.3.2005)*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Sanctioned by NABARD & NCDC		
		No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	Subsidy released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	31	28252	136.90
2.	Chhattisgarh	94	230766	493.46
3.	Gujarat	339	160293	340.85
4.	Haryana	139	258530	1530.72
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1	600	20.00
6.	Karnataka	194	149193	450.94
7.	Kerala	8	2930	13.26
8.	Madhya Pradesh	381	734674	1780.75
9.	Maharashtra	396	521330	648.78
10.	Meghalaya	7	750	2.50
11.	Orissa	20	22927	305.65
12.	Punjab	2784	964628	168.35

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Rajasthan	14	36242	92.71
14.	Tamil Nadu	14	63750	99.59
15.	Uttar Pradesh	27	88553	606.29
16.	Uttaranchal	10	24762	37.69
17.	West Bengal	49	43657	78.29
18.	UTs	1	400	—
Total		4632	3608914	8065.44

Statement III*Progress of Rural Godown Scheme (1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006)*

Sl.No.	State	Sanctioned by NABARD & NCDC		
		No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	Subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	20	22099	103.38
2.	Bihar	1	10000	90.24
3.	Chhattisgarh	14	47448	269.42
4.	Gujarat	295	90888	236.02
5.	Haryana	17	70220	217.99
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3.99
7.	Karnataka	190	186650	791.05
8.	Kerala	12	9747	47.15
9.	Madhya Pradesh	164	347181	1488.15
10.	Maharashtra	396	367249	1445.13
11.	Meghalaya	1	1617	9.65
12.	Orissa	53	55417	140.70
13.	Punjab	185	440347	502.00
14.	Rajasthan	127	122876	84.34
15.	Tamil Nadu	22	91572	170.68

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	44	249502	577.10
17.	Uttaranchal	15	33643	77.22
18.	West Bengal	503	172698	431.13
19.	NAFED	4	27500	32.13
Total		2042	23333.40	6717.47

[English]

Forest Conservation Scheme

3521. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has forwarded a proposal under Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme for approval to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The State Forest Department, Government of Gujarat, has submitted a proposal for Rs. 600.00 lakhs to the Ministry under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme for current financial year 2006-07. Some clarifications have been sought from the State Government. Under the scheme, during last three financial years, central assistance to the tune of Rs. 50.00 lakhs, 209.44 lakhs & 192.00 lakhs has been provided to the State Government.

Production of Garlic

3522. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of garlic recorded in the country during 2005-06, State-wise; and

(b) the financial assistance provided to the farmers for the purpose during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The total production of garlic in the country State-wise, during the year 2005-06 is given below:

State	Production ('000 MT) 2005-06
Andhra Pradesh	1.25
Gujarat	95.00
Himachal Pradesh	10.25
Haryana	9.90
Karnataka	3.85
Madhya Pradesh	125.00
Maharashtra	57.50
Orissa	61.25
Punjab	25.00
Rajasthan	76.00
Tamil Nadu	15.25
Uttar Pradesh	61.07
Others	21.35
All India	562.67

(b) The total financial assistance provided during the year 2005-06 for development of spices including garlic in different states under the National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal are given below:

State	Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	663.75
Gujarat	1046.25
Himachal Pradesh	6.50
Haryana	79.34
Karnataka	416.25
Madhya Pradesh	191.25
Maharashtra	39.00
Orissa	44.25
Punjab	84.38
Rajasthan	294.75
Tamil Nadu	67.50
Uttar Pradesh	727.50
Others	596.08
All India	4256.80

Allocation for Irrigation and Flood Control Projects

3523. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for minor, medium and major irrigation and flood control projects during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there is much reduction in the allocation to the above projects during the said period and resultant adverse effect on the pace of implementation by the State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for the time bound implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) State-wise approved outlays for major and medium irrigation, minor irrigation and flood control during the last three years are at Statement. For the current year *i.e.* 2006-07, the proposals have not been received by the Planning Commission from all the States.

(b) There is an increasing trend in the total approved outlays for major & medium irrigation, minor irrigation and flood control sectors during the last three years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the respective State Governments. However, with a view to expediting completion of irrigation projects, Government of India provides assistance to State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

Statement

State-wise outlays for Major & Medium Irrigation, Minor Irrigation and Flood Control during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Year								
		2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
		Major & Medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Flood Control	Major & Medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Flood Control	Major & Medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Flood Control
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1861.64	279.04	28.14	3370.87	549.25	72.29	6933.45	610.43	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.40	31.49	3.75	0.40	32.80	3.75	0.52	49.04	7.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Assam	41.80	52.39	17.70	21.74	30.61	35.13	39.21	23.94	28.00
4.	Bihar	409.35	249.55	115.65	374.14	249.20	95.00	461.01	257.38	146.76
5.	Chhattisgarh	211.32	203.97	0.15	422.59	254.00	0.40	560.69	333.59	0.25
6.	Goa	16.07	31.82	4.62	28.03	33.86	4.95	59.12	44.99	11.96
7.	Gujarat	1158.47	298.22	3.02	1127.45	293.56	2.66	1601.05	208.72	1.10
8.	Haryana	186.97	0.00	46.00	175.00	0.00	48.00	290.00	0.00	48.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15.99	57.00	13.04	13.54	67.88	12.23	14.54	79.48	14.40
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.50	57.50	24.15	75.76	62.75	26.13	77.19	67.54	32.65
11.	Jharkhand	290.00	60.00	2.00	356.43	75.00	2.50	374.75	70.00	2.75
12.	Karnataka	2752.91	208.15	6.00	2843.97	167.88	1.50	3509.91	384.70	7.80
13.	Kerala	110.00	11.50	8.00	113.85	13.10	7.50	95.21	11.10	5.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	986.57	214.61	13.34	1387.16	222.70	8.84	1378.31	255.31	1.45
15.	Maharashtra	3527.87	205.68	2.87	2850.00	171.80	0.00	1985.75	249.45	1.29
16.	Manipur	51.00	16.00	11.20	38.00	6.50	10.20	116.78	16.55	8.50
17.	Meghalaya	1.70	8.00	1.32	1.87	6.50	1.45	1.42	9.00	3.42
18.	Mizoram	0.01	6.20	0.00	0.01	14.20	0.00	0.01	17.40	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	2.92	0.03	0.03	12.46	0.23	0.05	12.35	0.05
20.	Orissa	426.74	130.97	4.00	295.17	57.81	1.00	280.45	46.29	1.01
21.	Punjab	160.25	33.60	48.00	85.30	24.35	27.20	112.32	62.45	33.00
22.	Rajasthan	336.40	41.42	4.04	611.43	190.55	10.04	812.80	150.56	10.15
23.	Sikkim	0.00	4.00	5.50	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	3.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	309.59	99.47	—	323.96	176.28	0.00	278.91	130.14	—
25.	Tripura	6.45	28.30	11.17	5.55	26.80	7.97	12.40	29.07	6.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	920.36	85.41	57.18	877.50	104.25	45.95	1453.23	127.13	331.00
27.	Uttaranchal	39.00	25.30	0.00	26.65	29.01	20.14	26.65	29.02	20.14
28.	West Bengal	79.70	26.66	107.71	91.25	35.35	127.38	107.13	48.08	84.13
Total States		13979.06	2469.17	53.58	15517.65	2914.45	576.44	20582.86	3327.71	910.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Union Territories										
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	2.50	1.50	0.00	1.86	3.00	0.00	3.63	6.25
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	4.35	0.00
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.86	0.57	0.00	0.01	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.00
4.	Daman and Diu	0.10	0.10	0.22	0.05	0.15	0.22	0.09	0.14	0.36
5.	Delhi	0.00	0.50	22.00	0.00	0.50	24.00	0.00	0.04	17.12
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	3.15	0.00	0.00	3.50	0.00	0.00	3.80
7.	Pondicherry	0.00	14.32	10.90	0.00	20.29	14.68	0.00	23.36	15.68
Total UT's		1.96	19.19	37.77	0.06	25.01	45.40	0.09	32.30	43.21
Total (States & UT)		13981.02	2488.36	576.35	15517.71	2939.46	621.84	20582.95	3360.01	953.28
Central Sector		76.08	95.22	180.70	85.93	105.20	208.87	86.33	72.64	262.03
Grand Total		14057.10	2583.58	757.05	15603.64	3044.66	830.71	20669.28	3432.65	1215.31

[*Translation*]

Loss due to lack of Storage Space

3524. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether huge quantity of foodgrains are putrefying in the absence of proper and secure storage facilities;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of foodgrains destroyed during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) system is the chief cause of such destruction of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is adequate storage facility available with the FCI for stocking of foodgrains. However, there

are a number of biotic and abiotic factors responsible for downslide in quality of foodgrains during storage even in covered godowns. As on 1st April, 2006, a quantity of 49,372 MT of damaged foodgrains was lying in FCI godowns which constitute 0.30% of the total foodgrain stocks held the FCI on the said date.

(b) During the years 2002-03 to 2004-05, there was accrual of a total quantity of 3.08 lakh MT of damaged foodgrains valued at Rs. 197.56 crores in the godowns of the FCI. State-wise and year-wise details are in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage is provided only in the extremely unavoidable circumstances *i.e.* when no covered godown is available, particularly in Punjab and Haryana in which bulk of foodgrains is procured, for a temporary period till the stocks are moved out to the consuming States or the cover godown become available. Government has given detailed policy guidelines to the FCI and the Governments of Punjab and Haryana, for proper storage and timely disposal of wheat stocks procured in Punjab and Haryana, which include procurement according to uniform specifications, proper storage and CAP storage only in extremely unavoidable circumstances with all precautions, carrying out of the required prophylactic and curative treatment to the stocks and timely moving out/disposal of stocks.

Statement*State-wise details of Damaged Foodgrains accrued with the FCI during the years 2002-03 to 2004-05*

(Quantity in MTs. Value in Rs. lakh)

State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Grand Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Bihar	1655	102.1	493	33.0	400	25.9	2548	161.0
Jharkhand	124	7.6	39	2.6	205	13.3	368	23.4
Orissa	564	34.8	1	0.1	1161	75.2	1726	110.1
West Bengal	3029	186.8	2138	143.0	5128	332.3	10295	662.1
Assam	402	24.8	949	63.5	309	20.0	1660	108.3
NEF	165	10.2	169	11.3	194	12.6	528	34.1
Nagaland & Manipur	0	0.0	49	3.3	51	3.3	100	6.6
Delhi	624	38.5	2327	155.6	213	13.8	3164	207.9
Himachal Pradesh	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Haryana	2447	150.9	107	7.2	2	0.1	2556	158.2
Jammu & Kashmir	157	9.7	587	39.3	0	0.0	744	48.9
Punjab	109961	6781.8	59148	3956.2	72556	4701.6	241665	15439.6
Rajasthan	787	48.5	350	23.4	47	3.0	1184	75.0
Uttar Pradesh	4708	290.4	1363	91.2	13343	864.4	19414	1246.2
Uttaranchal	13	0.8	66	4.4	2	0.1	81	5.3
Andhra Pradesh	1847	113.9	635	42.5	166	10.8	2648	167.1
Kerala	106	6.5	197	13.2	135	8.7	438	28.5
Karnataka	1555	95.9	572	38.3	188	12.2	2315	146.3
Tamil Nadu	227	14.0	284	19.0	118	7.6	629	40.6
Gujarat	1477	91.1	4187	280.1	299	19.4	5963	390.5
Maharashtra	1831	112.9	1610	107.7	695	45.0	4136	265.6
Madhya Pradesh	2104	129.8	735	49.2	1890	122.5	4729	301.4
Chhattisgarh	1688	104.1	262	17.5	125	8.1	2075	129.7
Total	135471	8355.2	76268	5101.3	97227	6300.3	308966	19756.7

Note: The value of the damaged stocks has been computed on the basis of average sales realisation of the FCI.

NEF = Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura

Integrated Foodgrains Development Programme

3525. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have launched Integrated Foodgrains Development Programme (paddy) in place of recently sponsored paddy Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include all the States especially all the blocks of Scheduled Tribe areas to provide assistance for the equipments and insecticides and make available machineries like power tillers and threshers etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Foodgrains Development Programme (Paddy) in place of Paddy Development programme. The Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) is implemented by the Central Government under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) in areas growing rice as major crop for increasing productivity of cereals as a cropping system approach. Under MMA, the States/UTs have been given flexibility of develop and pursue activities on basis of their regional priorities. Assistance to provide under MMA to farmers of the country including those in Scheduled Tribe areas for power tillers, threshers, insecticides etc.

[English]

Construction of Dam on River Vansadhara

3526. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of dam near Neradi on river Vansadhara;

(b) if so, the objections raised by the Government of Orissa on the said projects; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed by the Government to resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for construction of barrage at Neradi with other components and the proposal was accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its meeting held on 4.12.1991 subject to certain observations. The Government of Orissa objected to the proposal on the apprehension of larger submergence in their territory than envisaged as per the inter-State agreement among the States due to the afflux caused by the barrage. The matter was discussed in the inter-State meetings convened for the same and decided to conduct physical model studies of Neradi barrage by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune. The State Governments are to take required follow up action on the report provided by CWPRS, Pune.

Fishery Research Institutes in Kerala

3527. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fishery research institutes in Kerala alongwith annual intake capacity;

(b) whether the Government proposes to shift/merge said institutes during Tenth Five Year Plan; 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) There are two fisheries research institutes in the State of Kerala namely the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) with their headquarters located at Kochi.

The CIFT, is presently running M.F.Sc. and Doctoral programme in Post-harvest Technology at Kochi. Similarly the CMFRI is operating M.F.Sc. and Doctoral programme in Mariculture at Kochi. The annual intake capacity for M.F.Sc. programme is 5 and for Doctoral programme in

Mariculture is 2 and for Post-harvest Technology is 4. These educational programmes are being run under the umbrella of Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, which is a Deemed University in the Fisheries under the ICAR.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to shift/merge these Institutes during Tenth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Population/Protection of Deer

3528. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of deer in the country at present, species-wise;

(b) whether the number of deer is declining day by day;

(c) the number of person booked or punished for poaching during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for protection of deer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Census figures of all deer species are not

compiled and collated at National level. As per information available the population of some important deer/antelope species is placed in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No such reports of decline in population of deer have been received.

(c) No such information is collated at Government of India level.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for protection of deer include:

1. Species of deer/antelopes, depending on their conservation requirement, have been listed under the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, affording protection to them.
2. Necessary technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government for conservation and development of habitats under Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant".
3. Regular patrolling is being done by the States in the protected areas and other areas to ensure adequate protection.
4. Awareness is also generated among the local communities for conservation of these species.

Statement

Population of Some Important Deer/Antelope Species

S.No.	Name of Species	Major States of Occurrence	Population
1.	Black Buck	Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh	84903
2.	Musk Deer	Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal	190
3.	Sangai	Manipur	180
4.	Hangul	Jammu Kashmir	240
5.	Chiru	Jammu Kashmir	a migratory population of 200-250

[English]

Implementation of Support Price and Market Intervention

3529. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing support price scheme and market intervention schemes for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of money spent on these schemes during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, State-wise and commodity-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) Yes, Sir. The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies for procurement of commodities for which MSP has been announced.

In order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities and perishable agricultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop, the Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government. Losses if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government on the 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States). The amount of loss to be shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government is restricted to 25 percent of the procurement cost.

(c) The amount of subsidy released on foodgrains and amount released to Jute Corporation of India (JCI) and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) during the last three years is indicated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Food Subsidy	Money Released to JCI	Money Released to CCI
2003-04	25160.00	30.00	—
2004-05	25746.00	30.00	30.00
2005-06	23071.00	30.00	285.67

The amount spent on Price Support Scheme by Central Government on reimbursement of losses to NAFED on procurement of oilseeds and pulses and Central Government share of loss under Market Intervention Scheme is given in the enclosed Statements I & II.

Statement I

Amount Spent by Central Government on Reimbursement of Losses to NAFED on procurement of Oilseeds & Pulses

Year	Commodity	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)*
2003-04	Urad	(-)5710.24
	Moong	(-)73.75
2004-05	Gram	(-)6119.71
	Mustard Seed	(-)276.44
	Sunflower Seed	(-)31.69
	Safflower Seed	(-)2.32
2005-06	Mustard Seed	(-)124280.00
	Toria	(-)0.56
	Safflower Seed	(-)1729.23
	Gram	(-)142.65
	Masur	(-)11.16
	Sesamum Seed	(-)45.00
	Cotton	(-)346.76
	Groundnut	(-)15.96
	Copra	(-)239.26
Sunflower Seed	(-)9.42	
Soyabean	(-)8.74	

*Claims of NAFED.

Statement II**Central Government Share of Loss under Market Intervention Scheme**

Year	Commodity	State	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2003-04	Ginger	Mizoram	140.63
	Potato	West Bengal	62.50
	Chillies	Andhra Pradesh	1242.00
	Potato	Uttar Pradesh	292.52
	Orange	Rajasthan	19.06
	Coriander Seed	Rajasthan	45.30
	Cumin Seed	Rajasthan	162.50
2004-05	Ginger	Mizoram	144.15
	Onion	Rajasthan	21.87
	Hatkora	Mizoram	14.86
	Apples 'C' Grade	Himachal Pradesh	203.12
	Apples 'C' Grade	Jammu and Kashmir	210.93
	Black Pepper	Kerala	1010.00
	Chillies	Andhra Pradesh	1071.21
2005-06	Garlic	Rajasthan	21.87
	Onion	Rajasthan	19.53
	Apples 'C' Grade	Himachal Pradesh	663.75
	Apples 'C' Grade	Uttaranchal	53.57
	Malta	Uttaranchal	50.00
	Hatkora	Mizoram	7.82
	Chillies	Mizoram	8.20

Cattle Research Centres

3530. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of cattle research centres functioning in the country to develop high breed of various species of cattle, State-wise;

(b) the details of the various programmes being run to encourage and to train the cattle breeders in the country particularly in Orissa;

(c) whether these programmes are inadequate keeping in view the number of cattle breeders of various species in the States;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to increase the number of such programmes; and

(e) if so, the details of the schemes and proposals submitted by the State Government particularly Orissa to the Union Government during each of the last three years 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) The locations of the Cattle Research Centres functioning in the country to develop superior breeds of cattle under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are given in *statement enclosed*.

(b) Training on various management aspects of cattle production is imparted by the State Animal Husbandry Departments, State and Central Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes, National Dairy Development Board, State Livestock Development Boards, Non-Government Organizations engaged in cattle improvement programmes in the country particularly, through Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBF's) at Chiplima and Sunabeda in Orissa. A total number of 1404 farmers have been trained through CCBF's in Orissa during 2005-06.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is proposing to undertake phase-II of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) program for further expansion.

(e) The Orissa State is participating in NPCBB since 2001-2002. An amount of Rs. 14.77 crores have been released to the State by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries.

Statement

State-wise Location of Cattle Research Centres

Uttar Pradesh

- Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut
- Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar

Punjab

- Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

Haryana

- National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
- Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner

Andhra Pradesh

- Sri Venkateshwara Veterinary University, Tirupati

Gujarat

- Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh

Maharashtra

- Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation, Urulikanchan

Kerala

- Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy

Karnataka

- Southern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore

West Bengal

- Eastern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute, Kalyani

Funds for Forest Development

3531. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched and annual allocations made by the Government, for development of forests in various States, during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Government for development of forests in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) to (c) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is the major scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and forests for development of forests. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) at the village level. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), 431 FDA projects have been approved, and an amount of

Rs. 689.56 crores released thereof. The State-wise number of FDA projects approved, the funds released to the FDAs during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), and the pending FDA project proposals as on 31.3.2006 are given in the Statement enclosed. The pending proposals will be approved subject to their suitability according to NAP Guidelines, and the availability of funds.

Statement

Funds released to FDAs during last 3 years (2003-04 to 2005-06)

(As on 31.03.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Project proposals approved	Funds released (Rs. crores)	No. of pending Projects proposal
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	32.19	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	8.14	—
3.	Assam	29	19.07	—
4.	Bihar	10	8.04	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	20	45.33	—
6.	Goa	3	0.64	—
7.	Gujarat	13	24.02	1
8.	Haryana	9	19.57	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	24	26.63	2
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	16.05	—
11.	Jharkhand	27	25.80	3
12.	Karnataka	15	59.74	—
13.	Kerala	18	9.50	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24	40.71	—
15.	Maharashtra	33	39.72	—
16.	Manipur	6	16.81	1
17.	Meghalaya	7	7.63	—

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	1	37.11	11
19.	Nagaland	3	19.91	2
20.	Orissa	16	29.27	1
21.	Punjab	8	5.85	5
22.	Rajasthan	26	17.62	—
23.	Sikkim	1	14.23	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	20	49.62	—
25.	Tripura	3	12.87	1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	28	56.54	1
27.	Uttaranchal	33	29.45	3
28.	West Bengal	12	17.50	1
Total		431	689.56	34

Purchase of Machinery

3532. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent/incurred by each subsidiary company of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by Bokaro Steel Plant for purchasing various materials and machineries during each of last three years and current year;

(b) the name and number of materials purchased,

used and unused by the each subsidiary company during the last three years and current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the stock verification of purchased materials in each company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The total capital expenditure on equipments, plant & machinery, etc. spent/ incurred by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and its subsidiaries, during the last three years and current year (provisional) is as under:

Capital Expenditure in SAIL

(Rs. in Crores)

Unit	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5
SAIL	217	407	501	811*
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) (which is also included in SAIL)	41	61	33	146

1	2	3	4	5
Subsidiaries of SAIL				
Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	7	43	28	*
Maharashtra Electromelt Limited	0.2	4	2	2
SAIL including subsidiaries	224	454	532	813

*Including Rs. 42 crores of IISCO Steel Plant (ISP), as ISP has been merged recently with SAIL.

(b) The number of items procured by each plant is too large. However, stores & spares used (consumption) and unused (closing inventory) for SAIL and its

subsidiaries during the last three years and nine months of current financial year is as under:

	(Rs. In Crores)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (9M)
Stores & Spares Consumption				
SAIL	1734	1925	2164	1846
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) (which is also included in SAIL)	524	553	615	547
Subsidiaries of SAIL				
Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	93	85	126	102
Maharashtra Electromelt Limited	0.4	3	5	4
Closing Inventory of Stores & Spares				
SAIL	881	895	902	1105
BSL (which is also included in SAIL)	283	270	246	289
Subsidiaries of SAIL				
IISCO	45	42	51	73
MEL	3	3	3	3

(c) Physical verification of inventories of Stores & Spares at respective locations are carried out periodically, as per specific procedures laid down.

Indo-China Agreement in Agriculture

3533. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and China for

cooperation in Agriculture during the Chinese Agriculture Minister's recent visit to India;

(b) if so, the main points of agreement reached;

(c) whether cooperation in Agricultural activities and also exchange of scientific delegations and experts between the two countries also figured in the main features of the agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of agriculture was signed on 28th March, 2006 between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China.

(b) to (d) The main objectives of the MoU, inter alia are promoting a wide range of cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture and relevant sectors/subsectors including crop production, and extension. The MoU also provides for exchange of scientific delegations and experts between the two countries.

Declaration of Support Price of Cotton

3534. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Government of Gujarat regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Cotton (H. 6/H-10 Variety); and

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

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

(b) The Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Prices based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), suggestions received from Central Government Ministries, and concerned State Governments, for the two basic varieties of Cotton (Kapas) for the current Cotton Season 2005-06 (October-September), namely, F-414, H-777, J-34 variety at Rupees 1760/- per quintal to Fair Average Quality of the crop, and for the H-4 variety at Rupees 1980/- per quintal of Fair Average Quality of new crop seed cotton (Kapas).

The Textile Commissioner, Government of India has also announced the Support Prices of other twenty-three varieties of Cotton (Kapas) of Fair Average Quality, for the cotton season 2005-06 (October-September), taking into account the quality differential, normal price

differential, and other relevant factors, like, basic staple length, micronaire value. Prices, so fixed, covered the varieties of cotton (kapas) grown in Gujarat also.

Introduction of Terminator Technology

3535. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to lift the ban imposed on terminator seeds technology in the country;

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

(c) whether the recent Indo-US agricultural agreement specifies the introduction of the terminator technology in the country;

(d) if so, whether wide spread protest and objections have been received by the Government regarding continuing the ban on this technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government do not proposed to amend sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 which specifies that no variety of any genera or species which involves any technology which is injurious to the life or health of human beings, animals or plants shall be registered under the Act. (Explanation—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "any technology" includes genetic use restriction technology and terminator technology).

(c) to (e) The letter of intent signed between Government of India and United States of America does not contain any clause specifying the introduction of terminator technology into the country.

[Translation]

Task Force for Afforestation

3536. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any task force for afforestation in ravines of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has constituted the National Level Task Force for Rehabilitation of Ravines Lands vide Notification dated 5th December, 2005 which is as under:-

(i)	Director General of Forests & Special Secretary Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.	Chairman
(ii)	Additional Director General of Forests (FC) Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.	Member
(iii)	Inspector General of Forests (NAEB), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.	Member
(iv)	Dr. Ashwani Kumar, UP Forest Department	Member
(v)	Shri Ramesh Rawal, BAIF	Member
(vi)	Dr. Prem Shankar Pathak, Retd. Director, IGFRI, Jhansi, U.P.	Member
(vii)	Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.	Member Secretary

2. The term of Task Force is two years.

3. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are:

- (i) Planning, monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation work in Ravenous areas.
- (ii) Recommending the project proposals to the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) after examination.
- (iii) To formulate the Research and Development work for the rehabilitation of ravenous areas.

4. The Task Force has its first meeting on 2.1.2006 in which the suggestions was made to adopt Watershed approach for the rehabilitation of Ravenous areas and the Task Force also suggested to conduct a study report for developing the technique for the rehabilitation.

National Dairy Development Board

3537. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has stopped selling milk and milk products of the State Dairy Federations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to be beneficial to the farmers?

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

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

[English]

Defaulters Establishment of EPF

3538. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5553 dated May 2, 2005 regarding outstanding amount against defaulting establishments and state:

(a) the details of defaulting establishments from whom Employees Provident Fund amounting to more than rupees one crore is due to be recovered, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to recover dues from these defaulting establishment; and

(c) the number of cases of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC filed, properties/bank accounts attached and defaulters arrested to recover dues from them during each of the last three years; and current year state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The details are at Statement-I.

(b) Recovery of dues is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under section 14 of the Act, filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters.

(c) The details are at Statement-II.

Statement I

List of Establishments with default of Rupees one crore and above as on 31.3.2005

Sl.No.	Name of Region	No. of Defaulting Establishments	Amount of Default (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	3,493.60
2.	Bihar	7	3,639.94
3.	Chhattisgarh	2	318.30
4.	Delhi	9	4,684.31
5.	Goa	0	0.00
6.	Gujarat	8	1,701.07
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	100.35
8.	Haryana	6	4,038.99
9.	Jharkhand	10	11,665.83
10.	Karnataka	11	8,285.92
11.	Kerala	17	2,862.13
12.	Maharashtra	39	8,592.89
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19	6,596.67
14.	North Eastern Region	14	3,008.11
15.	Orissa	17	6,449.06
16.	Punjab	2	524.58
17.	Rajasthan	5	1,806.06

1	2	3	4
18.	Tamil Nadu	36	6,130.76
19.	Uttar Pradesh	32	8,148.56
20.	Uttaranchal	5	3,307.46
21.	West Bengal	48	29,906.96
Total		300	1,15,261.55

Statement II*No. of complaints filed u/s 406/409 of IPC before the Police Authorities*

Sl.No.	Name of Region	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	10	18	Guntur-1 Hyderabad-3
2.	Bihar	0	0	4	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	2	2	4	1
4.	Delhi	0	9	10	Delhi North-12 Delhi South-11
5.	Goa	2	13	1	0
6.	Gujarat	16	28	12	Vadodara-22 Ahmedabad-7
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	4	9	8	0
9.	Jharkhand	0	1	0	1
10.	Karnataka	49	98	244	Mangalore-1 Bangalore-0
11.	Kerala	192	95	88	68
12.	Maharashtra	15	7	5	Thane-9 Mumbai-5 Pune-16 Nagpur-11

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4	3	2
14.	North Eastern Region	2	10	0	2
15.	Orissa	0	3	0	0
16.	Punjab	19	4	6	Chandigarh-8 Ludhiana-1
17.	Rajasthan	1	28	8	1
18.	Tamil Nadu	546	432	179	Madurai-19 Chennai-14 Coimbatore-173
19.	Uttar Pradesh	9	7	2	0
20.	Uttaranchal	1	3	1	0
21.	West Bengal	32	29	91	Kolkata-0 Jalpaiguri-33
Total		945	792	684	421

[*Translation*]

Losses due to Corruption in CWC and FCI

3539. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the total storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the percentage of their capacity utilised by the said corporations during the last three years, separately;

(b) whether the CWC and FCI are running in losses because of rampant corruption prevailing in these corporations;

(c) if so, the details; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Storage capacity held by the Food Corporation of India (FCI)/CWC (owned and hired/covered and CAP) and its utilization during the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 at Statement-I and Statement-II enclosed.

(b) to (d) The Central Warehousing Corporation has consistently shown a profit in the last few years as under:

(Figures in crores)

Financial	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Income	471.08	462.86	522.87	591.50*
Expenditure	423.46	428.98	462.45	501.19*

1	2	3	4	5
Profit before tax	47.62	33.88	60.42	90.31*
Profit after tax	43.29	22.43	41.30	63.72*

*Figures of 2005-06 are provisional and subject to audit.

The entire expenditure of FCI on procurement, storage and distribution is subsidized by the Government and hence the question of FCI incurring losses does not arise.

Both the FCI and CWC take preventive and corrective measures promptly, whenever cases of corruption come to light. Such cases are dealt with immediately in accordance with existing rules.

Statement I

The total storage capacity available with F.C.I., stocks held therein and capacity utilization during the last three years

(Fig. in Million Tonnes)

Year (as on 31/3)	Covered			Cap (Open)			Grand Total
	Owned	Hired**	Total	Owned	Hired**	Total	
2003-04							
Capacity	12.82	10.85	23.67	2.21	1.36	3.57	27.24
Stocks	4.75	7.11	11.86	0.07	0.57	0.64	12.50
Utilization	37%	65%	50%	03%	42%	18%	46%
2004-05							
Capacity	12.91	10.46	23.37	2.25	0.41	2.66	26.03
Stocks	5.54	6.64	12.18	0.03	0.18	0.21	12.39
Utilization	43%	63%	52%	01%	44%	08%	48%
2005-06							
Capacity	12.93	9.91	22.84	2.21	0.51	2.72	25.56
Stocks	5.25	6.10	11.35	0.04	0.48	0.52	11.87
Utilization	41%	62%	50%	0.2%	95%	19%	46%

**Hired godowns includes CWC, SWC & Private Parties.

Statement II

The total storage capacity available with Central Warehousing Corporation, stocks held therein and capacity utilization during the last three years

(Figures in Lakh MT)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Average Capacity	91.50	92.64	98.06	102.11
Average Utilisation	67.75	55.24	61.58	71.59
Percentage	74	60	63	70

Upgradation of Jodhpur Radio Station

3540. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade Jodhpur radio station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The 100 kW MW transmitter at Jodhpur has already been upgraded to 300 kW MW capacity and commissioned on 27th November 2002. However, there is no proposal to upgrade the F.M. transmitter at Jodhpur from its existing 6 kW capacity to 10 kW capacity. No precise time-frame can be indicated at this juncture.

*[English]***Population of Vulture**

3541. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the vultures are facing extinction;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess their approximate population and the reasons for their deaths;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures devised to bring back the nature's scavenger from the brink of extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the reports available, the population of three vulture species namely Slender billed, White backed and Long billed vultures has declined by about 97% in the Indian sub-continent in the last ten years. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India sponsored a project in 2000 for a nation-wide survey on the status and distribution of vultures with special reference to the crash in vulture population. Studies carried out in the Indian sub-continent have revealed that the veterinary formulation of the drug diclofenac is the major cause for this sharp decline.

(d) The measures taken to reverse the declining trend in vulture population include:

1. These three species of vultures have been included in Schedule-1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and listed by IUCN, the World Conservation Union as 'critically endangered' in the year 2000.
2. An action plan has been prepared by Ministry of Environment and Forests for saving the vultures.
3. Inter Ministerial consultations have been done for banning the veterinary formulation of diclofenac.
4. All States have been directed to monitor vulture populations and protect the existing vulture breeding sites.

5. Vulture conservation centres have been established at Pinjore, Haryana and Buxa, West Bengal.
6. An International Conference on Vulture Conservation was organized for strengthening regional conservation efforts.
7. Awareness campaigns have been strengthened in the States.

Loans Given by NAFED

3542. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1703 dated December 5, 2005 regarding loans given by NAFED and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

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) Some additional information is being collected from NAFED and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Approval to Schemes of Chhattisgarh

3543. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the irrigation schemes received from the Government of Chhattisgarh during 2005-06 for approval by the Union Government;
- (b) the schemes which have been approved and the total allocation made for 2005-06 to the State Government and the total amount released, till-date; and

(c) the number of schemes pending with the Government for approval and the time by which these schemes are granted approval and the amount would be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No irrigation scheme has been received from the Government of Chhattisgarh during 2005-06 for approval of Union Government.

(b) Two Irrigation Schemes namely Mongra Irrigation Project and Minimata (Hasdeo Bango) Multipurpose Project (revised) of Chhattisgarh have been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission on 7th January, 2005 and 20th May, 2005 for an estimated cost of Rs. 83.64 crore and Rs. 1312.32 crore respectively. The Planning Commission had fixed the ceiling for Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 2005-06 as Rs. 100 crore and against this Rs. 7.6645 crore was released as grant to the State.

(c) There are two Major Irrigation Projects of Chhattisgarh under techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission (CWC). In addition to above, one medium irrigation project has been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations. The time taken for investment clearance of projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government arrange satisfactory compliance to the observations of Central appraising agencies.

[English]

Non-Functional Consumer Fora

3544. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Non-Functional District Fora in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to revive the said District Consumer Fora;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to club two or more such District Consumer Fora to constitute one bench;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal for the constitution of Selection Committee for filling up vacancies in Consumer Fora; 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) Presently, 31 District Consumer Fora (out of total 600 District Consumer Fora) are non-functional in the country. A statement showing the number of non-functional district fora, State-wise, is enclosed.

(b) Though it is the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that the District Fora continue to remain functional, the Central Government has been taking

it up with the State Governments suggesting various measures which include initiating action well in advance for filling the vacancies in the Consumer Fora, maintaining a panel for immediate appointments, clubbing of District Fora wherever required, etc. in order to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the Consumer Fora.

(c) The State Governments have been making arrangements for clubbing of the adjoining District Consumer Fora wherever required so that the District Consumer Fora continue to remain functional.

(d) and (e) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 vide Sections 10, 16 & 20 already provides for the composition of the Selection Committees for the purpose of recommending suitable persons for appointment as President/Members of District Fora and Members of State/National Commission.

Statement

Information regarding functional/non-functional District Fora

Sl.No.	States	No. of District Fora	Functional	Non-functional	As On
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	29	0	31.03.2006
2.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	2	2	0	30.06.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	15	0	31.12.2005
4.	Assam	23	23	0	30.09.2004
5.	Bihar	37	37	0	31.03.2006
6.	Chandigarh	2	2	0	31.03.2006
7.	Chhattisgarh	16	15	1	31.03.2006
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli/Daman and Diu	2	2	0	31.12.2004
9.	Delhi	10	10	0	31.03.2006
10.	Goa	2	2	0	31.03.2006
11.	Gujarat	26	26	0	31.01.2006
12.	Haryana	19	19	0	31.03.2006
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	0	30.11.2005
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	2	0	31.12.2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Jharkhand	22	22	0	31.12.2005
16.	Karnataka	30	30	0	31.03.2006
17.	Kerala	14	12	2	28.02.2006
18.	Lakshadweep	1	1	0	31.12.2005
19.	Madhya Pradesh	45	44	1	30.04.2006
20.	Maharashtra	34	34	0	31.03.2006
21.	Manipur	8	8	0	30.06.2000
22.	Meghalaya	7	7	0	30.06.2005
23.	Mizoram	8	8	0	30.06.2004
24.	Nagaland	11	8	3	30.06.2005
25.	Orissa	31	31	0	31.03.2006
26.	Pondicherry	1	1	0	31.03.2006
27.	Punjab	17	17	0	31.03.2006
28.	Rajasthan	33	33	0	31.12.2005
29.	Sikkim	4	4	0	31.12.2005
30.	Tamil Nadu	30	7	23	30.04.2006
31.	Tripura	3	3	0	31.12.2005
32.	Uttar Pradesh	70	70	0	31.10.2005
33.	Uttaranchal	13	12	1	31.12.2006
34.	West Bengal	21	21	0	31.12.2005
Total		600	569	31	

Forest Development Agencies

3545. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Forest Development Agencies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocations made to these agencies, State-wise?

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

(b) 715 Forest Development Agency (FDA) projects with a total cost of Rs. 1514.77 crores have been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests upto 31.03.2006. Against the total cost, an amount of Rs. 888.35 crores has been released upto 31.03.2006. State-wise Details of FDA projects approved and the funds released are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Forest Development Agencies*

(As on 31.03.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FDA Project proposals approved	Total Cost (Rs. Crores)	Funds released (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	83.02	41.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	270.4	12.30
3.	Assam	29	36.56	19.07
4.	Bihar	10	16.12	8.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	32	73.83	51.99
6.	Goa	3	2.39	0.64
7.	Gujarat	21	60.87	28.74
8.	Haryana	18	53.44	39.38
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27	52.38	29.43
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31	74.61	23.04
11.	Jharkhand	30	56.33	27.14
12.	Karnataka	45	112.15	75.87
13.	Kerala	24	47.54	10.56
14.	Madhya Pradesh	49	112.48	68.23
15.	Maharashtra	45	98.62	46.44
16.	Manipur	13	26.58	19.21
17.	Meghalaya	7	12.00	7.63
18.	Mizoram	19	60.12	45.97
19.	Nagaland	16	37.71	30.50
20.	Orissa	40	69.65	42.46
21.	Punjab	9	17.65	6.35
22.	Rajasthan	33	39.22	23.36
23.	Sikkim	7	27.72	20.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	93.60	58.20

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tripura	12	25.57	16.31
26.	Uttar Pradesh	58	104.35	83.59
27.	Uttaranchal	37	54.17	32.19
28.	West Bengal	17	39.06	19.76
Total		715	1514.79	888.35

[Translation]

Cutting of Trees

3546. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the trees along the national highways have been cut down in order to undertake widening work of various national highways in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is causing threat to the environment;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to plant shadowy trees beside the national highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Detailed Environment Impact Assessment is undertaken for all the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) projects. Tree cutting is restricted to the minimum after exploring available alternatives. Necessary permissions and clearances were obtained before tree cutting as per the existing regulation. Adequate mitigation measures have been provided in all the NHDP projects to compensate for the loss of trees.

(c) National Highway Authority of India has formulated a tree plantation strategy for undertaking plantation along the highways. It includes the provision of planting shade trees on the sides of the highways. Plantations are being

undertaken, mostly through the concerned State Forest Departments, on the stretches where the civil works have been substantially completed.

(d) Till now, more than 7.5 lakh avenue trees and more than 8 lakh ornamental shrubs have been planted along the highways in different States.

(e) Question does not arise.

Sugar Export to Pakistan

3547. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government has acceded to the request of the Government of Pakistan for exporting 50,000 tonnes of sugar after every two months period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum and value of sugar exported to Pakistan so far;

(d) whether any study regarding availability of sugar in the country has been made; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not received any request for export of 50000 tonnes of sugar

after every two months period from Government of Pakistan, therefore, the question of acceding to such request does not arise.

(c) As per published data of DGCIS, Kolkata export to the tune of 1922.0 MTs (provisional) valued at Rs. 297.07 lakh (provisional) has taken place from April, 2005 to December, 2005.

(d) and (e) The total availability of sugar in the country in 2005-06 sugar season is estimated at about 237 lakh tones.

Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds

3548. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme for the development and strengthening of infrastructural facilities for the production and distribution of quality seeds;

(b) the funds allocated for the scheme during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the allocated amount has been utilized;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether an assessment has been made regarding the outcome thereof; and

(f) if so, the said outcome is useful and beneficial?

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 restructured scheme for the development and strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds has 3 old components *viz.* Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank, Quality Control Arrangement on Seed and Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and hill areas of West Bengal and 7 new components *viz.* Seed Village Scheme, Assistance for Creation of Infrastructure Facilities, Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector, Assistance for Seed Export, Use of Biotechnology in Crop Production, Promotion of Use of Hybrid Seed of Rice and Human Resource Development.

(b) and (c) Funds allocated/released and utilized during last 3 years are as under:-

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Allocation	Utilization
2003-04	1005.97	1005.97
2004-05	1246.41	1246.41
2005-06	5986.80	Rs. 1398.378 lakh utilized. The balance amount is under utilization.

(d) to (f) The outcome of this scheme has been as follows: Seed Banks have maintained foundation and certified seeds to meet the requirement of seeds during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions. Financial Assistance has also been provided for construction of seed storage godowns and for creation of system for last flow of information on availability of seeds with National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporations to enable seed users to purchase/source the required seed for areas affected by natural calamities.

Seed Quality Control Organizations like State Seed Certification Agencies and State Seed Testing Laboratories have been strengthened & personnel trained to regulate the quality of seed distributed to farmers.

The additional cost of transportation of seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Hill areas of West Bengal has been reimbursed so that the farmers of these regions also get access to reasonably priced certified seeds.

Foundation seeds of wheat, paddy, red gram, Bengal gram, green gram, black gram, groundnut, castor, sesamum etc., have been distributed to farmers in various States who have been trained in seed production and seed technology.

Assistance has also been given for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector.

These interventions are expected to result in improved availability of quality seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices.

Private Channels

3549. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started SMS and IVR based news service;

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

(c) whether some requests for setting up of private channels are pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for pendency; and

(e) the time by which permission is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan launched an SMS based news service from 5th April, 2006. Mobile phone users can now dial 676733 to get the top four news headlines and cricket score updates on match days of matches telecast live on Doordarshan.

So far as All India Radio network is concerned, News on Phone Service (IVR) is already functional at Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Patna and Ahmedabad. This service is expected to be commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore shortly. Besides, this service is expected to be launched at Raipur, Jaipur, Shimla, Lucknow, Guwahati, Imphal & Kolkata during the 10th Plan period. SMS based news service is expected to be commissioned in Delhi during the 10th Plan period.

(c) and (d) As on date, proposals of the following 17 private companies seeking permission to uplink their satellite TV channels from India are at various stages of scrutiny:

1. Jain Studios Ltd.
2. Raj Television Network Ltd.
3. Avanti Media Pvt. Ltd.
4. Mavis Satcom Ltd.
5. Senior Media Ltd.

6. Associated Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Ltd.

7. Malar Publications Pvt. Ltd.

8. A.Y. Broadcast Foundation

9. Innovations Impex India Pvt. Ltd.

10. Nishaan Media (India) Pvt. Ltd.

11. Orissa Television Ltd.

12. Pragya Vision Pvt. Ltd.

13. Rayudu Vision Media Ltd.

14. Bharat Broadcasting Network Ltd.

15. Swen Television Ltd.

16. Sri Adhikari Brothers Media Ltd.

17. TV Today Network Ltd.

(e) The applications are in various stages of processing and hence no definite time frame can be indicated.

Liberalized Import of Agriculture Products

3550. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study in Tamil Nadu to assess the impact of liberalized import of agriculture products in Indian agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There has been no specific study conducted by the Government. However, some quick sectoral studies have been conducted to analyze the likely impact of liberalized imports on edible oils. The studies suggest that formulation of policies in respect of calibration of import duties on edible oils, application of new technology to increase production and productivity in oil sector and provision of marketing support to oilseed farmers should be linked to the Indian proposals in the WTO Agriculture negotiations. Recently the Government has brought out a study entitled "State of the Indian Farmer: A Millennium Study", as a part of which "Globalization and Agricultural

Liberalization in India" has also been studied. Based on various measures of import and export competitiveness, the study concludes that most of the important agricultural commodities in India are competitive and that India can withstand competition from abroad with respect to the import of most of the crops, at the current levels of tariffs.

Wildlife Sanctuary Project

3551. SHRI VJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch wildlife sanctuary project for the protection of forests and wildlife in the Satpura Region on Madhya Pradesh; 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) Yes, Sir. The Satpura landscape in Madhya Pradesh is one of the six sites selected in the country for implementation of the "Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project". The Satpura Landscape covering a total area of 2974.50 sq. kms consists of mainly the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi, Hoshangabad, parts of Hoshangabad Territorial Forest Division, North Betul Territorial Forest Division, West Chhindwara, Territorial Forest Division and Rampur Bhatodi Division of Madhya Pradesh Forest Corporation.

National Digital Policy

3552. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for formulation of national digital policy to entailing digitalisation of cable services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government has received the recommendations of

TRAI on digitalization of cable TV which has *inter-alia*, suggested a national plan for digitalisation.

(b) These recommendations cover the following issues:-

(i) Time frame for digitalization;

(ii) Licensing issues;

(iii) Carriage issues;

(iv) Upgradation of Networks & technical choices.

(c) The Government is examining these recommendations.

Fish Landing Centres in Lakshadweep

3553. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated economical potential of Lakshadweep and its exclusive economic zone;

(b) the details of fish landing centres functioning in Lakshadweep during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal or a long term plan to tap the marine resources of Lakshadweep waters before the Government;

(d) if so, whether the proposed plan include creation of infrastructure proposal for value addition and exploring market potential etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to announce support price for fish products especially the popular product of Lakshadweep namely Mass or smoked Tuna; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The estimated economic potential of Lakshadweep and its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) varies from 50,000 to 90,000 tons.

(b) There are traditional fish landing centres in all the 10 inhabited islands and also in the uninhabited island of Suheli. Three modern fish landing centres at a total cost of about Rs. 30 lakhs have been sanctioned for Kavaratti, Minicoy and Agatti under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. All these fish landing centres have been functioning during the last three years.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy announced by the Union Government in 2004 envisages developing the potential available in Lakshadweep islands. The Union Territory Administration has prepared an integrated perspective plan for fisheries development of Lakshadweep with the assistance of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The perspective plan for fisheries development to be implemented in three phases during the next 10 years from 2006-07 encompasses building infrastructure for fish processing facilities, value added products, production of high quality masmin, cured and dried products, waste utilization, human resource development and creation of retail outlets.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. There is no proposal before the Government to announce a support price for fish products of Lakshadweep.

Foodgrains in Lieu of Wheat Under PDS

3554. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to decrease the allocation of wheat for distribution under the Public Distribution System in view of its scarcity in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to allocate other foodgrains including rice in lieu of wheat to the traditionally non-wheat consuming States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD

SINGH): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the reduced availability of wheat stocks in the country, the following proposals are under examination:

- (i) allocation of coarsegrains and rice in lieu of wheat; and
- (ii) rationalization of allocations under TPDS.

[Translation]

Tendu Leaf Workers

3555. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

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

(a) whether tendu leaf workers are reportedly being exploited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rates of wages for skilled, semi-skilled and proficient workers related to this industry;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the wages of these workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other facilities provided by the Government for above workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such report has been received. However, there may be some violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or other Acts applicable to such workers, which are to be enforced by respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) As the occupation related to tendu leaf workers falls under the State sphere, the rates of minimum wages are reviewed/revised by the appropriate Government as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As per the available information, rates of minimum wages for tendu leaf workers are as below:-

State	Name of the Schedule employment	Category	Rate of wages
1	2	3	4
Bihar	Plucking Processing of Tendu Leaves	Unskilled/male	68
		Munshi	70
		Supervisor or Checker	84

1	2	3	4
Orissa	Kendu Leaf collection	Unskilled	55
		Semi-skilled	65
		Skilled	75
		Highly skilled	85

(e) Government Schemes relating to poverty alleviation/income generation as are applicable to rural poor are also applicable to these workers since majority of such workers form part of the rural poor. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has been implementing 'Tendu Patta Leaf Collectors' Group Insurance Scheme in Madhya Pradesh since 1991 & in Chhattisgarh. 33 lakh workers in Chhattisgarh and 15 lakh workers in Madhya Pradesh have been enrolled under the scheme, which provides a death cover of Rs. 3500/- and of Rs. 25,000/- in case of death due to accident. The entire amount of premium is paid by the respective Governments.

CMZ

3556. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed the setting up of Coastal Management Zones (CMZs);

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the CMZs would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) For the purpose of reviewing the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 the Ministry had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. This Committee in its report has recommended categorization of the coastal stretches as Coastal Management Zone-I, II, III and IV. The management of these zones will be based on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accepted the recommendations of the above report and has initiated steps for implementing the same.

(c) No time frame, as such, has been fixed, as this depends on vulnerability mapping of the coast.

Penganga Irrigation Project

3557. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has forwarded lower Penganga Irrigation Project for reapproval after rectifying the shortcomings of the project; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The modified detailed project Report of Lower Penganga Irrigation Project has not been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Keera Jhar on Endangered List

3558. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to put the fungus, *cordyceps sinensis*, popularly known as "Keera Jhar" on the list of endangered plants/insects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop large scale smuggling of this sex herb from Uttaranchal forests as this fungus now faces extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Since no reports have been received from the States harbouring the species regarding its threatened status, there is no proposal to include it in the list of endangered plants.

(d) In Uttaranchal, collection of *Cordyceps sinensis* is restricted and regulated in Van Panchayat areas only. The State Government of Uttaranchal has for the first time fixed a royalty of 5% of sale value for this species. In addition, intensive patrolling and camping has been proposed by the State Government especially in summer.

Funds for Drip Irrigation in M.P.

3559. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought additional funds from the Union Government for installation of drip irrigation sets in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a proposal for Rs. 592 lakhs for taking up Micro Irrigation including Drip Irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation during 2005-06. The proposal was considered by Union Government and an amount of Rs. 580.32 lakh was released to 28 Districts as a Central share of subsidy *i.e.*

- 3122 hectare for installation of drip irrigation and,
- 376 hectare for installation of sprinkler irrigation.

AIR and Doordarshan Reporters

3560. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether various useful news-items do not get coverage due to non-availability of All India Radio and Doordarshan reporters at the Divisional/District Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to deploy AIR and DD reporters at the District Centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Press Information Centres have not been provided by the Government at District and Divisional Centres; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) All India Radio and Doordarshan try to cover all important news events across the country with its limited manpower and support. Some events in far off places which are not covered due to infrastructure and manpower shortages are covered by subscribing to news agencies.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati Board has approved the proposal to position Part Time Correspondents (PTC) in all those districts of the country where regular AIR Correspondents are not posted. At present, there are about 90 full time correspondents/editors and 419 PTCs posted/positioned across the country. The process of selection of PTCs in respect of remaining 150 district headquarters is underway. With this, Prasar Bharati will have correspondents in all the district headquarters of the country. Doordarshan News has a network of Stringers who, alongwith the PTCs of AIR, provides news inputs from various districts in the country. Besides, Doordarshan regular TV Correspondents/News Reports are also deployed to gather important news from time to time for inclusion in the news bulletins telecast by Doordarshan.

(e) and (f) At present Press Information Bureau has 44 Registered/Branch office including Press Information Bureau Head Quarter. There are 7 Information Centres at New Delhi, Srinagar, Jalandhar, Port Blair, Kohima, Imphal and Aizwal. There is no proposal to open any new office at present.

National Watershed Development Programme

3561. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Watershed Development Programme is spread across a number of Ministries from the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment Ministry to the Planning Commission, which has hampered watershed programmes;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposals with the Government for the creation of one single authority for

rainfed area development, to bring focus to watershed schemes in rainfed areas; 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) to (c) Government of India is implementing following programmes with watershed approach:

Ministry of Agriculture Programmes:

- (i) National Watershed Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)
- (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSA)
- (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)
- (v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF)

Ministry of Rural Development Programmes:

- (i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- (ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP)
- (iii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

Planning Commission Programme:

- (i) Western Ghats Development Programme

Focus of each programme is different and no systematic study has been done to conclude that this spread of schemes over different departments have hampered watershed programmes. A National Watershed Committee (NWC) has been set up to review and coordinate the watershed programmes. Besides, Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on the Independence Day, 2005 has announced to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority. The matter has been discussed in the Planning Commission, Agriculture Coordination Committee and Committee of Secretaries.

Ship Breaking at Alang

3562. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a technical committee to assess the technical viability of ship breaking industry at Alang;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to submit its report alongwith the terms of references;

(d) whether ship breaking at Alang has been facing protests by environmental groups;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed/taken in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide modern technology in Alang?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Processing and Marketing of Coconut Water

3563. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote the processing and marketing of tender coconut water and Coconut Water, NEERA and other value added products of coconut; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Value addition in Coconut through product diversification and by-product utilization including marketing of tender coconut water and other value added products, is an important activity undertaken by the Government

through Coconut Development Board (CDB) to make the Indian Coconut Industry globally competitive.

(b) A technology for preservation and packing of tender coconut water in pouches and aluminium cans has been developed by the Coconut Development Board in collaboration with the Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), Mysore. By using this technology the flavour of tender coconut water can be retained in pouches/aluminium cans for a period of three months under ambient conditions and six months to one year under refrigerated conditions.

The Government of India through CDB has financed 5 processing and preservation units of tender Coconut Water in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal under Technology Mission on Coconut. The CDB also undertakes the promotional activities, through print and electronic media for promoting the tender coconut water and other coconut products like spray-dried coconut powder, desiccated coconut, coconut vinegar etc.

The Kerala Agricultural University has developed and standardized a technology for the preservation of Neera (Unfermented inflorescence sap), besides the production of palm sugar and honey etc. The GOI has already sanctioned a project for setting up of a Pilot Plant for packaging and preservation of NEERA by the Kerala Agricultural University with financial assistance of Rs. 28.80 lakhs under Technology Mission on Coconut.

Supply of Levy Sugar

3564. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of levy sugar for distribution under Public Distribution System in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether levy sugar is being supplied as per requirement; and

(c) if not, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) With effect from 01.02.2001, the levy

sugar allocations are being made on the basis of projected population as on 01.03.2000, and 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. A statement showing monthly levy sugar quota and annual festival quota for the States/UTs (w.e.f. 01.02.2001) is enclosed. However, since the levy percentage has been reduced to 10% of the domestic production, the availability of sugar for levy allocation varies depending upon the levels of domestic production. Therefore, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the levy quota to each State/U.T.

Statement

Monthly Levy Sugar Quota for the States/UTs (w.e.f. 1.2.2001)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Monthly Levy quota (MTs)	Annual Festival quota* (MTs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9690	7614
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	389	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	834	94
4.	Assam	18337	2896
5.	Bihar	20516	10078
6.	Jharkhand	6948	—
7.	Chandigarh	62	112
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48	14
9.	Delhi	2610	2316
10.	Goa	120	150
11.	Daman and Diu	11	12
12.	Gujarat	5841	4878
13.	Haryana	2485	1924
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4698	608
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6962	868
16.	Karnataka	8636	5350
17.	Kerala	4103	3600

1	2	3	4
18.	Lakshadweep	115	22
19.	Madhya Pradesh	12441	7536
20.	Chhattisgarh	4512	—
21.	Maharashtra	16792	9014
22.	Manipur	1763	208
23.	Meghalaya	1704	200
24.	Mizoram	666	78
25.	Nagaland	1179	128
26.	Orissa	8707	3730
27.	Pondicherry	243	88
28.	Punjab	1385	2392
29.	Rajasthan	7342	5092
30.	Sikkim	391	50
31.	Tamil Nadu	10820	6790
32.	Tripura	2647	302
33.	Uttar Pradesh	33013	15936
34.	Uttaranchal	6033	—
35.	West Bengal	14087	7796
Total		216130	99950

*Note: As a policy decision Government have doubled the Festival Quota for the Calendar Year—2001 & 2002 to meet the requirement of sugar for various festivals.

Release of Water from Uttar Pradesh to Sonia Vihar Plant

3565. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any demand from the Government of Delhi to help in release of water from Uttar Pradesh for Sonia Vihar Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the Government of Uttar Pradesh to reconsider its decision

for the supply of water to the plant as appeared in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated March 23, 2006;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has refused to supply water to this plant, till 2009;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has the details of all such States which have refused to provide water to other States; and

(g) if so, the number of such States and the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request dated 03.02.2006 was received for urgent intervention to persuade Uttar Pradesh to soon release water to Delhi for its Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant in keeping with the top priority to drinking water as per National Water Policy.

(c) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was requested vide a letter dated 07.03.2006 to consider the release of water for Sonia Vihar plant. Further, that if U.P. cannot release 300 cusecs of water due to general decrease in water flows, as a temporary measure, it could consider releasing at least 200 cusecs till the normal supply was possible due to increase in flow receipts in river system.

(d) and (e) Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation and Food Control, Uttar Pradesh vide his letter dated 19.4.2006 has stated that 300 cusecs of water for Delhi, 200 cusecs of drinking water for U.P. and 3500 cusecs of water for Irrigation purposes in U.P. was earmarked from Tehri Dam. Further, as the dam was still under impounding stage there was a reduction in water in Bhagirathi river which had adversely affected the irrigation in Uttar Pradesh. He has also stated that in these circumstances even the supply of 200 cusecs of water to Sonia Vihar Plant would be possible after getting extra water from Tehri Dam.

(f) and (g) Though various States have been raising water disputes from time to time, Acts enacted by some State Governments amounting to conditional refusal to supply of water to other States are as follows:

Government of Kerala has informed that due to shortage of water in Neyyar reservoir and also due to

enactment of the "Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003" it has stopped supply of irrigation water to Tamil Nadu since 2004. The Act mentions that "No water from the water course in State shall be distributed to any other State or Union Territory (UT), except in accordance with the agreement between the State Government or UT in terms of a resolution to that effect passed by the Legislative Assembly of the State". According to the Government of Kerala, the matter is before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court based on a writ Petition filed on behalf of Tamil Nadu farmers and is sub judice.

By the "Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004", all agreements relating to Ravi Beas waters including the agreement dated 31.12.1981 signed by the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, shall be deemed to have been terminated with effect from the respective date, they were executed or made, as the case may be. The Act however, provides that "all existing and actual utilizations through the existing systems shall remain protected and unaffected". A Presidential Reference on the above Act by Government of Punjab has been made and is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Cases against F.C.I. Officials

3566. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether irregularities involving crores of rupees have been detected in Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cases have been filed against the guilty officers of FCI during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the current status of such cases alongwith the dates since when such cases have been pending;
- (f) the steps taken to ensure speedy disposal of such cases; and

(g) the remedial measures proposed to be taken to check corruption in FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the irregularities committed by the officers/officials of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years including the current year (as on 31.3.2006) are in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Cases filed against the guilty officers/officials, pending for finalization, are as under:

Category	No. of Cases
I	15
II	718
III	1396
IV	43
Total	2172

(e) Out of the total pending cases on date, 99% cases are pending in the Zonal and Regional Offices of the FCI and 85% cases are less than one year old.

(f) The progress of disposal of vigilance cases is being reviewed on monthly basis in the Monthly Performance Review Meeting held in the FCI. Besides this, the cases are also being reviewed by the Ministry and as well as the Central Vigilance Commission.

(g) As remedial measure to check corruption in the FCI, regular and surprise checks are carried out by the Headquarters, Zonal, Regional Vigilance Squads including Operating Divisions. During the last three years more than 13,500 regular and surprise checks have been carried out in the FCI.

Statement

Irregularities committed by the officers/officials of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years including the current year

Sl.No.	Nature of Irregularity	2003	2004	2005	2006 (as on 31.3.2006)
1.	Acceptance of illegal gratification disproportionate assets	9	8	4	9
2.	Defalcation of accounts/Misappropriation	13	18	34	30
3.	Misappropriation of dead stocks/construction of godown	13	15	13	13
4.	Purchase of substandard stock	729	480	1026	1052
5.	Award of H&T contract	6	12	12	11
6.	Administrative Lapses/Miscellaneous	866	583	901	139
7.	Transit/Storage losses	206	103	155	918
	Total	1842	1219	2145	2172

[English]

Availability of Credit of Farmers

3567. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the problems reportedly being faced by farmers in marketing their produce at remunerative prices;

(b) the extent of credit available to farmers along with the rates of interests being charged;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy and provide adequate low interest credit to farmers to ease the situation by enabling them to fetch attractive returns as incentive for greater output; 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 prices of agricultural commodities are generally decided by demand and supply and the Minimum Support Prices declared by the Government for various commodities from time to time. In view of the regulation of the marketing of agricultural commodities by the State Governments under provisions of State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulations) Acts, the present markets have acquired the status of restrictive and the monopolistic character providing no help in direct and free marketing. This has also restricted the processing industry from buying directly from the farmers. Since the produce under the provisions of the Acts is required to be canalized through licensed traders and regulated markets the farmer is restrained from entering into direct contract for selling his produce directly to any food processing industry. These restrictions are acting as disincentive to farmers, trade and industry. Other problems faced by the farmers in marketing their produce at remunerative prices are lack of appropriate infrastructure for grading, packing, storage including cold storage facilities, transportation, marketing intelligence etc., multiple intermediaries and low price realization from the ultimate retail prices.

(b) to (d) Under the deregulated interest regime, Commercial Banks are free to determine their lending rate. However, as a special dispensation to the farm sector, since July 2003, all Public Sector Commercial banks have revised interest rate on crop loans upto Rs. 50,000/- to 9.0% or less.

In the Union Budget for the year 2006-07, it has been announced that effective from Kharif 2006-07, farmers would receive crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest and the Government of India would provide necessary interest subvention to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for this purpose. Further, in order to provide relief to the farmers who have availed of crop loans from Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and PACS for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's interest liability on principal amount upto Rs. one Lakh has been credited to his/her bank account before 31st March, 2006. Government have provided a sum of Rs. 1,700 crore for this purpose in the Union Budget for the year 2006-07.

Water Resources Development Projects

3568. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States particularly Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted any Water Resources Development Projects to the Union Government for approval and foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the schemes proposed for Tenth Plan to assist water scarcity in the States;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide special package to the States particularly the Government of Uttar Pradesh in view of the increasing problem of water scarcity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) State Governments submit project proposals for foreign assistance from time to time. The details of projects being implemented by various State Governments including those by Government of Uttar Pradesh with external assistance are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has no proposal for any special package for States. However, Central assistance is provided to State Governments under the 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme' and 'Command Area Development Programme' as and when such proposals are received from the State Governments. So far, 16 projects of Uttar Pradesh have been provided assistance under the 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme' to the tune of Rs. 2097.42 crore. Under the Command Area Development Programme, an amount of Rs. 124.83 crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh for implementation of 15 schemes during the Tenth Plan.

Statement

WORLD BANK

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Type of Assistance	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31.3.2006 Million US\$/SDR (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project CR. 3635-IN	06.06.2002 31.1.2009	SDR 80 Revised SDR 63.420	Credit	SDR 19.595 Rs. 128.094

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN 4750-IN	<u>30.11.2004</u> 31.3.2011	US\$ 394.020	Loan	US\$ 22.436 Rs. 98.162
3.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	<u>15.3.2002</u> 31.3.2008	SDR 100.02	Credit	SDR 38.686 Rs. 251.699
4.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	<u>08.3.2002</u> 31.10.2007	SDR 90.471	Credit	SDR 20.061 Rs. 130.364
5.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project- LN 4796-IN	<u>19.8.2005</u> 31.03.2012	US\$ 325	Loan	US\$ 31.693 Rs. 143.206
6.	Multi-State*	Hydrology Project-II	<u>19.1.2006</u> 31.1.2012	US\$ 104.98	Loan	

**BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
(JBIC JAPAN-LOAN)**

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Yen	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31.3.2006 Million Yen (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernization of Kumool-Cuddapah Canal	<u>25.1.1996</u> <u>26.2.2005</u>	(Tranche-I) 16049	15728.655 Rs. 670.679
			<u>31.3.2004</u> <u>22.3.2009</u>	(Tranche-II) 4773	1661.380 Rs. 65.508
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	<u>25.02.1997</u> <u>31.12.2005</u>	13222	10938.130 Rs. 428.307

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	<u>12.12.1997</u> 4.1.2005 <u>31.3.2004</u> 31.12.2009	(Tranche-I) 6844.227 (Tranche-II) 6342	6844.227 895.961 Rs. 35.445
10.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project	<u>31.3.2005</u> 31.3.2013	11555	0.00
German-Loan					
11.	Maharashtra	Minor Irrigation Project	<u>31.12.1998</u> <u>30.12.2006</u>	EURO 23.008	EURO 5.327 Rs. 27.071
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Minor Irrigation & Rural Water Supply Project	<u>31.10.2002</u> 31.12.2005	EURO 2.659	EURO 0.00

*Participating States are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Pondicherry and Punjab. In addition, central agencies namely Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, National Institute of Hydrology, Central Water and Power Research Station, India Meteorological Department, Central Pollution Control Board and Bhakra Beas Management Board are also participating.

Forest Cover

3569. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total area of Sikkim which is under forest cover;

(b) whether during the past few months, wild fires have ravaged large areas of grassland in the North District and the army had to be called in to assist; and

(c) if so, the measures that have been taken to prevent the fires from spreading to the reserved forest areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the State of Forest Report, 2003, 45.97% of the area is under forest cover.

(b) Wild fires had broken out in some rocky cliff grassland areas of North Sikkim in the month of January-February, 2006. Assistance of the Army, Border Roads Organization, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Sikkim Police, Sikkim Fire Service, Joint Forest Management Committees and public was obtained in order to control the fires from spreading into other forested areas.

(c) The following measures had been taken to prevent the fires from spreading to Reserve Forest areas:

- (i) Fire lines have been created.
- (ii) Deployment of Fire Brigade and man power to control fires.
- (iii) Intensification of patrolling in fire prone areas.

Setting up of Joint Venture in Fertilizer for Global Operation

3570. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether Public Sector Fertilizer Companies are planning to set up joint venture for global operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) The public sector Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) and National Fertilisers Ltd. (NFL) companies in the fertilizer sector and the Multi-State cooperative society KRIBHCO which are under the Department of Fertilizers are exploring the possibility of setting up commercially viable projects especially in the areas of manufacture of nitrogenous/phosphatic fertilizers in countries with rich availability of raw material. However, no substantive proposal has fructified till date.

Sub-Committee on Road Transport Industry

3571. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tripartite Sub-Committee on Road Transport Industry has submitted its report/recommendations to the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations, *inter-alia*, include extension of social security benefits to the unorganized transport sector workers, provision of training to transport workers, certain amendments to the Motor Transport Workers Act and improvement in the state of affairs of State Transport Undertakings.

(c) The Report is being sent to all concerned for appropriate action.

Forest Training Institute

3572. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for advancement of Forest Training Institute and Forest Research Institute in Gujarat has been received by the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any scheme whereunder financial assistance can be provided for strengthening of forest training or forest research institutes in States.

Export of Sugar

3573. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) the total quantum of sugar proposed to be exported during 2006-07;

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation has sought permission from the Government for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to explore new markets for sugar exports; and

(e) the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government has not, so far, made any decision regarding the quantum of sugar proposed to be exported during 2006-07 sugar season.

(b) and (c) A request has been received from the State Trading Corporation for special allocation of 3.00 lakhs MTs of sugar for export.

(d) and (e) The Central Government does not undertake export of sugar. Sugar exports are undertaken by export houses/sugar factories as per their commercial prudence.

Deficit in EPF Account

3574. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the rate of interest paid on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether there is huge deficit in the EPF account;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to neutralize the deficit in EPF account and to protect the welfare of the workers covered under EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The details are given below:

Year	Rate of interest on EPF
2003-04	9.5%
2004-05	9.5%
2005-06	8.5%

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The rate of interest to be credited on Employees' Provident Fund Accounts in any particular year is determined in such a manner that there should be no overdrawal on the Interest Suspense Account as a result of debit thereto of the interest credited to members' accounts.

[Translation]

DMS Booths

3575. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) booths functioning in the Delhi at present, location-wise;
- (b) whether such booths are located in the slum areas also;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to set up such booths in such areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) There are 1643 outlets of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) including sale points of Distributors at present. A list of such outlets is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. Out of 1643 outlets including sale points of Distributors, 168 outlets are operating in slum areas.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement*The Number of DMS Outlets with Location*

Sl.No.	Location/area	Number of Outlets
1	2	3
1.	Ashok Vihar	19
2.	Patel Nagar	44
3.	Kirti Nagar	20
4.	Indra Puri	12
5.	Moti Nagar	14
6.	Old Rajinder Nagar	19
7.	W.E.A. Area	19
8.	Tagore Garden	38
9.	Karam Pura	17
10.	Dev Nagar	16
11.	Gole Market	54
12.	Naraina	32
13.	Hari Nagar	17
14.	Paharganj	29
15.	Azad Market	18
16.	Model Town	17
17.	Shakti Nagar	16

1	2	3
18.	Darya Ganj	20
19.	Janakpuri	58
20.	R.K. Puram	66
21.	Sarojini Nagar	67
22.	Lajpat Nagar	63
23.	Sadik Nagar	17
24.	Greater Kailash	28
25.	Sultan Puri	12
26.	Badarpur	11
27.	Yamuna Vihar	17
28.	Malviya Nagar	20
29.	Pitam Pura	16
30.	Lok Vihar	17
31.	Mohan Garden	11
32.	Paschim Vihar	17
33.	Minto Road	21
34.	Laxmi Nagar	17
35.	Lodhi Colony	39
36.	Hauz Khas	37
37.	Lawrence Road	17
38.	Mangla Puri	27
39.	Dilshad Garden	35
40.	Malka Ganj	17
41.	Kailash Nagar	14
42.	Timar Pur	38
43.	Tilak Nagar	42
44.	Moti Bagh	18
45.	Madangiri	14
46.	Madhu Vihar	7

1	2	3
47.	Jangpura	19
48.	Kalkaji	37
49.	Geeta Colony	32
50.	Gurgaon	1
51.	Faridabad	1
52.	Najafgarh	3
53.	Sangam Vihar	18
54.	Geeta Colony	1
55.	Noida	19
56.	Dwarka	18
57.	Rohini	42
58.	Mayur Vihar	12
59.	Sangam Vihar	2
60.	Saurabh Vihar	4
61.	Jait Pur	1
62.	Hari Nagar	1
63.	Meetha Pur	1
64.	Moolar Bandh	1
65.	Hari Nagar Pkt II	1
66.	Ganjanpur JJ Colony	1
67.	Ali Gaon	1
68.	Sanjay Colony J.J. Colony	1
69.	Bhati Mines (Sanjay Colony)	1
70.	Mahipal Pur (Rangpuri)	1
71.	East Mehram Nagar	1
72.	Bijwasan JJ Colony	3
73.	Bharthal	1
74.	Pochanpur	1
75.	Dwarka JJ Colony	1

1	2	3
76.	Palam	2
77.	Sadh Nagar	1
78.	Indra Park	1
79.	Shahbad	1
80.	Madhu Vihar	1
81.	West Sagarpur	4
82.	West Sagarpur	1
83.	Mohan Garden	2
84.	Dharampura Extn.	2
85.	Kutub Vihar	1
86.	Vijay Vihar	2
87.	Jai Vihar	1
88.	Tilang Pur	1
89.	Kakrola JJ Colony	2
90.	Nagli	1
91.	Amar Colony	1
92.	K. Singh Nagar	1
93.	Shiv Ram Park	1
94.	Adhyapak Nagar	2
95.	JJ Colony Part II (Mangla Puri)	1
96.	Tilangpur Kotia	1
97.	Prem Nagar Part-I	2
98.	Tilangpur Part II	2
99.	Tilangpur Part III	5
100.	Hari Das Nagar	1
101.	Swam Park Mundka	2
102.	Nihal Vihar	4
103.	Indu Enclave	2
104.	Mubarakpur Agar Nagar	3

1	2	3
105.	Agar Nagar	3
106.	Ghevora	1
107.	Nithani	2
108.	Amar Nagar	1
109.	Tikri Border	1
110.	Karan Vihar	2
111.	Pratap Vihar	2
112.	Bawana	3
113.	JJ Colony Bawana	2
114.	Dalmiya Pur	1
115.	Begampur	2
116.	Rajeev Vihar	1
117.	Barwala	1
118.	Pooth	1
119.	Sultanpur	1
120.	Sultan Puri	2
121.	Jahangir Puri	2
122.	Mangol Puri	24
123.	Narela	2
124.	JJ Colony Tikri Khurd	1
125.	Bhagaoh	1
126.	Budh Vihar	1
127.	Kalender Colony	1
128.	Swam Jayanti Park (JJ Colony)	3
129.	Ali Pur	1
130.	Samaipur Badli Area	3
131.	Yadav Nagar	3
132.	Khera Khurd	1
133.	Khera Kalan	1

1	2	3
134.	Sahabad Dawn	2
135.	Siraspur	2
136.	Ola Budali	1
137.	Metro Vihar (JJ Colony)	1
138.	Holambi Kalan	1
139.	Libaspur	1
140.	Rajeev Vihar	1
141.	Swaroop Nagar	2
142.	Sanjay Park	1
143.	Prehladpur	2
144.	Makoli	1
145.	Khampur	1
146.	Bakhtawar Pur	1
147.	Himanki	1
148.	Ibrahmpur	1
149.	Nathu Pur	2
150.	Mukandpur	3
151.	Sant Nagar	3
152.	Jharoda	1
153.	Komal Vihar	2
154.	Kadi Vihar	2
155.	Swaroop Vihar	1
156.	Satya Vihar	1
157.	Inder Puri JJ Colony	2
158.	Pandav Nagar	1
159.	Hastal Uttam Nagar	2
160.	Raghuvir Nagar	2
161.	Swami Nagar	1
162.	Govind Puri Extn	1

1	2	3
163.	Prem Nagar (Sewa Nagar)	1
164.	Hari Nagar	1
165.	Institutions	67
166.	Chankya Puri	2
Total		1643

Benefits of Wheat Import

3576. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of wheat from abroad is more beneficial than transporting the surplus stock from Punjab to deficit States as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated April 3, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the rationale behind importing wheat despite surplus availability in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The decision to import 5.0 lakh tonnes of wheat in February, 2006 was taken in view of rising prices of wheat especially in the Southern States. The cost of delivering imported wheat in South India was less than delivering surplus wheat from Punjab.

Further, the decision to import 30 lakh tonnes of wheat has been taken in April, 2006 for the following:

- (i) Stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.4.2006 was 20 lakh tonnes which was 20 lakh tonnes lower than the buffer norm of 40 lakh tonnes for 1st April;
- (ii) Need to build up adequate buffer stock to meet the commitment under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Welfare Schemes;
- (iii) Lower than normal production of wheat;
- (iv) Low level of procurement of wheat in the Central Pool.

Broadcasting of News in Different Languages

3577. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of languages in which the news broadcast by the News Services Division of All India Radio (AIR) as on date;

(b) whether the News Services Division of AIR broadcast news in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the norms for selection of languages for broadcasting by the New Services Division of AIR?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the News Services Division of All India Radio mounts over 360 news bulletins daily in 81 languages/dialects (India and foreign). Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The criterion primarily is to inform the masses. The selection of language depends upon the number of listeners of the language/dialect, availability of infrastructure facilities, manpower and funds etc.

Statement***List of languages/dialects used in news bulletins in Home, Regional and External Services***

1. Adi
2. Angami
3. Ao
4. Apatani
5. Arabic
6. Arunachali
7. Assamese
8. Balti
9. Baluchi
10. Bengali
11. Bodo
12. Burmese
13. Chakhesang
14. Chang
15. Chinese
16. Dari
17. Dimasa
18. Dogri
19. English
20. French
21. Garo
22. Gojri
23. Gujarati
24. Hindi
25. Hmar
26. Idu
27. Indonesia
28. Jaintia
29. Kabui
30. Kannada
31. Karbi
32. Kashmiri
33. Khampti
34. Khasi
35. Khamnugan
36. Kokborok
37. Konkani
38. Konyak

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 39. Kuki | 70. Tagin |
| 40. Ladakhi | 71. Tamil |
| 41. Lepcha | 72. Tangkhul |
| 42. Lotha | 73. Tangsa |
| 43. Mahal | 74. Telugu |
| 44. Malayalam | 75. Thadau |
| 45. Manipuri | 76. Thai |
| 46. Mao | 77. Tibetan |
| 47. Marathi | 78. Urdu |
| 48. Maithili | 79. Wancho |
| 49. Mizo | 80. Yimchungru |
| 50. Miju Mishmi | 81. Zeliang |
| 51. Nagamese | |

[English]

**Setting up of National Fisheries
Development Board**

3578. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken final decision for setting up of National Fisheries Development Board for overall development of this sector particularly inland fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the location and the time by which it is likely to be set up;

(c) the extent of poaching in our waters by foreign trawlers; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to control this menace?

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) The proposal to set up a National Fisheries Development Board to bring major activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture for focused attention and professional management has been considered and endorsed by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC).

52. Nepali
53. Nocte
54. Nishi
55. Oriya
56. Paite
57. Persian
58. Phom
59. Punjabi
60. Pushtu
61. Rajasthani
62. Rengma
63. Russian
64. Sangtam
65. Sanskrit
66. Sema
67. Sindhi
68. Sinhala
69. Swahili

After approval of the proposal by the Cabinet, other details including location would be finalized.

(c) and (d) Although a total of 79 fishing vessels and 596 fishermen were apprehended during the last 3 years for poaching in our waters, there has been considerable drop in the cases of poaching by the foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters mainly on account of enhanced patrolling by Coast Guard Units. The Coast Guard ships and air craft maintain regular surveillance in vulnerable areas frequented by the poachers.

[Translation]

Revision of Minimum Support Price

3579. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the rate of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the crops to relieve the farmers of the country from debt trap;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to relieve the farmers already burdened with loans?

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 announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif and Rabi crops each year. The MSPs for Kharif crops of 2005-06 season were announced in April, 2005 while the MSPs for rabi crops of 2005-06 season to be marketed in 2006-07 were announced in September, 2005. The Government has no proposal to revise the MSPs already announced. However, the Government has declared an incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal for the wheat procured upto 30th June 2006, during the current rabi marketing season.

(c) The credit policy announced by the Government in June, 2004 envisages doubling the agriculture credit flow in the next three years apart from providing debt relief to the farmers by rescheduling their loans; Special

One Time Settlement scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers; Allowing banks to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private moneylenders; Refinements in Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and fixation of scale of finance.

Further, in the Union Budget for the year 2006-07, it has been announced that effective from Kharif 2006-07, farmers would receive crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest and the Government of India would provide necessary interest subvention to NABARD for this purpose. Further, in order to provide relief to the farmers who have availed of crop loans from Commercial Banks, RRBs and PACS for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's interest liability on principal amount upto Rs. One lakh has been credited to his/her bank account before 31st March, 2006. The Government have provided a sum of Rs. 1700 crore for this purpose in the Union Budget for the year 2006-07.

[English]

Wheat for Food for Work Programme

3580. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved issuing of special securities to the tune of Rs. 16,000 crore to Food Corporation of India in lieu of the wheat supplied by it to the Ministry of Rural Development under the Food for Work Programme;

(b) if so, whether there is sufficient stock of wheat for allocation to the States for distribution under the Food for Work Programme; and

(c) if so, the total quantum of wheat supplied so far during the current year under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government has decided to issue Special Securities to the extent of Rs. 16,200 crore towards the partial settlement of the outstanding dues of the Food Corporation of India till 30.4.2005 in respect of foodgrains supplied to the Ministry of Rural Development for

distribution under Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Special Component of SGRY and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP).

(b) and (c) Till date no allocations of foodgrains have been finalized for the current year 2006-07 under SGRY and NFFWP. Under Special Component of SGRY for the current year, a quantity of 2.0 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been authorized to be allocated.

[*Translation*]

Hazardous Chemical Industries

3581. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the chemical industries in the country categorized into hazardous industries from the pollution point of view during the last three years;

(b) the details of the locations, status of pollution, pollutant gases and liquids of said industries, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has banned the establishment of some hazardous industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of such industries;

(e) the details of the State Governments which have permitted the establishment and operation of such industries after the ban; and

(f) 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) and (b) Under the identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries, 2678 industries have been identified as highly polluting units. The Statement showing State-wise number of industries and the pollution control compliance status is enclosed. Out of 2678 units, 2044 units have provided requisite pollution control facilities and 335 units are closed. The remaining 299 units are identified as defaulters and actions are taken for ensuring compliance in these units.

(c) As per information of Central Pollution Control Board, no ban has been imposed on establishing of industries. However, attention is given on siting of industries so that associated pollution problem could be checked.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Highly Polluting Industries (17 Categories)

Summary of Status as on March 2006

Sl.No.	State	Total	Complying	Defaulting	Closed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	367	243	90	34
2.	Assam	16	7	4	5
3.	Bihar	46	27	0	19
4.	Chhattisgarh	25	21	2	2
5.	Goa	8	8	0	0
6.	Gujarat	283	273	0	10
7.	Haryana	130	81	27	22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11	11	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	7	0	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jharkhand	21	10	5	6
11.	Karnataka	151	100	5	46
12.	Kerala	43	21	7	15
13.	Madhya Pradesh	78	61	2	15
14.	Maharashtra	617	509	34	74
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	0	0
16.	Orissa	51	41	8	2
17.	Punjab	97	53	27	17
18.	Rajasthan	108	96	4	8
19.	Sikkim	1	1	0	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	218	177	38	3
21.	Tripura	10	10	0	0
22.	Uttaranchal	36	18	16	2
23.	Uttar Pradesh	263	232	4	27
24.	West Bengal	73	30	23	20
25.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	1
26.	Delhi	5	2	3	0
27.	Pondicherry	8	4	0	4
Total		2678	2044	299	335

Recommendations of Alagh Committee

3582. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendations of Alagh Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which said recommendations and new fertilizer policy are likely to be implemented?

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) Formulation of a policy for Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme for urea units commencing from 1.4.2006 keeping in view the recommendations of the Working Group headed by Dr. Y.K. Alagh is under process of the Government.

Establishment of LPT/HPT/VLPT in States

3583. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the details of targets set for providing AIR/ coordarshan coverage during Tenth Five Year Plan and achievements made as on March 31, 2006, State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed for establishment of LPT, HPT and VLPT during Tenth Five Year Plan in various States and achievements made as on March 31, 2006, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the new Doordarshan Kendra and AIR stations proposed to be set up during the remaining

period of Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The details of the targets set, including the targets fixed for establishment of VLPTs/LPTs and HPTs, and achievements made as on 31st March, 2006 for providing A.I.R./Doordarshan coverage during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, for the whole of the country are as under:-

A.I.R. National Coverage Targets and Achievements

National Coverage	Coverage targeted under the Tenth Plan		Coverage existing as on 1.3.2006	
	By % area	By % population	By % Area	By % population
A.I.R. Signals				
Medium Wave and Frequency Modulation (combined)	92.92	99.49	91.42	99.13
F.M. only	36.25	49.75	23.79	34.52

[Note:- In respect of Maharashtra, the A.I.R. coverage is presently 98.67% (area) and 98.99% (population). For Orissa, the coverage of A.I.R. by area is currently 98.27% and by population 99% while the coverage in respect of U.P. is 99.9% (both in terms of area as well as population)]

Targets and Achievement for Doordarshan under the Tenth Five Year Plan

Targets fixed during the 10th Plan	Achievements as on 1.3.2006
(i) Launch of Free-to-air DTH Service	Free-to-air DTH Service launched
(ii) DD1 HPTs at 21 places	HPTs at 9 places have been completed
(iii) DD New HPTs at 26 places	HPTs at 23 places have been commissioned
(iv) LPTs/VLPTs at 89 places	LPTs/VLPTs at 89 places have been commissioned.

(c) The details of the new A.I.R. stations and Doordarshan Kendras proposed to be set up during the

remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan along with their locations are given below:-

Name of the Place/State	Capacity in kilowatts
1	2
(i) A.I.R.	
1. Amravati (Maharashtra)	5
2. Balurghat (W.B.)	10

1	2
3. Dharmnagar (Tripura)	1
4. Junagarh (Gujarat)	10
5. Longtherai (Tripura)	5
6. Oras (Maharashtra)	5
7. Rairangpur (Orissa)	5
(ii) Doordarshan Kendras:	Remarks
1. Studio at Calicut (Kerala)	Technically ready. To be commissioned
2. Studio at Rajouri (J&K)	-do-
3. Studio at Tirupati (A.P.)	Recently approved scheme and the lead time in implementation is about three years

In addition, the A.I.R. stations at Churanchandpur (Manipur), Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu), Diskit and Drass (J&K), Macheria (A.P.), Nayomarap (J&K), Padium (J&K), Soro (Orissa) and Tiesuru (J&K) are technically ready for commissioning.

Besides, the number of TV transmitters targeted/set up and commissioned as part of the Tenth Plan in the various States are as in the Table hereunder:-

Name of the State	No. of transmitters
1	2
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2 VLPTs.
2. Andhra Pradesh	2 VLPTS, 6 LPTs, besides two HPTs.
3. Arunachal Pradesh	1 HPT
4. Assam	1 LPT
5. Bihar	2 VLPTs, 3 LPTs. and 1 HPT
6. Chhattisgarh	One each VLPT/LPT/HPT
7. Gujarat	3 each LPTs and HPTs.
8. Haryana	3 each LPTs. and HPTs.
9. Himachal Pradesh	3 VLPTs. and two HPTs.
10. Jammu & Kashmir	21 VLPTs/3 LPTs/7 HPTs.
11. Jharkhand	1 each LPT and VLPT.
12. Karnataka	3 VLPTs, 2 LPT and 4 HPTs.

	1	2
13.	Kerala	2 VLPTs/1 LPT/1 HPT
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2 HPTs.
15.	Maharashtra	1 VLPT/10 LPTs./2 HPTs.
16.	Manipur	1 HPT
17.	Meghalaya	1 each LPT and HPT
18.	Mizoram	1 HPT
19.	Nagaland	1 HPT
20.	Orissa	1 LPT
21.	Punjab	1 HPT
22.	Rajasthan	2 LPTs/3 HPTs.
23.	Sikkim	1 each VLPT and HPT
24.	Tamil Nadu	2 VLPTs/4 LPTs/3HPTs.
25.	Tripura	1 LPT
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3 HPTs.
27.	Uttaranchal	4 VLPTs./1 LPT
28.	West Bengal	2 HPTs.

As may be seen, most of the targets set for Doordarshan have been achieved. Similarly, A.I.R. has also achieved the targets to a considerable extent save the case of F.M. Radio expansion. However, the targets achieved are correlated and interdependent upon the sanction of the projects and allocation of resources. Many projects are at different stages of implementation and all-out efforts are being made for sticking to the schedule of their completion by 31st March, 2007.

Expenditure on Foreign Tours

3584. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the foreign tours of the officers of the undertakings and corporations under the Ministry during the last two years, undertaking and corporation-wise;

(b) the purpose of such foreign tours;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to check such foreign tours; and

(d) the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The expenditure incurred on foreign tours of the officers of the undertakings and corporations under the Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Food and Public Distribution during the last two years, undertaking and corporation-wise, is given below:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of Undertaking/Corporation	Expenditure incurred	
	2004-05	2005-06
Food Corporation of India	7.51	32.72
Central Warehousing Corporation	9.01	6.66
Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	—	—

(b) The foreign tours of the officers of above undertakings and corporations were undertaken only in exceptional cases in the interest of the Organisation and on account of multilateral requirements to participate in international conferences of FAO, AFMA, International Grain Council, World Rice Conference, Global compact Leaders Summit of the UN, International Conferences on "Controlled Atmosphere & Fumigation in stored products", International Conferences on Urban Pests etc.

Certain Officers were sent for foreign training programmes to equip themselves with necessary skills/knowledge required by the Organisation in view of the changing global scenario in food & agricultural Sector.

Some foreign tours were undertaken as a field visit which was an intrinsic component of the training programme conducted in India.

(c) and (d) The foreign tours were allowed only in exceptional cases and where it was absolutely necessary.

[English]

Act for Digging of Tube Wells and Mechanized Wells

3585. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lopsided increase in ground water for irrigation has created ecological imbalance in the past many years;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact the Act for introducing license system for digging of deep tube wells and mechanized wells; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the years 1995-2004, indicates decline in ground water levels in

some parts of various States/Union Territories in the country. The main reasons for decline in ground water level are rapid pace of urbanization, increasing demand for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes, change in cropping pattern, excessive withdrawals of ground water, poor rainfall etc. The over-exploitation of ground water at certain places has also led to increased salinity in ground water due to upcoming of saline water in the inland areas and due to sea water ingress in coastal areas.

(b) and (c) 'Water' being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulating the drawal of ground water has to be enacted by the State Governments/Union Territories. The Central Government has, however, circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water to all State Governments/Union Territories in 1970 and re-circulated it in 1992, 1996 and again in 2005 for adoption. So far, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted and implemented the ground water legislation. Many other States/UTs are also in the process of enacting the legislation in this regard.

[Translation]

Profit of NMDC

3586. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the National Mineral Development Corporation during the last three years, State-wise, mineral-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to shift the headquarters of the Corporation to Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The profit earned by the National Mineral Development Corporation during the last three years, State-wise, mineral-wise and project-wise is as under:

PROFIT BEFORE TAX (PBT)

(Rs. in crores)

State	Project/mineral	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Provn. 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
A.	Chhattisgarh			
	Bailadila-14	216.43	419.56	803.25
	Bailadila-5, 10/11a	299.20	509.24	1138.66
	Sub-total (A)	515.63	928.80	1941.91

	1	2	3	4	5
B. Karnataka		Donimalai	103.94	272.80	548.36
		Total iron ore (A+B)	619.57	1201.60	2490.27
C. Madhya Pradesh		Diamond mining, Panna	3.15	-1.16	-4.32
D. Others		Silica sand project, UPFO & others	-6.70	23.21	36.90
E. Grand Total		(A+B+C+D)	616.02	1223.65	2522.85

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Utilisation of Budget

3587. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry could not utilize the major part of budget allocation during 2005-06;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure maximum utilization of budget allocation during 2006-07?

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) No, Sir. The Ministry utilized the major part of budget allocation during 2005-06. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The following measures, *inter alia*, have been taken to ensure maximum utilization of the budget allocation during 2006-07 also:

- (i) Quarterly financial allocation of funds have been made for each scheme in the Department of Consumer Affairs for ensuring effective implementation. Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) has been introduced in the Department of Food and Public Distribution from the current financial year 2006-07.
- (ii) Regular review of expenditure will continue to be carried out by the Ministry.
- (iii) Monitoring of implementation of schemes will continue to be done regularly by the Ministry.

Statement

Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the financial year 2005-06 in respect of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

(Figures Rs. in crores)

Department		Budget Estimates 2005-06	Revised Estimates 2005-06	Actual Expenditure 2005-06	Percentage with reference to Revised Estimate
1		2	3	4	5
Department of Consumer Affairs	Plan	107.94	90.00	88.76	98.62
	Non-Plan	25.40	28.39	25.82	90.95
	Total	133.34	118.39	114.58	96.78

1	2	3	4	5	
Department of Food and Public Distribution	Plan	93.87	60.00	58.43	97.38
	Non-Plan	27055.44	23995.93	23592.91	98.32
	total	27149.31	24055.93	23651.34	98.32

Note: The figures in the above table are net of recoveries.

Foreign Assistance for Agriculture Sector

3588. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total foreign assistance received by the Government for agriculture sector and also that remained unutilized during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for non-utilization of such assistance;

(c) whether the Government has paid commitment charges for non-utilization of such assistance;

(d) if so, the details of commitment charges paid during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to utilize such foreign assistance as per the terms and conditions?

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

Special Labour Laws

3589. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to introduce special labour laws for economic zones, export oriented units, small scale units and rural industries separately;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to improve the labour laws so that these employment oriented units may compete with large units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy such as increasing production, productivity, employment etc. The required changes in the labour laws are accomplished by the Government after detailed consultation with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stake holders.

MoU to set up Steel Plants

3590. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during Tenth Plan between Government (both Central and State) and the private sector to set up steel plants in the country, date-wise;

(b) the State-wise details of the progress of the establishment of those steel plants;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cancel any of those MoUs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

FM Radio Stations

3591. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow private companies to set up FM radio stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the private companies permitted to set up FM radio stations alongwith the number of radio stations allotted to these companies;

(c) the details of the cities where these radio stations are proposed to be set up, State-wise; and

(d) the time schedule allowed to these companies for establishment of radio station?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1999, the government decided to allow private companies to set up FM radio stations in the country..

(b) The requisite details are at statement-I.

(c) The State-wise details are at statement-II.

(d) The successful bidders are required to complete various formalities within nine months from the date of issue of Letter of Intent (LOI), issued on different dates in January 2006 and February, 2006, and sign the Grant of Permission agreement (GOPA) with Government of India. The FM stations have to be operationalised within 12 months from the date of signing of agreement.

Statement I***Details of FM radio channels allocated to Private Companies***

Name of the Company	Number of channels allotted
1	2
Adlabs Films Ltd.	45
Ananda Offest Pvt. Ltd.	1
Asianet Communication Ltd.	2
BAG Infotainment Pvt. Ltd.	10
Century Communication Ltd.	9
Chinar Circuits Ltd.	2
Clear Media (India) Pvt. Ltd.	1
Eastern Media Limited	2
Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.	32
Gwalior Farms Pvt. Ltd.	1
HT Music & Entertainment Co. Pvt. Ltd.	4
Indigo Mass Communications Pvt. Ltd.	2
ITM Softwares & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.	1

1	2
Kal Radio Pvt. Ltd.	22
Kushal Global Ltd.	2
Malar Publications Pvt. Ltd.	7
Music Broadcast Pvt. Ltd.	20
Muthoot Finance Pvt. Ltd.	1
Neutral Publishing House Ltd.	2
Noble Broadcasting Corporation Pvt. Ltd.	1
PAN India Network Infravest Pvt. Ltd.	8
Positive Radio Pvt. Ltd.	4
Pudhari Publications Pvt. Ltd.	1
Purvy Broadcast Pvt. Ltd.	1
Radio Mid-Day West (India) Pvt. Ltd.	7
Radio Today Broadcasting Ltd.	7
Radio Today (Delhi)	1
Radio Today (Mumbai)	1
Radio Today (Kolkata)	1
Rajasthan Patrika Pvt. Ltd.	4
Rancka Fincom Pvt. Ltd.	1
Shri Puran Multimedia Ltd.	8
Singla Property Dealers Pvt. Ltd.	1
South Asia FM Pvt. Ltd.	23
Synergy Media Entertainment Ltd.	17
The Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Ltd.	4
The Malayala Manorama Co. Ltd.	4
Indian FM Pvt. Ltd.	1
Hitz FM Pvt. Ltd.	1
Total	262

Statement II*State/UT wise details of location of private FM Channels*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	City	No. of available Channels
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	4(1)
		Vijayawada	2
		Vishakapatnam	4(1)
		Rajamundri	2
		Tirupati	2
		Warangal	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	1
3.	Assam	Guwahati	4
4.	Bihar	Patna	1
		Muzzafarpur	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	2
		Raipur	4
6.	Goa	Panaji	3
7.	Gujarat	Surat	4
		Ahmedabad	5(1)
		Rajkot	3
		Vadodara	4
8.	Haryana	Hissar	4
		Karnal	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	1
		Jammu	1
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	4
		Jamshedpur	3
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	7(2)
		Gulbarga	2

1	2	3	4
		Mangalore	4
		Mysore	2
13.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	4
		Cochin	3
		Kozhikod	2
		Trissur	4
		Kannur	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	4
		Indore	4(1)
		Jabalpur	4
		Gwalior	4
15.	Maharashtra	Sholapur	2
		Mumbai	7(4)
		Pune	4(1)
		Nagpur	4
		Ahmednagar	3
		Dhule	1
		Jalgaon	3
		Kolhapur	2
		Nanded	2
		Nasik	2
		Sangali	1
		Akola	2
		Aurangabad	2
16.	Meghalaya	Shillong	2
17.	Mizoram	Aizwal	1
18.	Orissa	Rourkela	2
		Bhubneshwar/Cuttack	3
19.	Punjab	Amritsar	4
		Jalandhar	4
		Patiala	4

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	5(1)
		Ajmer	3
		Jodhpur	4
		Bikaner	1
		Kota	3
		Udaipur	3
21.	Sikkim	Gangtok	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	8(2)
		Tiruchy	2
		Tirunelveli	3(1)
		Tuticorin	3
		Coimbatore	4(1)
		Madurai	3
23.	Tripura	Agartala	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	3(1)
		Kanpur	3
		Agra	3
		Allahabad	3
		Varanasi	4
		Aligarh	1
		Bareilly	2
		Gorakhpur	1
		Jhansi	1
25.	West Bengal	Kolkata	9(4)
		Asansol	2
		Siliguri	2
26.	Delhi	Delhi	8(3)
27.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2
28.	Daman and Diu	Daman	1
29.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	3
	Total	87	262(24)

*Figures in bracket indicate number of channels already operational.

Prefixing of Unauthorised Title

3592. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the name 'India' or 'Indian' can be used as a prefix to the name of any institution only after proper authorization;

(b) if so, the number of academic institutions, commercial establishments and companies in the country using the same without authorization;

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

(d) the agency responsible for monitoring such violators;

(e) the action proposed to be taken against those held responsible for failure to check illegal use of the prefix;

(f) whether the Government proposes to make public the list of such violators; and

(g) if so, by when it is likely to be published?

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 use of the name 'India' or 'Indian' as a prefix is not expressly prohibited under the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. However, in order to prevent improper use of certain emblems and names for commercial and professional purposes, as specified in the Schedule of the Act, Section 3 of the Act requires the previous permission of the Central Government for using any name, which may suggest or be calculated to suggest the patronage of Government of India, State Governments and local authorities.

(b) Academic institutions, commercial establishments and companies etc. in the country approach the relevant registering authority in their respective States/Union Territories for registration. The Government considers only those proposals which are forwarded to it by various registering authorities for previous approval for use of certain names and emblems as specified in the Schedule of the Act.

(c) The Government has sent a letter to all the States/Union Territories to ensure the prevention of any misuse of names, which may suggest or be calculated to suggest the patronage of Government of India, State Governments and local authorities.

(d) Under the provisions of the Emblems & Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, no competent authority shall (i) register any company, firm or other body of persons which bears any name, or (ii) register a trade mark or design which bears any emblem or name, or (iii) grant a patent in respect of any invention which bears a title containing any emblem or name, if the use of such name or emblem is in contravention of Section 3 of the Act. In view of this, the responsibility for monitoring cases of unauthorised use of the name 'India' or 'Indian' primarily vests with the concerned registering authorities.

(e) Whenever specific cases of violation of the provisions of this Act have been brought to the notice of the Government, the Government has directed the concerned States to investigate the matter and take appropriate action under the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950.

(f) and (g) At present, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

District Committees of Consumer Protection Council

3593. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether district level committees of Consumer Protection Council have been set up in many States;

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

(c) the reasons for not setting up such committees of Consumer Protection Council in remaining States particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the time by which these committees are likely to be set up in all the 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) and

(b) As per information available in the Department, District Consumer Protection Councils (DCPCs) have been set up in the States/UTs as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The responsibility for establishing District Consumer Protection Councils at the district level rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations in terms of the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986. However, the Central Government has been impressing upon them including the Government of Maharashtra to set up District Consumer Protection Councils in all Districts.

Statement

Setting up of District Consumer Protection Councils (DCPCs) in the States/UTs

State/UT	Status Reported
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Constituted
Arunachal Pradesh	Constituted
Assam	Constituted
Bihar	Not Constituted
Chhattisgarh	Constituted in 10 districts (out of 16 districts)
Goa	Constituted
Gujarat	Constituted
Haryana	Not Constituted
Himachal Pradesh	Action initiated
Jharkhand	Action initiated
Karnataka	Constituted
Kerala	Not Constituted
Madhya Pradesh	Constituted
Maharashtra	Not Constituted
Manipur	Information not received

1	2
Meghalaya	Constituted
Mizoram	Not Constituted
Nagaland	Constituted
Orissa	Not Constituted
Punjab	Constituted
Rajasthan	Constituted
Sikkim	Constituted
Tamil Nadu	Constituted
Tripura	Action initiated
Uttar Pradesh	Constituted
Uttaranchal	Not Constituted
West Bengal	Constituted
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Constituted
Chandigarh Admn.	Constituted
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Constituted
Daman and Diu	Information not received
Delhi	Constituted
Lakshadweep	Constituted
Pondicherry	One State Level Consumer Protection Council is functioning. Recently, the Karaikal region is declared as separate District and action is being taken to set up a District Consumer Protection Council for Karaikal District.

[English]

Market Rate of Coconut

3594. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no authentic agency for announcing market rate of coconut, coconut oil, copra and oil cake;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to authorize the Coconut Development Board to do this with authenticity to benefit the peasant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The spot price of copra and coconut oil are being announced by the Cochin Oil Merchants' Association (COMA) from 1960. The Future Prices of Coconut Oil are announced by the National Multi-Commodity Exchange of India which is under the regulation of Forward Markets Commission.

(b) and (c) The prices are governed by market forces. The CDB will be authorized to intervene if deviation and manipulations of prices are noticed. Coconut Development Board, however, has initiated action to form a daily price monitoring committee for copra and coconut oil with representation from the Board, Cochin Oil Merchants' Association (COMA) KERAFFED, Copra Merchants' Association, State Agricultural Price Board and other related organizations. The daily price of copra and coconut oil is being collected from traders, merchants and manufacturers with a view to arrive at reliable weighted average price.

Production of Foodgrains

3595. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of foodgrains during the recent past have declined considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof crop-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has launched any special drive to increase the production of foodgrains during the Kharif season of the current year;

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

(e) whether the State Governments have been asked to boost production of foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table shows the production of foodgrains in the country from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Year	Foodgrains Production (Million Tonnes)
2001-02	212.85
2002-03	174.77
2003-04	213.19
2004-05	198.36
2005-06*	210.01

*3rd advance estimates.

The foodgrains production declined in 2002-03 because several regions/States were affected by drought. In 2003-04 good rainfall was received during the south-west monsoon and consequently there was a sharp increase in the agricultural production. During 2004-05, monsoon rainfall was deficient by 13% causing decrease in foodgrains production. In 2005-06, normal monsoon rainfall helped in increasing the foodgrains production. The crop-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) For increasing the production of cereals, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme for cropping system based areas (Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals) which has been subsumed under Macro

Management Programme since 04.10.2000 is implemented in different States of the country. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for demonstration on improved package of practices including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), distribution of quality seeds for improved varieties/hybrids, farm implements and water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system. Besides, frontier crop production and protection technologies and newly released promising varieties and hybrids are also popularized through front line demonstrations at farmers' fields under directly funded component of Macro Management Programme. In order to increase the production and productivity of pulses, a centrally sponsored scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided 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.

(e) and (f) The Central Government interacts with the States and Union Territories on a regular and institutionalized basis to assess their requirements and support them under various schemes/programmes. Zonal Inputs Conferences and National Conferences on Agriculture prior to the commencement of Kharif and Rabi seasons are also organized for this purpose. The Union Ministry of Agriculture has asked the State Governments to boost the production of foodgrains by way of area expansion and/or increasing productivity. The crop production strategy has been discussed with State Governments during the National Conference on Agriculture Campaign for Kharif held in February 2006 at New Delhi.

Statement

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Rice	93.34	71.82	88.53	83.13	89.88
Wheat	72.77	65.76	72.15	68.64	71.54
Jowar	7.56	7.01	6.68	7.24	7.64
Bajra	8.28	4.72	12.11	7.93	8.31
Maize	13.16	11.15	14.98	14.18	14.89
Ragi	2.37	1.32	1.97	2.43	2.16
Small Millets	0.58	0.46	0.56	0.48	0.39
Barley	1.42	1.41	1.30	1.20	1.28
Coarse Cereals	33.37	26.07	37.60	33.46	34.67
Tur	2.26	2.19	2.36	2.35	2.52
Other Kharif Pulses	2.58	1.96	3.81	2.37	2.49
Gram	5.47	4.24	5.72	5.47	5.85
Other Rabi Pulses	3.06	2.74	3.02	2.94	3.06
Total Pulses	13.37	11.13	14.91	13.13	13.92
Total Foodgrains	212.85	174.77	213.19	198.36	210.01

*3rd advance estimates.

*[Translation]***Target for National Watershed Development Scheme**

3596. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets have been fixed for implementation under the National Watershed Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the targets fixed during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the achievement made, State-wise;

(c) whether no official is held responsible even the event of achieving only minimum targets;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government to remove the shortcoming in implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a)

to (e) The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA) is commonly understood as National Watershed Development Scheme. As per the information available, the physical and financial targets proposed by the States for 10th Five Year Plan and the achievements of this target for the first four years of 10th Five Year Plan (2002-06) are given in the enclosed Statement, which is self-explanatory.

NWDPPRA is under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme in this Ministry. Under Macro Management, a Work Plan is prepared annually for several programmes including the above programme by the implementing States and approved by this Ministry every year. There is enough flexibility to the States for inter-scheme allocation of funds under the Macro Management to Agriculture Work Plans. Sometimes, because of this flexibility and other pressing priorities of the States, the required allocation is not given to this scheme under the Macro Management of Agriculture Work Plans and achievements of targets suffer accordingly.

State Governments are responsible for implementation of this programme and any administrative lapse or non-achievement of targets by individual officer is handled by the respective State Government. Government have already issued new guidelines known as "WARASA JANSABHAGITA Guidelines" to overcome the shortcomings and problems found in the implementation of the programme.

Statement

Targets proposed by States for Tenth Five Year Plan and Achievements made under NWDPPRA Programme

Fin-Financial (Rs. in lakh); Phy-Physical (Area in Hectare)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Tenth Plan Targets proposed by States/UTs (Strategic Plan)		Achievements from 2002-03 to 2005-06	
		Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3217.50	71500	1659.44	36674
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1350.00	22500	802.20	13410
3.	Assam	1394.13	31544	468.13	9821
4.	Bihar	1718.00	38168	286.45	6314

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Jharkhand	5326.65	121114	3939.30	70810
6.	Goa	1291.75	22721	501.17	8104
7.	Gujarat	10125.00	225000	3751.67	83345
8.	Haryana	850.00	19000	428.61	7687
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1108.86	20821	734.90	11108
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3330.00	63787	73.31	725
11.	Karnataka	13681.23	286250	6239.80	93756
12.	Kerala	4303.00	72533	1659.05	28237
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11100.00	246664	5019.96	155885
14.	Chhattisgarh	5797.41	130697	4287.53	81636
15.	Maharashtra	9813.95	203599	4546.33	94295
16.	Manipur	2167.50	39500	1336.20	24347
17.	Mizoram	3600.00	60000	2828.40	38472
18.	Meghalaya	2340.00	39000	1594.20	26571
19.	Nagaland	2910.00	50454	2061.00	25841
20.	Orissa	6211.15	138244	2244.99	51922
21.	Punjab	1462.74	25194	567.09	9356
22.	Rajasthan	24699.17	546580	14570.49	316668
23.	Sikkim	960.00	18302	759.93	11082
24.	Tamil Nadu	16987.50	377500	6659.81	147995
25.	Tripura	1767.00	29450	1135.52	18925
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8968.50	202875	5782.22	133042
27.	Uttaranchal	5435.01	90584	4240.36	68083
28.	West Bengal	1848.76	38796	1054.53	8900
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	237.23	3955	149.54	2499
Total		154002.04	3236332	79382.14	1585510

*[English]***Assistance for Production of Fruits and Vegetables**

3597. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the assistance provided by the Union Government under centrally sponsored schemes to each State for production of fruits and vegetables during the last three years and the current financial year, year-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): The Government of India provided assistance to the State Governments under comprehensive Macro Management Scheme for development of Agriculture including horticulture, which also included schemes on fruits and

vegetables, upto 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 programmes of horticulture in macro management Scheme subsumed with National Horticulture Mission. The National Horticulture Mission address the issues related to production and productivity of horticultural crops including fruit and vegetables and provide assistance for improving production of horticultural crops.

In the North East and Himalayan States of the country, the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East (TMNE), provides assistance for production of fruits and vegetables. The details of total assistance provided to different States under these Schemes are given in Statement-I, II and III enclosed.

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

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1370.57	1323.35	1168.90
2.	Bihar	0.00	747.39	500.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	95.00	103.00
4.	Goa	447.00	106.00	101.25
5.	Gujarat	621.61	383.33	591.00
6.	Haryana	131.00	277.00	300.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	537.22	483.53	0.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	277.77	505.83	91.81
9.	Karnataka	537.23	1500.55	1555.55
10.	Kerala	674.32	1059.75	2046.95
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2000.00	444.44	600.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Chhattisgarh	1315.00	425.00	384.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00	3890.00	2265.00
14.	Orissa	497.00	805.55	890.00
15.	Punjab	3810.00	180.00	180.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	775.00	684.41
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1890.00	916.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	500.00	675.00
19.	Uttaranchal	0.00	250.00	24.00
20.	West Bengal	583.33	511.00	450.00
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	261.10	0.00	0.00
22.	Assam	575.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	1802.08	0.00	0.00
25.	Meghalaya	50.00	2.50	0.00
26.	Nagaland	340.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Sikkim	227.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	440.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.15	11.75	0.00
31.	Delhi	79.00	37.70	30.00
32.	Lakshadweep	72.50	49.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.00	35.00	35.00
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55.12	124.27	9.50
Total		17235.00	16412.94	13601.37

Statement II*Financial Release Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) During financial year 2005-06*

States	Assistance for Production of Fruits (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1473.53
Bihar	316.50
Chhattisgarh	450.00
Goa	3.75
Gujarat	1155.00
Haryana	120.93
Jharkhand	592.50

1	2
Karnataka	393.75
Kerala	371.25
Madhya Pradesh	431.27
Maharashtra	3023.81
Orissa	1391.25
Punjab	160.88
Rajasthan	900.00
Tamil Nadu	721.97
Uttar Pradesh	1201.88
West Bengal	656.25
Total	13364.52

Statement III*Financial Release Under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE) for the Production of Horticultural Crops*

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arunachal Pradesh	1220.0	1645.6	1300.0
Assam	1400.0	871.0	1300.0
Manipur	638.0	1286.3	1500.0
Meghalaya	850.0	1395.99	1700.0
Mizoram	1089.0	1801.3	1800.0
Nagaland	1256.0	1467.3	1700.0
Sikkim	1000.0	1150.0	1800.0
Tripura	900.0	1111.3	1500.0
Jammu & Kashmir	650.0	1233.0	1550.0
Himachal Pradesh	650.0	1300.0	1100.0
Uttaranchal	564.7	975.0	1100.0

*[English]***Allocation of Wheat**

3598. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-take of wheat for the above poverty line card holders has been rising since November 2005 following the rise in prices of wheat in open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to allocate adequate quantity of wheat under the Public Distribution system to meet the increased off-take;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The trend of offtake of wheat month-wise & State-wise are shown in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes Sir, some States have requested for more allocation of wheat under Public Distribution System.

(d) and (e) The Government of India makes allocation of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) to all States at a uniform rate of 35 kg. per family per month under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Government of India has decided to streamline the ratio of wheat and rice in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL and APL families on the basis of food habits of each State/UT. The ratio of wheat and rice has been revised with effect from 01.08.2005 on the basis of the following proportion or the existing allocation of wheat whichever is less.

1. 70:30 for wheat consuming States/UTs;
2. 50:50 for wheat and rice consuming States/UTs; and
3. 30:70 for rice consuming States/UTs.

Statement

State-wise and monthwise offtake of APL Wheat from November, 2005 to March, 2006

(in 000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	November 2005	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006	March 2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.550	5.480	5.080	6.46	3.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.490	0.460	0.520	0.42	0.34
3.	Assam	10.830	16.550	33.600	16.55	25.69
4.	Bihar	2.000	3.790	2.190	4.6	4.49
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.650	4.790	6.420	3.65	4.65
6.	Delhi	21.230	21.220	19.890	26.62	25.82
7.	Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0
8.	Gujarat	20.330	17.990	17.640	34.49	19.6
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.120	2.280	7.67	5.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7.970	10.090	11.220	9.82	10.88
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.180	11.490	10.160	11.19	11.39
12.	Jharkhand	1.670	2.750	1.630	3.01	2.07
13.	Karnataka	13.770	13.930	15.410	14.62	13.8
14.	Kerala	24.510	23.740	24.870	25.82	26.43
15.	Madhya Pradesh	18.120	14.409	34.485	24.695	22.78
16.	Maharashtra	10.750	8.600	14.630	12.23	17.46
17.	Manipur	1.190	1.920	0.580	1.19	0.61
18.	Meghalaya	0.050	2.000	1.050	0	0.65
19.	Mizoram	0.000	1.010	1.010	0.52	1
20.	Nagaland	6.230	0.950	2.760	4.63	1.47
21.	Orissa	9.450	10.040	10.540	10.06	13.91
22.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	1.210	3.26	3.7
23.	Rajasthan	33.230	12.810	2.160	19.11	22.74
24.	Sikkim	0.610	0.280	0.300	0.52	0.45
25.	Tamil Nadu	6.710	6.750	5.730	6.77	10.05
26.	Tripura	2.890	2.940	2.630	0.97	4.61
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6.150	6.350	6.193	1.944	4.89
28.	Uttaranchal	4.030	1.385	4.270	5.35	8.84
29.	West Bengal	66.240	61.170	77.410	72.91	74.65
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.550	0.290	0.000	0.39	0.19
31.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.050	0.050	0.080	0	0.06
33.	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.020	0.000	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.040	0.080	0.000	0.05	0.08
	Total	287.470	263.454	314.948	392.519	342.41
36.	CRP/BSF	1.890	0.360	0.270	1.4	0.21
37.	Defence	13.600	13.240	11.400	12.89	10.59
38.	Bhutan	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0
	Grand Total (All India)	302.960	277.054	326.618	343.809	353.21

Loss of Hard Coral

3599. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the United Nations Atlas of the Oceans, 250 cu. Mts. of hard coral is being removed from the Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu @ 1 cu. Mts. per year for limestone; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this degradation of coral?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information provided by the State of Tamil Nadu, the removal of corals was in the form of illegal quarrying by the local fishermen in the past. The practice was to collect the coral reefs washed ashore in the coastal areas of Gulf of Mannar. The coral reefs which were damaged during the fishing and other activities were collected illegally and used in the limestone industry.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to prevent the degradation of coral include:

1. The following *Coelenterates* (corals) are listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 affording highest degree of protection:
 - a. All *Scleractinians* (Reef building Corals)
 - b. All *Antipatherians* (Black Corals)
 - c. *Tubipora musica* (Organ pipe coral)
 - d. All *Millipora* species (Fire Corals)
 - e. All *Gorgonians* (Sea Fans)
2. Gulf of Mannar is among four National Coral Reef Areas identified by Ministry of Environment and Forests for intensive conservation and management. Financial assistance is also provided.
3. Gulf of Mannar National Park was notified in 1986 for strengthening conservation efforts. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve was notified in 1989.
4. The High Court of Tamil Nadu vide order dated 29.3.05 had permitted industry to purchase dead corals being washed ashore. However, Tamil

Nadu Forest Department affected a stay of this order.

5. All efforts are being made for protection of the coral reefs in the entire area of the Gulf of Mannar.

Bird Flu

3600. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up an expert panel and find out the causes leading to the recent incidence of bird flu in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said panel has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A committee has been constituted to assess/determine the possible source of infection of the outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in Navapur, Nandurbar District of Maharashtra under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the committee is looking into the possible routes of introduction of the disease into the country. In a meeting taken by Secretary (ADF) on 18th April, 2006, the Chairman of the committee was requested to submit the interim report within one month.

Verification of Membership of Employees Unions in EPFO

3601. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is an industry;

(b) if so, whether verification of memberships of employees unions and federations in EPFO is conducted by the Chief Labour Commissioner under code of discipline; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Even though the ID Act is applicable to the EPFO but as per Section 5D (7) of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, method of recruitment, salary and allowances, discipline and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the EPFO are in accordance with the rules and orders applicable to the officers and employees of the Central Government drawing corresponding scales of pay. Since the service conditions of the employees of the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) are the same as the service conditions applicable to the officers/employees of the Central Government; the provisions of Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Association) Rules have been adopted by the EPFO for its employees. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 3796 (NL) of 1984 has also ruled that Employees Provident Fund Organisation is not an Industrial establishment. Accordingly, as laid down in the aforementioned rules the verification of membership was carried out by check off system.

Film and Television Institute at Gandhinagar

3602. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to set up a Unit of Film and Television Institute at Gandhinagar,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Non Deposit of EPF Share by Employers

3603. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the employers who deducted Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) dues from the salaries of the employees failed to remit the same to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues from the employers and protect the interests of the employees and the recoveries made so far from them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Some of the establishments who failed to remit the employees' share have been identified and prosecution under section 406/409 of IPC have been filed against them. The details of complaints filed against such defaulters during the last three years are at Statement enclosed.

(c) Recovery of dues is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under section 14 of the Act, filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters. As a result of these actions, the amount recovered during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount Recovered (Rs. in Crore)
2002-03	885.99
2003-04	1832.70
2004-05	1901.03

Statement*No. of Complaints filed u/s 406/409 of IPC before the Police Authorities*

Sl.No.	Name of Region	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	10	18	Guntur-1 Hyderabad-3
2.	Bihar	0	0	4	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	2	2	4	1
4.	Delhi	0	9	10	Delhi North-12 Delhi South-11
5.	Goa	2	13	1	0
6.	Gujarat	16	28	12	Vadodara-22 Ahmedabad-7
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	4	9	8	0
9.	Jharkhand	0	1	0	1
10.	Karnataka	49	98	244	Mangalore-1 Bangalore-0
11.	Kerala	192	95	88	68
12.	Maharashtra	15	7	5	Thane-9 Mumbai-5 Pune-16 Nagpur-11
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4	3	2
14.	North Eastern Region	2	10	0	2
15.	Orissa	0	3	0	0
16.	Punjab	19	4	6	Chandigarh-8 Ludhiana-1
17.	Rajasthan	1	28	8	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Tamil Nadu	546	432	179	Madurai-19 Chennai-14 Coimbatore-173
19.	Uttar Pradesh	9	7	2	0
20.	Uttaranchal	1	3	1	0
21.	West Bengal	32	29	91	Kolkata-0 Jalpaiguri-33
Total		945	792	684	421

[Translation]

Participatory Irrigation Management

3604. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Participatory Management of Irrigation (PMI) launched with the objective of development of irrigation and cautions management of water in the country failed to achieve its objectives;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of States in which the said programme has been implemented so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Participation in Irrigation Management was initiated with the objectives of creating a sense of ownership of water resources and the irrigation system among the users, so as to promote economy in optimum water use as per crop needs; improving in service deliveries through better operation and maintenance; achieving equity in water distribution; and encouraging collective and community responsibility on the farmers to collect water charges and payment to Irrigation Agency.

However, the progress of formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs) in some States is slow due to

prolonged deferment of maintenance of canal & paucity of operational and maintenance funds with States and low water rates which WUAs are supposed to collect and retain a portion thereof for maintenance of the system.

(c) So far, ten States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar and Maharashtra have either enacted their Participatory Irrigation Management Acts or amended existing Irrigation Acts. Other States are in the process of taking policy initiatives/formation of draft bills etc.

(d) Water being a State subject, Ministry of Water Resources has taken several initiatives to bring awareness about the programme and imparting training to State Government officials. These include international, national and regional workshops/seminars and national level training programme on policy initiatives, drafting bills, initiating reform measures and building up of capacity of farmers and field functionaries for implementation of PIM in States. The Ministry has also circulated a Model Act on PIM/amendments to Irrigation Acts on PIM for guidance of State Governments.

Implementation of Labour Laws

3605. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Labour Laws formulated for protecting the interests of labour and other workers in the country so far;

(b) whether the exploitation of the labour is continued inspite of these laws; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure cent percent implementation of these labour laws strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) There are 43 Central Labour Laws in the Country. Effective implementation of the labour laws are ensured by appropriate governments through their enforcement machineries by invoking relevant provisions of the respective Acts.

[English]

Horticulture Training Centre

3606. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Holland has accorded the status of excellent training centre to the Horticulture Training Centre, Telegaon Dabhade, district Pune;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Holland has provided any assistance for setting up of this centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated annual expenditure of this training centre;

(e) whether the training centre has requested to provide grants to meet its annual expenditure; and

(f) if so, 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) The Government of Netherlands has given a citation stating Horticulture Training Centre (HTC), Pune being implemented with the support from Netherlands as the best collaboration project during the year 2004 in Pune, India.

(b) and (c) The Netherlands Financial Agency has given a grant of 8 million Euro (approximately Rs. 4.00 crore) for setting up the training centre.

(d) The estimated average annual expenditure of this training centre is to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore.

(e) and (f) The Union Government has not received any request from Government of Maharashtra for grant of assistance towards meeting annual expenditure for HTC, Pune.

Funds for Small and Marginal Farmers

3607. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has announced in the Budget a special corpus of low cost fund with a view to generating more funds for small and marginal farmers to be managed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD);

(b) if so, whether the size of the fund is to be in the range of Rs. 10,000-15000 crores;

(c) if so, whether the modalities of the fund has been worked out; and

(d) the time by which this fund will be utilized for the farmers?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Welfare of Workers

3608. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bidi, mines, cinema workers separately and the workers engaged in other sectors, State-wise;

(b) the schemes undertaken by the Government for the welfare of above said workers;

(c) the details of the increase in the amount of scholarship being given to the children of mine workers to promote education; and

(d) the facilities provided by the Government for the welfare of mine workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Statement showing the estimated number of beedi/Cine/Mines workers in the country at present, State-wise, is enclosed. State-wise or otherwise number of workers engaged in other sectors is not maintained. The schemes undertaken by the

Government for the welfare of beedi/cine/certain non-coal mines workers including their family members are in the fields of Health & Medical-care, Social Security, Education, Housing, Recreation and Water Supply. The amount of scholarships has been revised w.e.f. August, 2002. The present rate of scholarships ranges from Rs. 500/- for class V to Rs. 8,000/- for professional degree courses per child per annum. In addition, an amount of Rs. 250/ per annum is given for purchase of dress/slate/books to the children of such workers studying from class I to IV.

Statement

No. of Identified Workers Engaged in IMC, LSDM and MICA Mines, Beedi & Cine Sector

Region/State	No. of workers Beedi	No. of workers			
		IMC	LSDM	MICA	Cine
1	2	3	4	5	6
Allahabad					
Uttar Pradesh	322098				
Himachal Pradesh			1205		
Punjab					
Jammu & Kashmir			64		
Uttaranchal			12		
Bangalore					
Karnataka	276706	8111	1918		1938
Kerala	79208		210		975
Ajmer					
Gujarat	45874		30000		1460
Rajasthan	31736	19	50000	87	
Haryana		0	0		
Bhubaneshwar					
Orissa	189008	20951	2433		233
Kolkata					
West Bengal	742050				1704
Assam	6335		468		20

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tripura	6349				
Meghalaya			382		
Nagaland			402		
Hyderabad					
Tamil Nadu	605079	1000	7500		11883
Andhra Pradesh	715711	5000	10500	295	1895
Jabalpur					
Madhya Pradesh	825150	800	8500		
Chhattisgarh	20481	10050	1060		
Karma					
Bihar	172429		667		
Jharkhand	64433	2225	833	66	
Nagpur					
Maharashtra	217663	3067	1083		13669
Goa		3000			
Contract workers in Region		1200			
Total	4320310	55423	117237	448	33777

IMC = Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines & Chrome Ore Mines.

LSDM = Limestone & Dolomite Mines.

[English]

Private Public Partnership in Agriculture

3609. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently mooted the idea of private public partnership in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the idea is likely to be given shape by the Government?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has emphasized on public private partnership (PPP) in the development of agriculture. The areas in which the private sector could play an important role include horticulture development, development of agricultural marketing infrastructure, development of storage facilities, seed production and distribution and provision of extension services.

The issue of PPP has been deliberated at various fora in the recent past and several areas in this regard have been focused, such as redefining Government intervention to make Indian agriculture demand driven, propagation of the success stories of the private sector

in their initiatives to raise incomes of farmers and partnership with farmers, achieving higher levels of public investment in agriculture infrastructure, food safety, cold chain, research and development and agricultural extension services.

[Translation]

Community Radio Stations

3610. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up small community radio stations at regional level;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also received proposals from the State Governments for setting up the small community radio stations in their respective States;

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

(e) the time by which these are likely to set up and start functioning?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Closure of Zoo

3611. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain zoos in the country are on the verge of closure;

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

(c) the States where zoos have been closed down, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received requests from the State for financial assistance and allocation of alternative sites for resettlement of zoos; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable the animals to complete their normal life span where the zoos have been closed down?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The list of zoos which have been closed by the various States is provided below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Zoos closed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	12
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Daman & Diu	1
6.	Gujarat	1
7.	Haryana	6
8.	Jharkhand	1
9.	Karnataka	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2
11.	Maharashtra	14
12.	Orissa	2
13.	Punjab	6
14.	Sikkim	1
15.	Tamil Nadu	4
16.	Uttar Pradesh	19
17.	Uttaranchal	1
18.	West Bengal	5
Total		92

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The State Governments which have closed down the zoos have rehabilitated the wild animals either in the recognized zoos of the State or by way of releasing them in their natural habitats.

On Line Future Trading for Agricultural Commodities

3612. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to introduce on line future trading of agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The online futures trading in agricultural commodities is already taking place in the three 'National Multi Commodity Exchanges' viz., Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd. (MCX), Mumbai, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX), Mumbai and National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (NMCE), Ahmedabad. Besides, five regional Exchanges viz., National Board of Trade (NBOT), Indore, East India Cotton Association, Mumbai, E-Sugar India Ltd., Mumbai, India Pepper and Spice Trade Association, Kochi and First Commodity Exchange Ltd., Kochi are also providing facility for online trading in agricultural commodities.

Guidelines for Parks/Sanctuaries

3613. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of recognized and unrecognized National Zoological Parks/Sanctuaries/Forest Reserves in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for their maintenance and upkeep;

(c) whether some of these parks/sanctuaries/forest reserves are in bad shape;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received proposals from different States for development and maintenance of Sanctuaries/National Parks/Reserve etc. during the last three years and current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps being taken to clear these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is only recognized National Zoological Park which is situated in Delhi. In addition to that there are 158 recognised Zoos, 96 National Parks and 509 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country.

(b) The Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act prescribes the minimum standards and norms for maintenance and upkeep of animals in zoos. These standards are mandatory in nature and are to be strictly followed by the zoos.

The Central Zoo Authority also issues guidelines from time to time with respect to proper healthcare of wild animals in zoos which are complied by all the States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The proposals seeking financial assistance for development and maintenance of National Parks/Sanctuaries/Reserves are submitted by the concerned States in the form of Annual Plan of Operation (APOs). The proposals are processed and sanctioned under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" as per the APOs submitted and the availability of funds. The details of funds released to the various States during the last three years are placed at Statement-I, II and III respectively. No funds have been released in the current year i.e. 2006-07.

Statement I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	69.40	63.55
2.	Andhra Pradesh	89.30856	71.70	104.245
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	151.046	111.086	144.845
4.	Assam	93.68	213.45	193.205
5.	Bihar	24.65	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	295.93469	227.29	359.817
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	20.00	20.00
9.	Goa	36.45607	37.50	14.40
10.	Gujarat	52.14	223.93	275.93
11.	Haryana	24.84	45.10	24.20
12.	Himachal Pradesh	168.9605	343.52	283.83806
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	138.82492	63.20	113.50
14.	Jharkhand	54.6228	77.59	124.90
15.	Karnataka	693.9609	546.24	474.9931
16.	Kerala	188.371	238.78879	284.5412
17.	Madhya Pradesh	344.35594	268.4755	613.553
18.	Maharashtra	165.24596	108.05	241.68
19.	Manipur	57.80	110.588	101.03
20.	Meghalaya	93.07	84.82	59.30
21.	Mizoram	231.836	315.0412	221.28
22.	Nagaland	42.70	32.32	1.50
23.	Orissa	187.25	370.27	325.649
24.	Punjab	—	—	—
25.	Rajasthan	214.819	246.62	192.62
26.	Sikkim	108.92	74.40	118.84

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Tamil Nadu	139.76	158.75	197.20
28.	Tripura	245.26484	49.125	—
29.	Uttar Pradesh	164.37	287.53	345.63
30.	Uttaranchal	96.39	68.20	85.65
31.	West Bengal	214.165	317.24	313.9437
32.	Delhi	—	—	19.50
Total		4318.74218	4780.22449	5319.34

Statement II*Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Tiger"*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.89	15.00	68.7926
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68.75	35.00	172.418
3.	Assam	79.95	—	86.4896
4.	Bihar	50.00	85.00	6.4918
5.	Chhattisgarh	80.25	27.75	24.3343
6.	Karnataka	269.32	486.292	453.2246
7.	Kerala	120.68	105.75	116.1708
8.	Jharkhand	35.9915	72.5005	164.1784
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1130.414	609.93	777.2676
10.	Maharashtra	228.45	255.953	334.19
11.	Mizoram	67.56	94.34	65.156
12.	Orissa	151.91	116.4395	17.0024
13.	Rajasthan	158.330	79.00	281.2458
14.	Tamil Nadu	35.00	80.00	136.9528
15.	Tripura	—	—	0.50
16.	Uttaranchal	200.91	200.12	159.9212
17.	Uttar Pradesh	173.585	175.215	162.8782
18.	West Bengal	225.17	325.49	228.29358
Total		3067.2105	2763.78	3345.50768

Statement III**Funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant"**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.00	48.00	60.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	61.00	59.00	71.50
3.	Assam	134.100	130.00	40.00
4.	Jharkhand	93.00	105.96	75.00
5.	Karnataka	149.660	186.22	168.00
6.	Kerala	188.280	167.40	170.00
7.	Meghalaya	64.00	70.00	30.00
8.	Nagaland	42.00	29.00	48.00
9.	Orissa	116.100	137.96	114.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	117.00	84.00	112.00
11.	Uttaranchal	129.00	138.90	82.00
12.	West Bengal	119.950	148.54	181.00
13.	Tripura	16.00	17.00	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	—	12.00	0.00
Total		1285.09	1333.98	1151.50

Procurement of Copra

3614. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any permanent scheme for procurement of Copra by Coconut Development Board (CDB) from the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits being accrued to the farmers therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government of India is

implementing Price Support Scheme under which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced for every season in consultation with the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) being the nodal agency for the procurement operations of Copra under the scheme, procuring Copra for price stabilization above the Minimum Support Price.

(c) MSP is an assurance from the Government to intervene in the market operations of procurement of Copra, whenever the market price falls below the MSP announced for each season. The policy of the Government benefits the farmers to derive reasonable price for their produce. NAFED has procured about 2729 MT of Copra under the Price Support during 2006 Season.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Water and Power Consultancy Services (I) Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4177/2006]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4178/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4179/2006]

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) (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification

No. G.S.R. 126(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4180/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri K. Chandrashekhara Rao, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 658(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2005, under section 6D of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4181/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4182/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 520(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2006 indicating the supplies of Urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of

Urea to States and Union Territories during Kharif season 2006 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4183/2006]

(4) A copy of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Degree of Masters' and Doctor of Philosophy) Ordinance, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 406 in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2005, under sub-section (2) of section 36 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4184/2006]

(6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Projects and Development India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4185/2006]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4186/2006]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4187/2006]

(7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4188/2006]

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4189/2006]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4190/2006]

[*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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) The Fertilizer (Control) Amendment Order, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 391(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2006.
- (2) S.O. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2006 declaring the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 as special order under section 12A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4191/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4192/2006]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 171(E)/Ess. Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2006 containing Order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the sugar season 2004-2005.

- (ii) G.S.R. 172(E)/Ess. Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2006 containing Order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the sugar season 2005-2006.

- (iii) G.S.R. 745(E)/Ess. Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December 2005, containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 666(E)/Ess. Com/Sugar dated 17th November, 2005, notifying the Zone-wise Levy Sugar Prices for the sugar season 2005-2006.

- (iv) G.S.R. 692(E)/Ess. Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2005 containing Order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the sugar season 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4193/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4194/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Sponge Iron India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4195/2006]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4196/2006]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4197/2006]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4198/2006]

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4199/2006]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2005-06) on 'Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas'.

12.02¹/₄ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to move:-

"That in pursuance of rules 4(vii) and 8(a) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rules 4(vii) and 8(a) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

MOTION RE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): I beg to move:-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect four Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Ram Nath Kovind, Manoj Bhattacharya, K. Rama Mohana Rao from Rajya Sabha and resignation of Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, from the membership of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister also do communicate to this House the names of the Members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect four Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Ram Nath Kovind, Manoj Bhattacharya, K. Rama Mohana Rao from Rajya Sabha and resignation of Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, from the membership of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister also do communicate to this House the names of the

Members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Killings of several persons in Doda and Udhampur Districts on 1st and 13th May, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received a notice of Adjournment Motion from Shri L.K. Advani regarding “the failure of the Central Government to make adequate security arrangements to protect the lives of Indian citizens in the border areas as evident by the recent killings of 32 persons in Doda and Udhampur district on May 1, 2006 and killing of two persons by grenade attack on a political dhama in Doda on May 13, 2006.”

Though the notice was received at 10.15 a.m., however, considering the seriousness of the incident, as a special case, and not to be treated as a precedent in future, I have given my consent to Shri L.K. Advani to move the motion.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, the Pattali Makkal Katchi has given a Calling Attention notice regarding reservation issue to OBCs and that the medical institutions in the country are at ransom. *...(Interruptions)* The Government should discuss that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take down anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be taken on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is very very unfortunate. You are a leader of the Party. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, you kindly allow me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is a very strange behaviour. How can I allow you now?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Why not? We have given notice? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can it be allowed to any time? I have promised you that I shall allow it. This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Is this your experience that any matter can be taken up at any time? I have committed myself to give it to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not doing justice to the cause.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Vadodara incident may also be associated with the one taking place in Doda.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Everything shall be allowed one by one. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying?

[English]

Do you not realise that I will not submit to you, whatever is said, I will not surrender?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, I seek leave of the House for moving the motion for adjournment regarding "The failure of the Central Government to make adequate security arrangements to protect the lives of Indian citizens in the border areas as evident by the recent killings of 32 persons in Doda and Udhampur districts on May 1, 2006 and killing of two persons by grenade attack on a political dharna in Doda on May 13, 2006".

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked for leave of the House. Is the leave opposed?

As it is, not opposed, leave is granted. Under Rule 61, the Adjournment Motion is to be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour. Under Rule 62 not less than two hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion. The discussion on the Motion may be taken up immediately.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I beg to move:

"That the House do now adjourn."

Sir, I had been to Doda, Batod and Jammu yesterday. I have made enquiries about this particular episode and generally also I feel that there is great concern there in the State and more particularly in the Jammu region about these two incidents. Therefore, I would, first of all, try to emphasise that terrorist incidents that we have been witnessing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country over a period of time. But, these two incidents in Udhampur and Doda are of a different category. I am not surprised that while the Srinagar incident on Friday, 14th April, 2006 in which as many as five civilians were killed, there were seven bomb blast in Srinagar itself. Immediately thereafter there were four terrorist organisations who claimed responsibility that 'we have done it'. The Jamait-Ul-Mujahideen, the Islamic Front, the Jaish-E-Mohammed and the Al Mansurian—all four of them—said that 'we have done it'. This happened on the same day as there was a bomb blast in Delhi also in the Jama Masjid on Friday, 14th April, 2006.

On the incident which happened on 1st May, 2006, a very harrowing description has been given about it by the *India Today* through its correspondent Aijaz Hussain in Doda. It says:

"It was around midnight in Thawa, a picturesque village in the foothills of the Pir Panjal range, 30 km

from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda town. Gilu Devi and her family of seven were half asleep when they heard a knock on the door. The 50-year-old housewife opened the door of her modest mud-and-brick dwelling and saw three gun-toting militants with the village watchman Sadhu Ram. "We have an injured comrade", one of the militants said in Urdu, "could you give him shelter?" Gilu Devi hesitated but the militant reassured her, "Don't be afraid." She didn't have much choice anyway.

Soon 14 male members of the Hindu-dominated village filled her three-room dwelling for what the villagers assumed was a meeting of some kind. One of the militants asked the villagers, mostly farmers, for their names and calmly jotted them down in a note-book. When he had finished, another started spraying bullets on the gathering with his AK-47. Gilu Devi lunged at him and wrestled with his rifle, but a second gunman continued firing on the people. She fainted. When she woke up a few minutes later, her home resembled a slaughterhouse. Nine people, including her eight-year-old grand daughter Sapna Devi, 35-year old son Jagdish and the 55-year-old watchman, lay dead. Among the four injured were another of Gilu Devi's daughters and a daughter-in-law, both of whom were bleeding profusely from bullet wounds and writhing in pain."

I have read out this account because I believe that this particular incident in Doda and in Udhampur should be understood as to what it is. I recall myself that in 1994, a meeting of the BJP's national executive was being held in Vadodra and we got a full report of what was happening in Doda. On the basis of that report, our party passed a resolution that Doda's is a very serious situation and in Doda, unless the Government of India takes immediate action to have greater military presence there and declare it as a disturbed area, gradually what was happened in the Valley will happen here also. If I were to quote from that resolution passed in Vadodra in 1994, it says:

"After successfully hounding out more than three lakh Kashmiri Hindus from the Valley, the militants have made Doda district of Jammu region a sanctuary for breeding of their plans of clearing this area also of Hindus."

This is what we said way back in 1994. Now, these two incidents have been reported, by Aijaz Hussain in

Doda, in *India Today* and he has given it the caption "The Doda Deathtrap". He has further given it sub-heading "The massacre of 19 villagers in the remote J&K district aims at driving out the minorities and uncannily echoes Pakistan President Musharraf's blueprint for a religious division of the state."

It is, therefore, that—Shri Pranab Mukherjee is not here—I would like to view these incidents in a different light from the other incidents that have been taking place. There are not a few. Even I know how many incidents have taken place. Here in Delhi itself, we have had a greater death toll last Diwali when on the eve of Diwali, as many as 62 persons were killed in the Sarojini Nagar serial bomb-blasts. There have been attack at Varanasi and at Bangalore also. All these incidents have taken place.

I would like to emphasis, and I would like the Government to acknowledge and accept that the happenings in Doda and Udhampur have a more sinister design. We were not able to prevent what happened in the Valley, but let not something similar happen in Doda. Let it not happen. Therefore, when we made a demand in 1994, we did not make a demand at that meeting of the party only. It was decided that an All India *Satyagraha* would be undertaken in the Doda district. I recall that as many as 15,000 workers from all over the country offered *Satyagraha* and courted arrest in Doda district only to demand that greater military presence should be there in a district where terrorists are spread all over in a large number. I have the satisfaction that the NDA Government implemented it, and the NDA Government set-up a full-fledged and a very effective cantonment at Bhadarwah. I inquired from there, and I was told that the work is still to be completed.

Sir, basically I wish to say that the problem of terrorism cannot be tackled piecemeal. There has to be an approach, and there has to be evidence to the people concerned—who are trying to break our will—that this Government will not compromise. You cannot have Government periodically making announcements that Pakistan is demanding that there should be demilitarization.

I heard yesterday that the alliance partner of the Government in the Jammu and Kashmir has been saying that not only the Army must be removed from Jammu and Kashmir, but even the para-military forces should not be there. I do not know if it is true. If it is true, then

it is a serious matter and the Government of India must let us know its mind. Periodically, we have been hearing the Government of India also saying that we are willing to consider whether some measure of demilitarization should take place or not.

Mr. Pranab is not present here in the House right now. Yesterday I was given a Jammu newspaper, which quote Mr. Pranab during his visit to Jammu this month. He said that:

"...with these kind of incidents happening, we cannot further pull out troops..."

It means that troops have been pulled out. It further states that:

"...30,000 troops were pulled out between November 2004 and January 2005..."

This is what Mr. Pranab had said there. I do not see how we can come to these conclusions that we pull out troops from there. Pakistan, of course, has been demanding it for a long long time, and they have not started demanding it now only. They have been saying that one of the reasons for peace and normalcy not being restored between us is because of the presence of troops in the Jammu and Kashmir, and to have this kind of an approach by the Government of India. Therefore, we insisted on an Adjournment Motion. It is not an ordinary incident. Had it not been because of these things, maybe we would not have gone to this extent. This sinister design to throw out minorities from Doda and Udhampur has been there for a long time, and it is not a new operation. They have been emboldened to do this because of the Government's approach and attitude in this regard. This is my allegation. Therefore, we were insisting that it should be only through an Adjournment Motion that we discuss this matter.

Sir, I believe that the Doda killings are the beginning of an 'operation religious cleansing No. 2'. The first 'operation No. 1' took place in Srinagar. In fact, I went yesterday to Batot to participate in the funeral of a party activist of mine, by name Munshi Ram. I told my colleagues there that I recall that way back in 1989, when Tika Lal Taplu, a party colleague in Srinagar was killed—he was, perhaps, the first to be shot dead there—I had the occasion to participate in his funeral, and that was the beginning of 'operation cleansing No. 1'. Tika Lal Talu was killed and, after that, there were several

[Shri L.K. Advani]

other prominent people in the Srinagar Valley who were killed. It would be appropriate to recall the names of some very eminent people. It created a climate and they, the terrorists, used to say that they want to silence the voice of India in Jammu and Kashmir. Tika Lal Tatu was killed on September 14, 1989. Till today, the Kashmiri Pandits in Delhi observe this day as Martyrdom Day and raise the issue of Kashmiri Pandits thrown out from Srinagar. Then, Prem Nath Bhat was killed on December 27, 1989 in Anantnag. Then, Justice Neelkanth Ganju, a former Judge, was killed on December 22, 1989. In 1990, Ashok Kaul was killed in Srinagar. Rajendra Tikku was killed in Sopian. Then, Mr. Satish Raina was killed in Daldhar.

These were incidents of prominent people being killed, and a climate was created in which all the Kashmiri Pundits were told that they have no place there in Kashmir, that they must go out, and that they cannot live there. Gradually, one by one, all the families left. The number may be more than four lakhs now. At the time we considered this matter of Doda in 1994, it was three lakhs, but it would be now more than four lakhs. Many of them are still living in very pathetic conditions in Camps in Jammu and Kashmir and in Delhi, and they are spread all over the country.

I, sometimes, feel that if a situation of this kind related to any other community, would we be so silent, would we be so indifferent? Why is it so? We should not be indifferent to those problems. Therefore, it is that I would plead with the House, with the Government, more particularly the Central Government and also the State Government, that the happenings in Udampur and Doda should be taken with the seriousness. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Advani, are you referring to a particular community? What is that community?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am referring to the Hindu community.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You are charging the Government that since Hindus have been killed, they are silent. Is it like that?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not charging the Government. My feeling is, in this matter, it is not really the Government, but the climate that we have created over a period of time has been such that it makes

everyone indifferent to this problem. But everyone is conscious and, therefore, it is that I always recall that in 1950, when the Indian Constitution was framed, it was the Constituent Assembly in which, while presenting the Minority Sub-Committee's Report to the Constituent Assembly, it was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who said, "I look forward to the day when in India no one would talk of a minority and majority and there would be only one community in the whole country, the community of Indians." Even after these 58 years, everyone thinks that unless you talk of minority, you are not doing justice to the community. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What are you doing?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not talking of minority; I am not talking of majority. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, when your turn comes, you can speak. Mr. Advani, you can continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not yielded. Only Advaniji's statement will be recorded and nothing else.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You must speak when you are called for it. Now you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I believe that my secularism is genuine. It makes me reject the concept of a theocratic state. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Manvendra ji, please sit down.

[English]

Let us finish this discussion. Advaniji, you carry on please.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I would like to plead with the Government. Firstly, it should understand that these two incidents are a very ominous pointer to the designs

*Not recorded.

of the terrorists who have undertaken them. None of the terrorist outfits has owned responsibility because it is serious. While in the case of the incidents in Srinagar four outfits came forth to say that they had done it, in this case no one claimed responsibility because it would mean that they are carrying out a design about which Pakistan has been talking.

[Translation]

they may do it, let Jammu-Kashmir be divided on the communal lines.

[English]

I strongly oppose any such move.

I would plead with the Parliament to stand firm by the Resolution passed by Parliament in which we said that the Jammu and Kashmir State as it was comprised in 1947, is an integral part of India. All policies of the Government, all its approaches, even our effort to strike normalcy with Pakistan, should never forget that particular Resolution of the Parliament, the unanimous Resolution of Parliament which we adopted. We should keep it in mind. Just as they keep their objectives in mind, we must also keep our objectives in mind. Any surrender to cross border terrorism of the kind that we are witnessing these days whether by scrapping the anti terrorists law—after all we had only one law. Our Government was very particular about it. Our Government was so particular about it.

Vajpayeeji is here. I can say that the Vajpayee Government's policy in respect of Pakistan had essentially two prongs. The first prong was to make serious effort to bring about normalcy of relations between India and Pakistan and start a composite dialogue on all issues between us. The second prong was equally important that even while attempting this first prong of normalcy, we will never compromise on the issue of cross border terrorism, whatever happens. It is in pursuance of that. ...*(Interruptions)* that Vajpayeeji undertook that bus journey to Lahore. It is in pursuance of that that Vajpayeeji invited General Musharraf to Agra. But it is in pursuance of that second prong that from Agra, General Musharraf had to go back without any agreement being signed.

An agreement was signed only in Islamabad in the year 2004 when General Musharraf publicly said that Pakistan will not allow any part of Pakistan or any territory

under the control of Pakistan to be used for terrorism against India. It is only when he said that we said, we can start a dialogue. That dialogue is continuing till now. But, even in the process of continuing this dialogue, please do not be soft towards terrorists. Do not talk about demilitarisation of Jammu and Kashmir. If there are any colleagues of yours who speak in that tone, I would advise the Home Minister—the Home Minister is here—to restrain them and tell them that so far as the Government of India and the Congress Party in Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, they will never agree to any such proposal.

Friends, at this moment, I have only this to say. If there is anything more to add, I will do that later.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): You did not say a single word about Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important issue. Let us discuss in a proper manner. Let us have a structured debate.

Motion moved:

"That the House do now adjourn."

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): First of all, I would like to oppose the Adjournment Motion. I shall speak at the end the reason for opposing the Adjournment Motion.

Sir, I would like to take the House into confidence about the UPA Government's overall transparency in discharging the parliamentary obligations on the major issues as ruled and decided by the Chair.

Besides being the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I would like to take the House into confidence to the fact that we have been able to discuss three Adjournment Motions in this House within a short span of two years against a total of five Adjournment Motions in the long five year tenure of NDA Government when much more critical issues were there. But they have somehow accommodated and given the opportunity of discussing a total of five Adjournment Motions in the House. Therefore,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Sir, the nation will admit and the House will consider as to how sincere and serious are we to respond to any situation of the country, and through any Motion that you would like to admit in the House without any deference, without any obstacle and opposition. This is the first point I would like to place it on record.

When the Motion came this morning, I found the name of the distinguished Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani raising the issue of Doda. Sir, I would like to share an old and shocking memory of mine. When we used to sit on that side, and refer to issues of Jammu and Kashmir, incidents after incidents; from this side, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Advaniji's reply was that things are under control and things will have to be dealt together taking the entire House into confidence. On no occasion, I would challenge the proceedings of the House, including the invasion in Akshardam Temple, and the attack on Amamath *Yatris* and the killings, from that side, neither we apprehended then nor we should today that any kind of religious divide or communal divide is working in Jammu & Kashmir. On the other hand, we all felt proud of the tremendous, coherent and concentrated effort of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in preserving the secular fabric of the nation and Jammu and Kashmir, cutting across all sections of the people of India. Why has this thing arisen suddenly in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition? I want to narrate.

The incident took place as per the Adjournment Motion on May 01, 2006—two persons killed in grenade attack. Recent incident of killing of 32 persons in Doda, Udhampur on March 01, 2006. The election, which was very important, was held in Jammu where the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad contested. Let the House know the reaction of the people two days before that incident took place and the mandate. The date of election—April 24, 2006; results declared on April 27, 2006; and the incident took place on May 01, 2006. The Congress candidate, the Chief Minister, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad contested from Badorva seat in Jammu, not Srinagar Valley. The Chief Minister, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad contested in Jammu where the electorate percentage was 40 per cent Hindus and 60 per cent Muslims. We, in the Congress Party, never discussed the electorate composition of Hindus and Muslims. That electorate gave a mandate by casting 66,129 votes to Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. Then, fortunately and shockingly, the Party called the BJP got a mandate

of 4,057 votes. This has amply demonstrated and manifested the will of the people, cutting across the religious line as to how to elect a person who is heading the State. He had not contested in Srinagar Valley but came to Jammu to contest. This has justified the secular amity, the communal amity and total solidarity to the constitutional guarantee of secularism in that election.

Yes, it is unfortunate that on May 1, 2006, this gruesome incident took place, which the entire House condemn.

Mr. Advaniji, you were a distinguished Leader of the Opposition. You took a resolution in 1994 by the BJP considering all aspects of the Jammu valley about the trend and the current going on to a particular community by the consistent onslaught of the terrorists and others. You took the Office in 1996 for 13 days and later on far a long tenure for six years. I do not like to cross you today on the facts and figures. Please look at the mirror of your own and find out how the trend developed when you took the Office. We never uttered a word that Kashmir and Jammu will be divided very soon on the religious line when particular section of people will be killed. When the election came, you were the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. Was it not your moral responsibility as also of the Prime Minister to enthuse the people of that State to go and address the election campaign; tell the people to come and vote, defend the democracy and not the bullet and gun.

Well, I can say Mr. Advaniji, do not be feeling sad, while without being any officer of the Government, the then distinguished Leader of the Opposition, Madam Sonia Gandhi could go and campaign, and tell the people to come and defend democracy and vote for. But how many campaign meetings did you hold and the then Prime Minister hold in the election time in Jammu and Kashmir? Can you place before the nation your confidence to the Constitution, your respect to the electorates, your confidence to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that here is the occasion; stand by democracy and not by gun. But you did not. You failed to do so. You failed in all such duties. At the end, if you feel to take a refuge to glorify the role of Jinnah in Pakistan, that does not solve the problems in Jammu and Kashmir. It is all together different.

You will understand the position now. I can cite examples case by case, but there is a paucity of time. Incidents of killing the people—both the minorities and the Hindus—have been on and on and on. If I can cite

cases, there would be cases after cases. May I start from your tenure, Advaniji? Should I start from 1998? Should I go to 1999? Should I go to 2000? Should I go to 2001? Should I go to 2002? Should I go to 2003? Should I go to 2004 till you left the office? Should I repeat incidents one after the other? Advaniji, I do not want to sadden you. You must know. You are talking of defending the border. You could not defend the Parliament House, when you were the Deputy Prime Minister! Parliament House is not at the border; Red Fort is not at the border of Pakistan but you could not defend it on that day, and you say, with two-prong policy with Pakistan—normalcy and cross-border terrorism fighting—would take you to the result. Was it not the then Prime Minister who, after a day of the assault on Parliament, did say—forget other things—'Now, it is *aar paar ki ladai*? But did that '*aar paar ki ladai*' take place? No. You failed at the end of the day. It was a wrong approach. We cannot do so.

So, place on the issue of Kashmir and terrorism, do not try to take a political mileage. Resolve as Madam Sonia Gandhi did. On the issue of terrorism, the nation is one; on the issue of cross-border terrorism, there would no party politics, the nation is one. Time and again, we have said from that Bench. Now, when you find yourself being isolated from the mainstream a little bit by your party politics, you think that this is the time and if you can raise the issue of 32 killings, a kind of clinching operation of a particular community, that may give you back the strength. Please do not play into that dangerous game. Please, at least, you do not play this, being the Leader of the Opposition.

I can give you an example. We were in the Opposition during those days. I give the example of Doda first. On 19 June, 1998 in Doda, the militants killed 25 persons of a Hindu marriage party and injured several others. But did we say: 'Since Hindi marriage party people were killed on that day, the religious thinking process has started?' Did we say from that side? No. I repeat the case of Doda again. On 28 July, 1998, the militants killed eight persons of a minority community.

On 6th October 1998, in Pulwara, militants attacked, as a result of which 12 members of a family of Gulam Nabi Izam, were killed. On 20th February 1999, in Rajouri, militants killed seven persons of Hindu marriage party; on 20th February, in Udhampur, militants killed eight family members of one Beant Singh, a Sikh. On 29th April 1999, in Kupwara, militants killed 10 family members of

Abdul Hami Gani; on 29th June 1999, in Punj, militants killed 15 members of the families of minority community. On 30th June 1999, in Anantnag, militants killed 12 non-Kashmiri labourers working in brick kiln. On 2nd July 1999, in Punj, militants killed nine persons of a minority community. On 20th July 1999, in Doda again, militants killed 15 persons of minority community. On 29th February 2000, in Baramulla, militants killed eight individuals in two separate firing incidents. On 21st March 2000, in Anantnag again, a group of about 40 militants descended in a village, collected male members of a Sikh community in a school compound, showered bullets upon them and killed 35 members of the Sikh community. On 1st August 2000, in Anantnag, militants fired and killed 21 *yatris* when offering prayers in the temple; on the same day, on 1st August 2000, in Anantnag, militants killed 19 members of Kashmiri labourers. On the same day in Anantnag, there were three strikes; the last strike killed seven non-State labourers. On that day, there were five strikes—three in Anantnag and two in Doda. Total number of killings on that day was more than 65, belonging to all communities.

You were the Deputy-Prime Minister during that time. On 17th August, in Rajouri, militants killed seven members of the minority community. On 3rd February 2001, in Srinagar, unidentified militants killed seven Sikhs and injured four others. On 10th February 2001, in Punj, unidentified militants fired indiscriminately upon the houses of three and finally blazed their houses in which 15 individuals roasted alive. On 14th May, in Doda again, in Kistwar, militants killed seven members of the minority community. On 20th July in Anantnag, an explosive device killed two police officers, seven *yatris* and four civilians. On 21st July 2001, in Doda militants killed eight members of the minority community. On 4th August 2001, in Doda, unidentified militants kidnapped and then killed 15 members of the minority community. On 15th August 2001, in Udhampur, militants shot dead five members of the minority community. On 30th November 2001, in Udhampur, militants killed seven persons. On 20th January 2002, in Punj, unidentified gunmen killed 11 families, including eight minor children and women of the family of Master Zakhir Hussain in the village Berakud. On 17th February 2002, in Rajouri, terrorists descended on a village Nara, Dharamshala and killed eight members of a family.

On 7th August, in Udhampur, another eight persons belonging to the minority community were killed. On 14th

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

May 2002, in Jammu, three terrorists boarded a bus; they stopped the bus near Kaluchak, Jammu and killed seven passengers and subsequently forced entry into the Army Headquarters, killed the sentry and resorted to indiscriminate firing. In all, 35 persons got killed and 34 on that day.

On 13th July 2002, in Jammu terrorists appeared at Rajiv Nagar, Kasim Nagar locality, resorted to grenade throwing at a tea stall, followed by firing, resulting in the death of 28 persons including 13 women and a few others. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: On 23rd August, in Rajouri, terrorists again butchered eight persons. On 1st October 2002, in Kathua, terrorists wearing police uniforms, fired indiscriminately on passengers of a bus coming from Delhi and killed nine persons on 23rd March, ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

All must listen. Both the parties must be listened to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. This is not right.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not discussing the graph of Shri Patil. He is competent to respond. I am only discussing the graph of the distinguished Leader of the Opposition.

On 23rd March, in Phulwana, terrorists killed 24 Kashmiri pundits. You closed your journey from the Office, just on the eve of elections, after 24 Kashmiri pundits were killed. I am placing this track record because I wish to request that on the issue of terrorism do not bring politics, ethnic divide and the communal divide and the communal divide. Besides the attacks on several temples, not only Hindus but also Muslims, Sikhs and other labours were killed. If a responsible Party in the Opposition tried to build up a campaign now that it is apprehending that a religious cleansing devise is being adopted, it would be too unfortunate. Let us not campaign for that. If at all they have apprehension on any point, they can talk to the Home Minister and the Prime Minister. Being a responsible Leader of the Opposition, if you try to ponder

over this issue and plan that if you will bring this issue this will give you strength, it may bring strength to you in Jammu but it will not bring strength to the country, which is India.

I personally feel that today you will come out with very clear possible suggestions. You have questioned our policy. Our Home Minister is competent to respond to it. What wrong policy have we adopted? The whole world is acknowledging that Indo-Pak relation has improved beyond a parameter. You are disagreeing when the world community is agreeing to it. You may disagree but the whole world is not disagreeing. The Indo-Pak relation is now at an improved stage of performance. We did not say, we never say, that the issue of terrorism is over. In spite of the Anti Terrorists Acts, could you prevent the attack on Parliament? Your Anti Terrorists Act was applied only to hound our people in Gujarat and not to fight terrorism out of the country. What are you talking? Therefore, I feel Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was no need for moving an Adjournment Motion.

I was told, I am sorry to say, that you would intervene today on the killing of 32 persons. Later on, when your Party worker was killed, you felt it so urgent to move an adjournment motion. Party should defend the killing of its worker. It is a loss to the Party. I sympathise with you. We also pray for the peace of his soul. It may be any Party worker but you cannot change the degree of dimension of focusing an issue. When 32 persons were killed, you thought of simply making a mention to it but when your Party worker was also killed, you thought it fit to bring an adjournment motion. I can compare with any other analogist and say that, to advise the Government on this issue, the adjournment motion was not called for.

The Government is firmly committed not to compromise an inch of the Valley in the hands of the terrorists. The Government is committed firmly to strengthen Indo-Pak relations on bilateral parleys. We must thank our Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, who has been able to at least make Shri Pervez Musharaff say that discussion between India and Pakistan should be done at the bilateral level. No third party intervention should be there. He has said this for the first time. You failed in your Agra Mission. That was not our fault. You had made a hue and cry of Agra throughout the world. I would say that Atal Ji tried to do it but we were told that some of you did not feel that was the right time to settle and therefore you scotched it. You did it and it was up to you to do it. We did not do it. We never said

to the whole world that within 24 hours we are going to solve the Pakistan problem. We never said that our Prime Minister or our Home Minister is going there to solve the problem. We have said that step-by-step we have to improve the situation. We have to understand the minds of both the countrymen, the intelligentsia, the politicians and also the Army which always see war with Pakistan. We have to reduce that sight. We have said so and we are rightly approaching the issue. I may tell you, Sir, that we in the UPA Government, till the last drop of our blood, come what may, shall defend the integrity of the country and the unity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

If you talk of religion, I may remind you that you failed yourself Mr. Advaniji, who claimed to be holding the legacy of a particular religious philosophy's campaign. Please first take your record. Had you been able to protect the Amarnath Yatris? Had you been able to protect the other Hindus, though we said that you are not for Hindus? You are for the country. We said that you have to protect the people not in terms of Hindus or Muslims. Now you say that the Kashmiri Pandits are leaving. When your resolution was passed in 1994, who prevented you to settle the Kashmir Pandits back to home? What efforts you made? You did not do that. Our Prime Minister went house-to-house of the Kashmiri Pandit families. He said them to give him time and heart. He said that he is trying his best to save the situation. I can put on record that the Kashmiri Pandits and teachers who used to enjoy a kind of tax relief, it was not done by your Government. It was done by our Government. So let us not address the gallery and let us not give colour to the whole issue as if something more is done for a particular community and the other community will rule and there is no chance. It has been demonstrated by the election results of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad from Jammu how the people accepted him to rule all communities. We should learn the lessons. Why did your Party got only 4000 votes and building on this campaign, 4000 votes cannot be 40,000 votes. It will be zero again I tell you. Therefore, I would request you to please forget to build up the campaign of the religious clinching issue. You should better give constructive suggestion as to what more support we can organise in the entire Valley through our para-military forces and by our other supporting forces to protect the interest of the people to fight terrorism till the end.

Therefore, I feel that this Adjournment Motion should be opposed tooth and nail by every section of the House. The motive behind the Adjournment Motion is unfortunate.

This unfortunate passion of a particular community is built up for some design. I think you do not deserve to get any support from the people of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members will have to please restrict their speeches within the allotted time. Now. Shri Md. Salim to speak. Your Party has 12 minutes.

[Translation]

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude within time. I do not have to quote from any newspaper or magazine. There is no need to give a detailed version of any incident causing deaths and that too of innocent people and nor I have to read out any list to explain as to how many people have died in their tenure and how many died during our times. Deaths of innocent people, taking place in any tenure is not just a big issue rather such deaths are equally heinous and a cause for concern and their should not arise any minority or majority issue in this and I am not going into that.

There is a need for security of the lives of innocent people and it is more so in Jammu-Kashmir and on behalf of my party I would like to demand from hon. Home Minister that since UPA is committed to this and this is the reason why we are supporting the UPA Government for, they are working expeditiously to restore normalcy in Jammu-Kashmir, hon. Prime Minister himself visited the state, announced a package, work on economic development has also been initiated in the state which has infused some confidence in the people and the government has also succeeded in creating a peaceful and secure environment over there but if any death takes place, then we take the matter seriously and hope that such incidents are not repeated. I am not reading a list but I believe you may not say as Advaniji had said when as Home Minister visited the area and observed that so many deaths have taken place and if it would be repeated, then he would not remain Home Minister. Although deaths continued to take place even after that and he continued to serve as Home Minister also, he stayed in power for 6 years even as Deputy Prime Minister. But I agree with him on certain things and Advaniji must be surprised by this. In regard to the speech he made and the inferences he draw, I do not agree with him but he has himself stated that whenever there is a militant attack, he admitted it that, be it for publicity or for some other reasons militants claim the responsibility for the same. Advaniji has himself stated the 4 militant

[Mohd. Salim]

organizations have taken the responsibility of the incident that took place in Srinagar. None of the militant organizations have claimed responsibility for the incident that took place in Doda. This has led him to infer a sinister design behind it. I demand that an inquiry should be carried out in this regard to find the truth. Why were people killed and nobody claimed responsibility after the incident? This fact should be brought before the nation and to everybody else. On behalf of my party I demand for an inquiry in this regard.

Second thing is that there has been a sinister design behind the manner in which the areas dominated by Hindu Pandits and the valley have been evacuated in Doda, Jammu region and Udhampur, I would like to know as to what is that sinister design/Advaniji has himself stated that the Hindu-Muslims are sought to be divided, Hindu's should be identified separately and he also mentioned about ethnic cleansing. I believe if this is the design then who are those people terming it as a issue between Hindu and Muslims in view of deaths in the country. If Pakistan does not want to resolve the Kashmir issue and flames the matter from the back door for it to become more serious and this be given a colour of Hindu-Muslims issue then the deaths which take place in this country after a terrorist attack and which we call as minority community, majority community, Hindu etc., then we are actually helping them. I do not agree that our Parliament or any democratic party of this country should behave like this.

I was thinking about an Adjournment Motion, on 8th or 9th itself as the House is sitting on the 10th of this month sought to be moved by Bhartiya Janata Party because on the 1st of the month 32-people were killed by militants in Doda district. Now it is 10, 11, 12, 13th but even now it has not come timely. This Adjournment Motion has been brought after two political workers were killed during a protest in Doda, although for us they are also citizens of our country. Dasmunsi Ji has also stated the same and I would not repeat this. No one else other than BJP addresses as Hindu Pandits. In a way, they are trying to create a myth by this. I have myself written to hon. Prime Minister in this regard. The people of Kashmir who left the place and who had set up industries over there are demanding compensation but till date they have not received full compensation. There are a lot of people, be it in Delhi or Jammu, who had set up industries in the valley but these were closed and they have not received any compensation so far in this regard

and they have to keep writing letters to the authorities to get the same. Both myself and my party believe that the present problem of Kashmir cannot be resolved by guns and battles and it can only be resolved by dialogue. Neither is it going to be resolved by firing at the border with Indo-Pak firing, nor it is going to be resolved by the bullets of either militant nor by the firing by the security forces. No doubt it is necessary to take help of security forces to deal with the militants, but this does not bring any solution to the problem. Power of arms would only help to an extent but after that the solution is to be found out with political procedure. But if we divide the language as a language of Hindu and the language of Muslims, then we are actually helping these forces. Be it militants or communal forces, the identity based parties and organizations seek to establish their identity even at the time of death and also identify with the dead bodies with a view to benefits themselves at both the sides—this is an unfair practice. The persons doing head count of those killed in sectarian violence are as communal as those who are involved in communal violence.

I feel that if we adopt politically biased view regarding the Kashmir issue instead of treating it as a national problem that required united efforts for solving this problem, we will weaken our cause. Whether it is the government of one party or the other party, the opposition should not use the occasion for its advantage that it is the responsibility of the ruling party to tackle the problem and involve in head count of those killed in the communal violence, then it will be wrong. Today, I found the same place in the speech of hon'ble Advani ji. When he was the Minister of Home Affairs he never used to make such remarks. Then he appealed to fight unitedly against it. Recently, Amarnath Yatra is to be started, so I would like to demand the Government that it should make all security arrangement in this regard so that yatra may be accomplished peacefully.

Now, I would like to submit last point. If you see, the by-election recently held in,

13.00 hrs.

Doda district which is Hindu majority constituency of Gulam Nabi ji, you will find the BJP mass base has been eroded. When there is erosion in the vote bank of any identity based political party, we tend to get demoralized the responses that we are getting from the BJP after the election.

During the Rath Yatra, Advani ji had said that he was not taken into confidence when Kashmiri militant Azhar Masood was taken to Kandhar to barter plane hostages. He told that it was the act of Vajpayee Government. Is it believable that the Minister of Home Affairs of the country was not aware as to how the hostage crisis was being dealt, money was being paid in dollar and Azhar Masood was being released to barter hostages. If the hon'ble Minister of Home Minister is not taken into confidence then who is taken into confidence. If today they say that everything was smooth during the NDA regime and now the situation is deteriorating then it will be a wrong submission. Whether it is attack on Sankat Mochan temple or Jama Masjid or Hindu communalism or Muslim communalism if they try to get political mileage on the issue of terrorist attack, then such identity crisis of the party will be dangerous for the country.

I am of the opinion that when we are expressing grief for those who have been killed and are showing our solidarity towards them and also demanding for the security, there should not be identity based politics in such matter. This is my appeal to the Government.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue, however, it is not the subject of Adjournment Motion. If the Government were sensitive enough before introducing Adjournment Motion it should have called all party meeting in this regard. We are constantly listening that we have overcome cross border sponsored terrorism, negotiation is going on, round table conference is to be held and our relationship with Pakistan is going to improve. However, whenever there is talk about improvement in relationship some serious incidents occur in Jammu and Kashmir that creates hurdle in the way of bilateral talks. It is the experience of last 5-6 years that whenever situation starts improving and become conducive for Amarnath yatra, such incidents continuously occur there. It has not occurred only this year. If one see the history of last 4-5 years he will find that such incidents start occurring before the onset of Amarnath yatra.

My colleague has said one thing that this problem can be solved only through dialogue. I feel that this problem cannot be solved by dialogue alone rather some strong steps are also required to be taken and both the options will have to be kept open to solve the problem—that means the Government should take strong step against the terrorist organizations and officially it should hold discussion with the other Government. We have

diplomatic relationship with Afganistan. It is being reported from Afganistan that the elected Government of Afganistan has its control only over capital region and gradually Taliban is gaining control over rural areas. It has been published in our newspapers that ISI was involved in the murder of the Chief Engineer of India or it had given instruction to murder him. It should be a matter of concern for us because there has been direct relationship of Talibani organizations with ISI for last 20 years. ISI is not a private organization rather it is intelligence organization of Pakistan backed by its military. It is meaningless if Pakistan do not talk to us with good intention as on the surface it will engage us in dialogue and indirectly they will continue to make effort to increase terrorist activities in India through ISI. The Government of India should have clear cut vision in this regard. It will not serve the purpose by merely saying that we have separate views regarding Hindus and Muslims of Kashmir. If we think like this it is not good because the issue of Kashmiri Pandit is different. For several years we have kept them in protected area by providing them with government facilities. The State Government of Kashmir is saying for last one year that the condition of Kashmir has improved and efforts are being made by them to bring Kashmiri Pandit back to the state. The Government have improved the situation. However, the fact is that even today Kashmiri Pandit are not ready to return back to their native villages. The condition there have not improved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the diplomat of our country hold the view that the effort of the ISI and the terrorist organization is to oust Hindu population settled along the eight-ten or twenty k.m. of border areas so that they may continue their activities there without any difficulties. The Government of India should take into account their nefarious intention. Right from the beginning I am telling and the Chief Minister of Kashmir has also given statement time and again that several terrorist training centres are being operated along our border areas. Despite our constant demand and the assurances given by Pakistan, there is no decline in the number of terrorists training camps operating along border areas. So, I would like to submit that if Pakistan Government do not fulfill the assurances given in course of dialogue with us our Government should not desist from taking military action against Pakistan.

[Shri Mohan Singh

13.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We should make effort to pressurize Pakistan Government at any cost to dismantle all the terrorist camps located in the periphery of 25 k.m. along Indian border. If they do not agree to dismantle those training camps, the Government of India should involve all the international organizations and should take steps to dismantle all the terrorist-organizations with the help of its military. Unless we take step in this direction, we will not get anything. We will keep on harping that we are holding tripartite conference, round table conference and talking to all the concerned party however, nothing is going to be achieved by all these. I would like to submit that the persons with whom Government want to hold round table conference have no control over the terrorist organizations operating inside Kashmir. Terrorist activities are still going in Kashmir. The centre of those activities is not inside India rather it is either in Pakistan or Afganistan. If it is in Afganistan even then it is sustaining with the help of the Government of Pakistan and its military establishment. We should hold direct talk with Pakistan to eliminate terrorism. It will be possible only when we will hold conference of all the political parties of the country.

Today it is unfortunate that there is no Minister of External Affairs in this country but whosoever is looking after this Ministry's Affairs, be it Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs or Minister of Defence all party meeting should be convened for frank and free discussion as to what relation be developed with Pakistan to root out increasing terrorism in Kashmir and under this guidance.

Simultaneously, I strongly condemned the terrorist activities whatever received here. Today, I really felt upset to read the newspaper that whenever any terrorist activity takes place in our country our representative goes distant European country to make a propaganda or to discuss thereon. I would like to say categorically that by adopting such appeasement policy towards terrorist, terrorism is flourished instead of being rooted out. It is inculcated in their mind that India is becoming a soft State. Indian governance is transforming into a soft state. If it is inculcated in mind of terrorists that Government of India is weak and fragile then I think that it will be very difficult to suppress them. So Government of India should emerge with such type of governance that 'Mriduhi Pushwadapi, Vajradapi Kathorane'. It means it is more rigorous than

'Vajjra' for terrorists but it is also more soft than flower in dialogue takes place to curb terrorism. It should be nature and spirit of the Government of India and then only we can curb these terrorist activities.

With these words I would like to conclude that whatever is happening is a matter of concern and Government of India should make a comprehensive strategy within one-two or three months on this issue because we have been listening to last fifty years that matter is being sorted out and we are talking with the cross border organizations, we are talking with the persons supporting terrorist organizations and I think this problem is not going to be solved. I support the issue towards which attention has been drawn through this resolution but I oppose this resolution with these words. I thank you very much.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Sir, the way innocent people have been killed by terrorists in Doda and Udhampur of Jammu and Kashmir is strongly condemnable. It should be strongly condemned but it is also necessary to work out a strategy that how stringent action could be taken to curb such terrorist activities. It will not be justified to simply discuss on Governments failure or lapse on the part of the security forces or giving it communal colour and I think it is also not justified with the national problem as it is becoming perennial process.

I think that always such incident take place during session period. I agree with Shri Mohan Singhji that whenever any peace initiatives or any dialogue are on progress, be it Doda-Udhampur or other areas of Jammu-Kashmir or other border areas, some attacks or terrorists activities take place there Cross-border terrorist stick there. So for solution of the problem it will not be justified to see it only from angle of cross border terrorism, to associate it with a particular community. It will never be justified if this problem will be considered within a party parameter or in view of party mentality because it is not question of 'Hindu' or Muslim. The terrorists have attacked places of worship like Charare Shariff, Hazrat Bal and Raghunath Temple without any sense of discrimination between the places of worship of Hindu and Muslims. All of us have seen the method adopted by them to blow up Charare Shariff. They attempt to destabilize India and to vitiate the cordial relation amongst various Communities. With the support from some local elements within the communities. The need of the hour is to create an atmosphere in which the terrorists are not in a position

to get local support. The basic issue is to expose their local support and the logistic support provided to the terrorists and for the purpose awareness has to be created among the people. We shall succeed in defeating the plans and efforts of the terrorists as long as we are in a position to give more and more strength to communal harmony. If we discuss this issue by giving it communal colour, then we shall never be in a position to solve this problem. So, communal harmony should be made stronger and stronger to check the terrorist activities effectively. So, the focus and direction of this discussion should take place in an atmosphere which is devoid of party affiliations because this is not only our national problem but an international one also. So, proper atmosphere should be created in which every citizen of the country is conscious enough to disallow the terrorists in using even a very small part of our motherland. Foreign mercenaries from across border or within the country trigger off such terrorist activities. Now, it is the root question how to check them and curb terrorism.

We have to pay attention to our intelligence network in this regard. Although, I do not term it as a lapse of intelligence network but coordinated efforts should be made to share input as well as to conduct joint operations. We have seen that many times we do not get information from intelligence agencies on time for which we have to suffer. Coordinated efforts based on sharing of intelligence inputs is the need of the hour keeping in mind the geographical situation of our country in particular context of Jammu and Kashmir border. We are unable to take timely action against the terrorists due to lack of proper coordination of intelligence network among security forces which are deployed either at the border or in inner areas of the state. We just indulge in criticizing or deploring those acts and giving compensation to the dependents of the deceased. So, regular monitoring and sharing of intelligence inputs should take place with coordinated efforts and joint operations should be launched in border areas because this problem is getting from bad to worse due to lack of coordination.

Mohan Singhji has rightly said that terrorism is spreading at many places in the world. It has its centers in Afghanistan and many other places. The entire House and Parliament are in agreement with the view that the Government should take the most drastic method to check terrorism. So, the Government should also make its viewpoint clear by giving the message that there will be no laxity on its part in suppressing terrorists, The country should fight the terrorists unitedly without giving it a

communal colour and the Government should formulate a strategy on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, please conclude your speech in five minutes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever a Member of Bahujan Samaj Party rises to speak he is given very little time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I give only that much time to the party that is specially allotted, I am not giving extra time to anybody. I am not discriminating with anyone. I am giving only that much time that is allotted to your party.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do appreciate the spirit behind the adjournment motion moved in the House by Shri Advaniji however, it is not appropriate to move Adjournment Motion on this issue. The incidence that happened in Doda, Vadodara and Aligarh should be strongly condemned. With regard to terrorist attack that happened in Doda it has still not been clear that who were those who killed so many innocent people. No one has taken responsibility for the killing and for the bomb attack on the people sitting on dhama thereafter. They have levelled some allegations and the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil is also present here, I on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party demand that these allegations should be thoroughly examined so as to find out who is truly responsible for these killings.

The massacre took place in Aligarh and other places and the policemen were involved in it, be it UP Police or Gujarat Police. Such policemen should be punished after conducting inquiry. In my opinion there should be no compromise with the terrorism. I had much more respect for Advaniji when he revealed a fact when he visited his birthplace. If there had been a debate on the issue it would have been revealed as to who were those actually responsible for division of this country? What it Mohd. Ali Jinnah or the people who were against him. I welcomed the statement of Shri Advaniji and I am happy that Shri Advaniji stick to his statement despite being condemned by his party and will remain firm. The time will come when there will be a debate as to who was really behind the division of the country and this aspect must be discussed in this country.

Hon'ble Advaniji's statement is correct that Pakistan want to divide Jammu-Kashmir in the name of religion.

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

Pakistan would certainly like the Muslim dominated districts such as Doda, Punch and Rajouri of Jammu to be divided. We have to counter the strategy of Pakistan. Pakistan want to divide only the three districts of Jammu-Kashmir but Hon'ble Advaniji and Malhotraji who is sitting here want to divide whole of the country in the name of religion. When will they restrict themselves from doing so to follow, what was said in the Karachi.

What Hon'ble Advaniji did during 6 years of his tenure to solve the Jammu-Kashmir problem, he has not told. Whenever he gets the chance to explain he must clarify what measures they took and the UPA Government failed to take or in other words what the UPA Government have not done though they did.

He has objection if some one talks about minorities. If injustice is done to the minorities then it is justified to raise the voice in their favour. If minorities are given special treatment in the name of welfare then it is totally condemnable and I myself condemn it. But the situation is that the minorities are pushed to the corner in each and every field and raising their voice is labelled appeasement but he cannot prove it by any logic. I want to say that if there is any existence of minorities then those who propagandise for minoriticism or Hinduism should be sent to jail.

Hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji have replied with reasoning, the reasoning was correct. But I do not want to divide the dead bodies in Hindus and Muslims. Munsiji has his own viewpoint. He has been expressing earlier too, but in my view it is not appropriate to divide dead bodies into Hindus and Muslims. If some one raises the problems related to minorities then he has objection. But his Party has given Lok Sabha tickets to only two Muslims-one is Hon'ble Shahanwaj Hussain who contested election from Kishanganj where 62% population is Muslims. And Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi who won election from Rampur where 50% population is Muslims. I would have been pleased if another Ilyas Azmi had won from the Hindu dominated area. Then I would have acknowledged him. Recently Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunshi's wife has won on the Congress ticket from an area where Congress had to face severe defeat, where the ratio of population is 73% Muslims and 27% Hindus. And I am proud to belong to a country where people by their deeds prove repeatedly that this country is secular and should remain the same. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present here and I once again demand for an impartial inquiry of the Doda incident. Once 60-65 Hindus were killed there, at that time also terrorists levelled allegation against others. They were saying that they were being

defamed. Therefore, I demand that those who were behind the killings of innocent Hindus in Doda incident should be identified. I on behalf of my party demand an impartial inquiry of his incident. With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members of this House that there will no lunch break today and this debate will continue.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all things were made clear in the Adjournment Motion moved by Shri L.K. Advaniji. Several of our friends have mentioned certain things while condemning this incident. This proves that this incident has been tried to be communalised. Before coming to the topic I would like to mention two things. 32 people were killed in that incident, they were locked in a house and killed like animals. Hindustan times has also published this incident, and after that incident they mention that

[English]

"Doda villagers waited all day for Shri Patil".

[Translation]

They further write that "Doda villagers waited all day for Shri Patil". They have mentioned that "around 600 villagers of Kulon marched 22 kms. towards Doda town where they sat on demonstration. Village head Swamiraj addressed the gathering, which included members of Muslim and Sikh communities and said, the State Government, not the militants was responsible for the incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, he cannot read the newspapers. Today, they are not the Bible. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he can reply to that. He has a chance to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can only quote and cannot read.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But Sir, he has a chance to reply to it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is lowering down the level of the debate which Shri Advani has raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: "We waited for the Home Minister from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. so that we

could speak to him about our security', said Vimla Devi, wife of village Chief, Gopi Chand, who was among those killed by the militants early on Monday."

[*Translation*]

Sir, the incident was told to us and was published in papers all over country, but Minister of Home Affairs has not contradicted the statement. It was told to the Minister of Home Affairs that due to security reasons he need not go there because it was dangerous for you, that is why Minister did not go there.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Did he go there? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

whether he went there or not.

[*English*]

It is all there in the newspapers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have no time to reply to his small points in my debate. So, I would like to reply to it now itself. This is not correct. I was to go to only one place. I was not to go other place. Some other leaders were going to that place. I had not decided that. So, this is not correct.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If the Hon. Home Minister cannot pay a visit to a certain place due to security reasons then the defence forces of India upon whom. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

This came in all the newspapers and TV channels. He did not go there. He was warned not to go there for security reasons. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

The Home Minister of the country cannot go to a place which reflects how much dangerous is the situation. How

can people live there where the Home Minister finds it difficult to go? The second point is that ...(*Interruptions*) he has not allowed to go there. He was stopped. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement of the Chief Minister of Kashmir has been reported by all the newspapers. We attentively watched it on Television. I have no doubt about the secular profile of Gulam Nabi Azad ji. I respect him too much. But his contention is totally uncalled for that why these people undertook dharna and due to their dharna they were responsible. Earlier there was a bomb attack over there and the terrorists had killed people earlier as well. Whether the BJP people be held responsible for that because they undertook a dharna over there? Nothing can be more shameful than this. To console their brethren people were gathering there from places 40 kilometers apart. He says why they undertook a dharna? It means that terrorism will be provided legitimacy over there. If we undertake a dharna over there, the terrorists will strike. Does it not mean that as people are residing over there, so the terrorists are carrying out strikes? If they leave the State, no one will be left there and so the terrorists will have no one to strike at? This is not a general thing. The statement of the Chief Minister that the BJP is responsible for it is totally uncalled for. What the BJP has done? It is reported that Muslims, Sikhs and others were also participating in that dharna. They are saying that security was not provided over there. Two points have come to the fore which I think are very dangerous and worth considering. His statement is not meant to hearten up the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Now, I have been told as to why Advani ji talked about ethnic cleansing? If such an incident takes place against Muslims, Hindus or against any other, what sort of reaction comes from us or from the press or the political parties. Something has been said here in this regard. Is there any doubt that 5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits have been evicted from there and they are facing all sorts of difficulties in other parts of the country. No negotiation is being held with them. No one migrated from Gujarat but Gujarat has been publicized widely by the press, media, by the House and the members and the television.

[*English*]

Not a single Gujarati has gone out of Gujarat.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[Translation]

5 lakh Hindus have been evicted from Kashmir and if someone raises their voice it is said that the question of Hindus and Muslims is being raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Let him first correct his figures. He is saying that only 5 lakh Hindus have come out—this figure can be only for the Kashmiris. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is exactly our charge.

[Translation]

Such a reaction is given here when the issue of Kashmiri Pandits and the Hindus is raised. If such things happen at another place it is said that the minorities are being eliminated. This is their mentality. This is our specific charge. He asked what happened there? One day it was announced through loudspeakers from all the mosques of Srinagar that Kashmiri Pandits should go out. Only the lady folk of the Kashmiri Pandits could continue to live there and not the men folk. Next day all the people left their houses. Gradually, 5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits vacated their area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Can you give any example? Have you got any such type?

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please allow me to intervene. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your turn will come. You can say whatever you want to say at that time.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Please allow me to speak for half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You be seated. You will also get an opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He should understand this fact on his own. I am not contending that Muslims have not been killed in Kashmir, rather Muslims have been killed more in number than the terrorists. Muslims have also suffered atrocities. Kashmiri Muslims have raped women and many other incidents have taken place. I have repeated this fact several times that among the people killed in Kashmir, Muslims are more in number than the Hindus. But there is a difference between the two. Muslims are being killed for spreading terrorism. A policy is being followed from the Bhutto era to bleed Kashmir through terrorism to such an extent that India might get fed up to leave it. Under this policy Muslims are being killed. But why Hindus are being killed? Under a well thought out conspiracy, the Kashmir valley has already been vacated. They are trying to vacate Doda, Poonch and Rajori, Kargil is already vacated and Leh also is to be vacated. You must have read the statement of Musarruf. Musarruf has said that a policy should be formulated for all the seven parts of the State. For example, separate policy for POK, for Kashmir valley, for Doda and Jammu. That is why exodus from the Doda district has commenced and is going on. Exodus is going on from Chamba area also. I had contended that this exodus should be checked. ...*(Interruptions)* This is ethnic cleansing, genocide. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party will get a chance.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If we do not save anyone there and let people be killed with their

*Not recorded.

children and the women be raped, then we cannot check the exodus. Are we promoting exodus from there? You are responsible. I charge the Prime Minister of the UPA Government.

If they migrate from there then they are responsible. The people who are looking at this matter in this way. They are responsible for migration from there. I charge you, I charge the Home Minister. The responsibility of ethnic cleansing there is on you. You are responsible for this Genocide there, ethnic cleansing there. Why you are not trying to stop it with full sincerity. Why security forces have not been deputed in Doda? Why people were not provided AK-47 there? Why the Committees constituted there were handed over to there. I want to ask the home Minister and it has also been highlighted in newspapers all over India that Gujarat Government have been instructed the people should be protected. Some people were killed in Gujarat, this is not good. Our person was killed there, some people were killed in police firing, four persons were murdered and Govt. of India is issuing such orders to the Government of Gujarat. Why you have not given similar instruction to Jammu and Kashmir Government? Why you have not issued instructions to the Army? Wherever question of Hindu comes then it is said the people may react, you should not take action. If you will make a mole out of it then there will be reaction. You try to hide the things by saying this and as a result there of the whole world. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please. Please sit down. This is not the way. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It gives a message in whole world that here in India, the Muslims are being massacred, but nothing comes out regarding Hindus. The same thing Advani Ji had told that—we are having double standards.

If five lakh Muslims are removed from any state or a similar kind of incidence occur then whether your reaction will be the same as is in the case of Kashmiri Pandits. If a Doda like incident may occur with any minority section in any other state, then whether you will have a similar reaction. I want to say that here the reaction should be same in both the cases. The same

thing Advani Ji had told and I do not think that any one have objection to this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say one another thing that here hon. Prime Minister is holding talks with Hurriat leaders. Punun Kashmir and Kashmiri Pandits have said that the Prime Minister is holding such talks with those who have killed our people and those who were killed were have been included in my such talks. This is the reason why our military officers have told that the terrorists, those who are killing people, those who are talking about Azad Kashmir, there who are talking about Kashmir's inclusion in Pakistan the people who are generally seen sitting with Prime Minister here in Delhi, then how military take action against them there. Today forces are being removed from Siachin. I want to ask that why Government have withdrawn thirty thousand soldiers from there? Because Pakistan has said that we should our forces and you have withdrawn thirty thousand soldiers from Kashmir? After that, people are being filled there, who will be responsible for that. Why Government have withdrawn thirty thousand soldiers from there? Why you are talking about withdraw of forces from Siachin—instead of increasing their numbers and Pakistan should be told about it openly in clear terms. Our resolution is that Kashmir is an integrated part of India, whatever may be the condition there, Kashmir would always remain an integral part of India—until you say openly to Pakistan that no compromise may be made on this issue, we have to say this openly otherwise discussion could not be continued. I want to know that whether General Musharraf has not told you that India should withdraw its forces from Anantnag and Baramula and I will end terrorism there. Whether this is not a admission that General Musharraf is sponsoring terrorism there, Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism there. His statements has been published in the newspapers all over the world that India should withdraw its forces and in turn I will end the terrorism there. Whether you are not holding talks with Pakistan in this regard. The persons conspiring to blast Elora caves, everywhere in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh the terrorist belonging to ISI of Pakistan. In all above places there is Government of Congress and these Government have been repeatedly saying that terrorists may strike all over Delhi, they want to blow Ajanta-Elora cave, they want to instigate riots in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and you are still holding talks with them. You are not ready to speak a single word against terrorism. This is the conspiracy hailed by General Musharraf and we have to make concerted efforts to expose this conspiracy in Rajouri, Poonch, Laddakh, Leh and Kargil areas. You

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

are not doing so, you are just want to cover it. Therefore Advani Ji has moved this Adjournment Motion, the aim and objective of this Adjournment Motion is to support the residents of Doda as well as to console them by extending a helping hand. We need such steps today. I would not understand that for such minor incidents you declare compensation of ten lakhs immediately but you have not declared any compensation for the persons killed there. Till date, no announcement has been made as yet that they will be provided AK-47 Rifles so that they may be able to protect themselves. Both these things are poles apart and I am drawing your attention particularly towards this.

Therefore, for God sake please do not treat this in this way and do not play vote bank politics and do not cover up all these killings. With these words, I support the Adjournment Motion presented by Sh. Advani Ji.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir I am thankful for giving me an opportunity to speak. The issue is related to our state. It is concerned with our province that is why we know the ground reality of the issue which we are facing all the time. Advani ji had visited there yesterday and Malhotra Ji is yet to visit, but I think they do not know the topography of the state.

I would say Advani ji has brought an Adjournment Motion today. Sir, it is nothing but an age factor which undermines the will power. Supposing I have nothing to say, Advani Ji has conveyed his message all over the country what his intention are and how far he is sensitive about the killing in Doda, and improving the situation of Jammu and Kashmir and also as to how much sympathy he has for them. People belong upto different communities are minority at one place and majority at other at. On the whole, the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir are being killed for the last 16 years. What is his thinking for the betterment of them. In fact, not a single word was deliberated about it by Shri Advani Ji in this very House, how the situation will be improved to overcome the set of circumstances prevailing in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, what measure should be taken by both the central and the state Government to check the incidents in which the innocent people are being killed in the State. In his capacity of the leader of opposition, had he given some suggestions. I think, our central and state Government would have taken initiatives on his suggestions so that the incidents like those could be

checked for good leading us to talk and we would be talking on the issue of development.

Sir, it is the incident of 1st May which took place at the night of, 30th April-First of all I would like to condemn it. I am grateful to the people of the whole country who condemned this killings and all the people realise whatever the incident took place was deplorable. However, such incident took place after two years and the frequency of such incidents was on one. As Munshi Ji said in his speech now that the bye election, which was conducted there, has recorded a record vote percentage of 76,72,64,62 and such phenomenon was never witnessed in the history of Jammu and Kashmir during the period of seven years. I think, it is a signal that the secular people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are seeking peace, unity and brotherhood, do not wish to let the situation drift to the shouddy past which have ruined and destroyed the state during the last 16 years. They do wish to see the same thing once again. The way by which they pushed the EVMS, buttons and cast their votes underlines this very fact. They had given their mandate in Bhadarwah Assembly Constituency. It is the constituency which lies in Jammu region and our hon'ble Chief Minister have fought election from this constituency. Advani ji is sitting here. The record tells that it is the constituency from where the former state president of Bharatiya Janata Party Kotwal Saheb used to fight election and this time his nephew was the candidate of Bharatiya Janata Party in the fray. As revealed through the figures stated by Munshi Ji, there was a total of more than 66000 votes cast there out of which 62,000 votes went in favour of Chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azad while 45 per cent population was of Hindu and 55 per cent population was of Muslim. Only four thousand votes were cast in favour of Bharatiya Janata Party candidate. I think, this is the reason that he has brought an Adjournment motion. It is not because of expressing sympathy upon the killings of 32 people, but to articulate the defeat of his party. Doda district was the stronghold of BJP. It was the only constituency where BJP had a stronghold. The way by which they have been defeated underlines how much people are secular and visionary there and what kind of situations they had to face there and now what the intentions they have. The people of the State gave their mandate much to the dislike of their party. I also got opportunity to go with Home Minister. I got opportunity to go to Dadu Vasantgarh in Udhampur district. Our Defence Minister also went there and Home Minister has returned from visiting there. Now Malhotra Ji was saying about the measures taken by the Chief Minister for them. There is an order of the Central

Government saying if somebody is killed how much compensation will be given to the next kin of the deceased and if somebody is injured, how much compensation will be given to the injured. The State Government did all these things and announced also to give jobs to the family members of the deceased persons. On the same day the decision was taken to strengthen ten member BDC of the minorities villages and the state Government have decided to give Rs. 5000 and one weapon to each member of the BDC. In their times BDC was constituted for their political benefits. They had the Defence Minister who used to be a Member of Parliament also. At one point of time he fought the election on the issue of BDC constitution and how he used the BDC members is known to us. Today BDC have 10 members to whom giving of Rs. 55000 each has been decided while in their times they were given Rs. 1500 each. If ten members were in BDC, what kind of policy was formulated by both the Central and the State Government together.

The other issue is demilitarization. It is a fact that four days ago the army was withdrawn and they came back. But those who were killed had gone to hills to get their cattle grazed. Their farms were 10-15 kilometre away from there. At that place they were kidnapped and then they were killed at the same place. I would like to say and I have no hesitation in saying in the House that I will never like the things which have been said like this. There are some parties which wish to do the politics of votes. They have faced defeats all over the country, no where they have registered their presence, in bye-election they have been totally finished. Doda was the stronghold of BJP, even in Doda BJP was defeated badly. There are some opportunist parties which wish to add to their vote bank by giving slogans like this. Our Government should think about it very seriously. Those talking about demilitarization, are not with the people of remote areas who are still unsafe. Rather they are supporting the evil designs of Pakistan by helping the anti-nationals to come forward. Today, people are with our Central Government as well as with our hon'ble Prime Minister, whether they are concerned with Kashmir or with Jammu. Even the common people are appreciating the peace process. there is a tremendous change in the thinking of the people. Even today those who are the enemies of our country do not like the unity and integrity of our country, they do not like the progress of the country and wish to create conflicts by sowing seeds of communalism among us. Through this House I would like to congratulate the

minority people of Jammu and the Hindus residing there. It is not that only 32 people have been killed now, but thousands of people have also lost their life during 16 years and for what they were killed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): It was your Government which was ruling for 16 years. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Madan Lal Sharma.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Munshi Ji gave you the figures. I do not want to dwell into that. They are less or more, but they all are our brother, elders, mothers and sisters. They were raped. We have been ruined and destroyed, so do not add insult to our injuries. It is not wise to indulge in self-praise and blaming our Government for inaction in the House as the whole world is watching the proceedings. They are the forces which wish to create communal conflicts between Hindu and Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, but they are none other than the people of Jammu who have shown patriotism, secularism and brotherhood, whether it is Raghuanth temple attack or Rajiv Nagar incident or the incidents of any other place and they did not come into the trap of them. Today also, I want to say that they should be encouraged and BDC should be strengthen there. The minority community living in remote areas should be provided with arms. Another thing I would like to submit is that even at compensation of crores of rupees provided by you can not fulfill the loss to the family and cannot bring the person back. I want to say that they strike at such places where the people are very poor and earn their livelihood with great difficulty. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Home Minister through you that the amount of compensation should be increased from one lakh rupees to five lakh rupees approx and the compensation provided to the persons who get wounded, loose their limbs, get permanently handicapped and are not in a position to take adequate treatment, should also be increased as medicines have also become costly these days. It will be of a great help to them. I oppose the

*Not recorded.

[Shri Madan Lal Sharma]

adjournment motion presented by Shri Advani. Shri Malhotra jee and Shri Advani Jee, the two senior leaders from opposition party have not given any suggestion or advise to improve the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, they just informed regarding the incident there. I condemn this attitude. Shri Vajpayee jee is sitting here. They are comping there, organizing dharnas and processions and are plying with sentiments of the people living there. What can be more traitorous than this that in this time of crisis, when our secular forces all citizens of our country should stand united so that no outer force is able to harm us, they are doing politics there. They are holding dharna for the last 14-15 days and bringing people from Jammu to raise slogans and divide the people whether this is patriotist? They should fight such persons who are responsible for these killing and instigating such riots.

Sir, I am proud to say that earlier, whether we were in power or not, but when they were the ruling party and the Congress was in opposition, if such a situation arose there, we always said that we are with the Government. Therefore, I want to say that we should not talk such things. I remember a couplet which I would like to quote:

"Katra kisi ki ankh ke barsaat na ban jaye,
ye rahat hamare waste aafat na ban jaye,
mere watan ke rahbaro halat rok lo,
meri bhi jamin sarjami Iraq na ban jaye."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. Your party has only three and a half minutes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to speak on the Adjournment Motion moved by hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani. It is a sad news for everybody, for us, regarding the incidents that have happened in Doda and Udhampur areas of Jammu and Kashmir on 1.5.06 and 13.5.06, killing about 32 people. I do not have any words just to condemn these incidents. Further, the hon. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir made a statement. He has not appreciating the peaceful agitation taking place there, which was just to oppose these killings. Rather he used his Police Force to take action against these peaceful agitators who were just opposing this incident of killing. Nobody from the Home Ministry has so far visited this place. I do not know what is the perception of the Home Ministry when such type of incident has happened.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I had told the Defence Minister and he had gone there.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Some representatives of the Government of India should have visited. If someone has gone, it is all right because you should not select, pick and choose, the place to visit. When some incident of terrorist activity has happened at some place, somebody from the Government of India should immediately rush to that place. If it has happened in this case then it is a good thing and I appreciate that. But if some such incident has happened at some other place and they are not going there, it is not a good thing and I do not appreciate that.

Sir, is it not that the Doda and Udhampur incidents tell us that the terrorist threat remains potent and uncovers many issues relating to the security of the nation and security of our people? It is, no doubt, an attempt to disturb the communal harmony in the country. The terrorist incidents in general in the country have increased during this period because of the indifferent attitude of the Government.

14.00 hrs.

The Doda incident is a result of the callous attitude and indifferent attempt of the Government. It seems that the Government is completely confused about its policy on Jammu and Kashmir, and there is deviation from the policy of the Government of India. It has resulted in the occurrence of such incidents in Jammu and Kashmir to increase.

If at all the information about the withdrawal of troops—to the extent of 30,000—is correct, then it is a most unfortunate decision of the Government of India. What is the perception of the Government of India about Jammu and Kashmir, and with regard to its relations with Pakistan? We do not oppose peaceful relations with Pakistan, but it should not be at the cost of our integrity. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of our country, and the policy of the Government should reflect this point. The people in the country should not have a feeling that the Government is not taking the right decision in Jammu and Kashmir seriously. It should maintain peace in Jammu and Kashmir, and follow the old policy of it being an integral part of our country.

As regards Pakistan, we are still getting disturbing news and information that terrorist camps are still

continuing in the border area of Pakistan with Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India is having peaceful talks with Pakistan. It is all right, but the Government of Pakistan is not adhering to the assurances given by them. They are not accepting, and they are not adhering to their commitments, namely, that they would not allow any terrorist camps in their part of the land. I would like to state that it is still continuing there. This type of disturbing news is coming. Therefore, the Home Minister should clarify this situation.

It is necessary that the security arrangements in the Valley be reviewed after this incident. It is felt that the review of the security arrangements is necessary in the backdrop of the withdrawal of troops, and these terrorist incidents. It is also necessary that the Government to inform the House about the real situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Is this disturbing information, which is coming, correct or not?

The Government should also declare Doda and the nearby places in Jammu and Kashmir as disturbed areas because these incidents are not singled out incidents. These are actually increasing in number. In Srinagar something had happened some days back, and now these types of incidents of terrorist activities are taking place in Doda, Udhampur and such other places. Therefore, I would say that it is increasing day-by-day.

The minorities staying there are also feeling helpless. The policy adopted by the Government of India for the minorities in other places should also be followed in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the Government of India should come forward to help the minorities who are staying there. It is also necessary to help the minorities in other parts of the country by coming to their rescue, and safeguarding them. In the same manner, in Jammu and Kashmir also you should not have double standard policies, namely, one policy for other parts of the country and one policy for Jammu and Kashmir. There should be one policy for all the minorities in our country. The Government of India should follow this policy. If there is any increase in the feeling of insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir, then the Government of India is 100 per cent responsible for it.

Sir, I am concluding my speech. It is necessary that the Government of India comes to the rescue of the minorities. It is also not sufficient enough to condemn these incidents. They should come out with some sort of a policy, so that the terrorists would feel helpless, and

do not feel encouraged. This should be the assurance necessary to be given by the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Home Minister is present in the House, and he should give this assurance to the House that terrorist activities in the country would come down. He should also assure us that 100 per cent protection would be given to the minorities, and the Government of India would come to the rescue of the minorities.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I condemn the terrorist massacre. I express my sympathy for those who were killed. I convey my condolence to the families of the two BJP workers who have been murdered. I join with my BJP friends in demanding that the border should be protected. I also demand that Pakistan should be taken to task for not closing down of the various camps on their soil.

While saying so, I must say that Mr. Advani is a passionate speaker, is a learned man too, but also has a grip on English language. If I am not mistaken, he has not used the word 'condemn' anywhere in his speech. The word 'condemnation' has not been used by him, if I have listened to him attentively.

Secondly, as I understand, he has not demanded punishment for those who have perpetrated the massacre. What is his point? His point is not the massacre, his point is not that the people who have been responsible should be arrested, but his point is political. Indifference of the Government towards the problem of the majority, the Hindus, is his main point. That is why, he says that if it was any other community, the Government would have not been so indifferent. It is the moot point. He has been ably supported by my friend, Prof. Malhotra. It may not be a story, it may not be a concocted one, and it may be his own source. He has gone to the extent of saying that all the mosques in Kashmir are declaring that the Kashmiri Pundits must leave the State. He has his own intelligence, and I appreciate it. If you combine these two statements. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I can give you the details and I can show you the proof.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have not yielded to you. Whatever you wanted to say, you have said that.

If you combine these two statements that if it was not a Hindu community, then the Government would have

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

been more active or pro-active and the mosque is carrying on a campaign and the Government did not take any action, one plus one, what is the meaning? The meaning is communal divide. It is a communal divide, it is a communal campaign and it is a case of a Government being communal. They are against Hindus and for Muslims and, therefore, it is a communal Government. That has been the salient point of my learned friend, Mr. Advani. Therefore, he has not been able to use the word 'condemn' in course of the whole deliberation. he has not used the word 'condemn', Let us look into his speech.

Sir, the basic question is that my BJP friends do not agree that the relations with Pakistan should normalise. Our BJP friends do not agree any normalisation of relations with Pakistan or friendship with Pakistan, and the way in which the Government has been doing the job. That is why, they are so aggressive. They have been saying that violence has increased, violence has erupted, violence has engulfed, and the Government is leaving the entire Kashmir at the mercy of terrorists and, therefore, Hindus are being evacuated, and 30,000 troops are being evacuated, to make room for the terrorists and to make room for Pakistan to occupy Kashmir. That is why, the political point is being made that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it must not be forgotten. Cock and bull stories should find a limitation, at least in Parliament. Is there anybody in the House who will say that Kashmir is not an integral part of India? Whether it is a bad person in the Congress or any party, will anyone say that terrorism should not be fought and we must compromise with the terrorists?

The picture they are trying to paint deliberately to whip up a campaign is nailed down by the facts that I have in my possession. In 2001, cases of infiltration were 175; in 2002 they were 164 in number, in 2004 they were 102; in 2005 they were 13. Therefore, cases of infiltration have not increased in Jammu and Kashmir because of the 'weak-kneed' policy, or 'pro-Pakistan' policy, of Mr. Patil. Violence has not erupted because of that. If anybody is to be blamed for it, it is the earlier Government which has to be blamed.

I now come to the trends of incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2001, 4522 incidents took place; in 2002 there were 4038 incidents; in 2005, 1990 incidents took place; in 2006 up to April, 466 incidents took place. Therefore, the dangerously inflammatory campaign being let loose by my learned friends in the House that

Government is compromising with terrorism, that Government is pro-Pakistan; that Government has failed to protect Hindus; that Government is evacuating Jammu and Kashmir to hand it over to Pakistan, is a dangerous story to whip up communal feelings in the country. That is the reason why this Adjournment Motion has been moved.

The basic point is, we are against terrorism. The entire country stands against terrorism. The entire country stands against infiltration. The entire country stands for protection of Hindus, whether in Kashmir or any other part of the country. There is no second opinion in the country that there should not be any compromise with terrorism, that there should not be any compromise with infiltration.

In such a situation, how can this Adjournment Motion be moved? Raising this Adjournment Motion, how can a person no other than the Leader of the Opposition say that you are compromising with terrorism; you do not believe that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India; you are surrendering to cross border terrorism? They had been very brave. Therefore, Musharraf had to go empty-handed and my friend Mr. Patil is a weak-kneed person, therefore, a passenger bus is running between India and Pakistan. This is a colossal political bankruptcy of a political party which is facing a downturn in Indian politics.

Without taking much of your time, Sir, I shall say that it is most unfortunate that Advaniji is playing his Hindu card. He is not fighting terrorism at all. I can tell him that this will not bring him political dividends in any of the elections you will face in the future. Your real face has been unmasked today to the people of the country. Therefore, he should not try to get his lost ground by harping on concocted stories about the Indian reality.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, only two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: If you like, Shri Advaniji, I would place the figures on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you are wasting the time of your own Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please sit down. I will give you time. I will try to accommodate you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all have unanimously proposed in this House that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and will always remain so. But today in this democratic system, we hear a Chief Minister state then why did you held demonstration there. As a result of demonstration your activists were killed. You should not hold demonstrations. Demonstration has being held there because this integral part of India, as recognized by the Parliament of India, should remain with India. They are trying to deprive us of our right to live in this integral part by creating disturbance and spreading terrorism there. We have a right to fight against this and we want to fight it by democratic methods. The people of Doda and Jammu & Kashmir were trying to give this message only but such an incident took place there. I feel that the statement by the Chief Minister indicates that the Government was aware that such incident may take place there and it may be possible that such incidents had taken place earlier also. Shri Sharma jee has mentioned here that how people have expressed faith in them and voted for them. Here, in this continuous discussion, we are only discussing, keeping in mind the vote bank and giving a political angle to every discussion and turning it towards vote bank. It hurts a woman like me because any where if an incident of terrorism occurs then the women and the girls have to suffer the most. families get disturbed. I was saying that a discussion was going on here that how the entire people have voted in the favour of Chief Minister in the recent bye-elections. Maximum number of Hindu Community had voted for him. Your calculation may be right but today I have to say with regret that they have expressed faith in you, the people of Badarwat, Kistwar and Kashmir and the Hindu also expressed faith in you but when the time of crisis came, instead of providing protection to them you just ignored them. Whether it is proper for a Chief Minister? They kept faith in you but you betrayed them. Whether such statement by a Chief Minister not make him liable to be

prosecuted for the killing of these two persons. Whether opinion of the Chief Minister can be field on the basis of the fact that who has been killed—a Hindu or a Muslim? Whether it is fair for a Chief Minister to have a such mindset of dividing Hindus and Muslims? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Madan Lal Sharma, please sit down and do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Today we should discuss this issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Madan Lal Sharma, whatever you are speaking is not going on record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, you also please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very big incident. Here we are counting the number of incidences. ...(Interruptions) It also hurts that the incidences are counted while discussing. ...(Interruptions) You should keep silent. You talk too much, I know that you have no knowledge about this. We fought for Jammu and Kashmir, since the time of Bhartiya Jansangh. ...(Interruptions) Whether you are aware of these things, you always talk about trivial things? ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendra Singh Jee, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will give me a little time and they will interfere again and again. I am saying nothing wrong.
...(Interruptions)

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I am sorry to know whenever such discussion takes place detailed of the fast incidents is given. Has given details of incidents happened during our tenure. Details of past incidents happened during our tenure details of past incidents is to be given, then it should be given from 1947.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, please do not disturb. Your turn is coming soon; you may speak during your turn. Sit down please. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, while giving details of such incidents 1947, it should also to be kept in mind as to which party was in power in Delhi and in Jammu-Kashmir at that time. But we do not want to go in details of such incidents. We want to say only that all incidents taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and terrorists attacks are done. Throughout India, the background of the above incidents these people have also wished. As to why POTA has been aroused border terrorism has been rooted out from the country. They are reducing the strength of my in the India. On what ground they are reducing the strength of army in Siachin we know that the discussion of the Government are political but if the Government taking discussions on party lines that this party has made this law so we will abolish this

law. Then it is dangerous for the country. It should be kept in mind.

I would like to say only that we should also think as to what is solution of this problem. We have to change our of thinking. ... (Interruptions)

Earlier, several people were killed in terrorism but people killed while demonstrating for their demand also fighting for same problem. Those people were fighting against terrorism. If we see in true spirit, they were fighting for the country. This fight is not of the neighbours. This fight is with Pakistan and with Pakistani infiltrators, this fight is not a fight of women over the water but it is a fight for this country. Therefore two persons killed in Doda today were killed fighting for the country. What is our thinking in this regard. Our thinking is that this dead body is of a political worrier. We see it this way. Actually we should see that he is a person who sacrificed his life for the country. The Chief Minister should have stood by this people of Doda but he is not doing so. If you are staging a dharna some where, then it means that you are staging dharna to boost the morals, the Chief Minister should support the people that to boost their moral and to protect them but the dead inspirit of doings so is labelled as a worker of a political party. This is not a good mentality. ... (Interruptions) This would not solve the problem. It is like that you do nothing for root out terrorism and such words for those who are doing something terrorism as to why they had gone there to die. These words convey this meaning. It is a very dangerous thing.

I would, therefore like to say that such deceased terrorism should be declared martyrs. Hon. Home Minister and you too should have gone there to pay floral tribute because he is the person who has sacrificed their lives for the country. These persons are martyrs who have died fighting against the terrorist. The Chief Minister should apologize for saying such against a martyr. All the people have expressed such feelings. You should have raised this discussion. If you raise those discussions then there is neither you are taking any action to stop migration of people from Doda nor you are allowing to do something or to raise voice to stop this. You are not even supporting this people when the terrorists suppress this voices.

I want that the Chief Minister should apologize on this. The Government should not count the dead bodies. It should not count the such incidents only. Whenever

such happens in the country, Kandhar is mentioned. Mr. Saleem raised the incidents of Kandravi. He said that your vote bank is decreasing so you have raised this issue. Such type of language is used. What was the situation in Kandhar at that time? Live hundred and fifty people of our country at stake in this plane. Their relatives were weeping here. The whole situation was before you still you mention that incidents time and again. I would like to ask the all insensitive people sitting here there they should show sensitivity on the Kashmir issue. Counting of such incidents will do nothing. You have to take some decision. We should keep it in mind. This Adjournment Motion is brought so that everybody think sensitively. I support this Adjournment Motion.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no words are strong enough to condemn the dastardly killings of innocent persons on the 1st and 13th May last. No words of sympathy are enough to console the members of the affected families. But what we have to consider is whether the Adjournment Motion and a discussion on it, will help curb in any way, the terrorist actions which are affecting the peace and security of the country and people losing their lives.

I oppose the Adjournment Motion, not because I am in disagreement with all that the hon. Leader of the opposition has said, I think all of us, from all sides of the House, want this problem of terrorism to be tackled. I think it is our duty, as Members of the Parliament representing all political Parties, to help the Government to strengthen its hands to tackle terrorism. I think discussion on this subject sometimes unintentionally proceed to achieve narrow political ends. From that point of view, may be an adjournment motion or a discussion on it will not help to curb terrorism. As I say, all Members should cooperate. I think, all of us are concerned with this. we want terrorism to be halted but the initiative also should come from the Government side. Perhaps, apart from having such open discussions, which will be reported all over the country through Media and others, I would rather humbly suggest that the Government should also take the initiative to get the opinion from all sides, all sections of the people. It should call representatives of all political parties for a discussion so that we can unitedly tackle this problem of terrorism and also invite suggestions as to how we can deal with our neighbouring countries who are no doubt encouraging terrorism.

Cross border terrorism is one of the greatest problems. So, I appeal to the Government to consider this humble suggestion of mine. As I said and I repeat, I know that all of us are concerned about it but since I think no useful purpose will be served by discussing an adjournment motion, I oppose this Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

Kab tak Jammu Kashmir mein khoon ki nadiyon behti rahengi.

"Kab tak wahan ki janta anyaya sehti rehagi

Hum to aatankwadiyon ka anyaya nahin chahte. Jammu-Kashmir ko nyaya chahiye,

Hamein to aur kuch bhi nahin chahiye, hamein to shanty our nyaya chahiye."

Sir, about the incidents of Doda and Jammu Kashmir I would like to say that the killing taking place there are murder of people who supports India, either they are Hindus or Muslims. Our colleague hon. Member Shri Advaniji has brought Adjournment Motion on this incident. There is no other option except bringing Adjournment Motion while sitting in opposition but we are invited on this subject. We have to create such type of atmosphere. we do not want either Pandits or Muslims be killed there. Regarding Jammu-Kashmir our opinion is that if partition of country did not take place and if India and Pakistan has been invited, we could have become a great power in the world. But let by gone be by gone. Now we have to take back the part of Jammu-Kashmir which is under occupation of Pakistan. My suggestion is that the U.P.A. Government should continue talks with Musharraf Ji. Musharraj Ji is talking about demilitarization of Jammu-Kashmir but he has not taken any initiative to demilitarize Pak occupied Kashmir. But Advaniji and Malhotraji need not worry to much on this issue. Our U.P.A. Government our Prime Minister and Home Minister and all of us are strong enough to protect the people of Jammu-Kashmir. That is why we are on this side and you are on that side.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into details but all of us should oppose incidents of Doda. Atalji had started a process of a dialogue with Pakistan to restore peace there. It was a good effort but our Government and this Ministry of Home Affairs are making

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

efforts to complete that incomplete work. You, therefore, need not to worry about it. It is the duty of our Government to protect the people there. I oppose the Adjournment Motion, brought by you. I hope our Government would establish peace in Jammu-Kashmir.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this adjournment motion has been moved by my colleague Shri Advaniji. He had told all the things in detail while moving the motion. Now it is being discussed. In the light of this discussion Advaniji will say something again.

I would like to say to my friends in the Congress that in 1994 BJP had passed a resolution regarding Doda. It was the matter of 1994. After several years of that incidence today this demand has been put forth that the residents of Doda should have an opportunity to live safely. It means peace was prevailing there since 1994. Though it was not as we wished. But Doda is a bordering area and some elements living across the border intends to occupy our territory. But we have taken steps to protect our territory. After 1994 now we are hearing the voice of people of Doda. This voice is of their cries, their murder and the cruelty done with them.

I hope that Government will put all the facts in this regard in the House. At least I understand that there was relatively peace in Doda during these years otherwise the people of Doda would have come to the Parliament. The residents of Doda would have come to us with their grief. But it does not mean that this area has become problem free. I would like to say it again that this is a bordering area. Such incidents take place in the border region and such incidents threatens the peace and survival of that area. But we have contain that damage and we expect this from our Government. But there is one problem before Government. Our Government wants peace there, we too want peace and our last motto is peace but right environment is prerequisite for establishing peace. If it is quiet spell of death, it is in peace due to fear then it has no meaning. There should be peace of life; there should be peace of using equal rights, peace of working together and living together. Government wants this type of peace but there is demand to reduce the number of security forces there. The word used for it in english creates some problems. Leader of our neighbouring country talks about demilitarisation. If we have not resorted to militarisation, then the question of demilitarisation does not arise. we have deployed military

there and if required we will increase the number of security forces there. But the use of words create problem. They think that we have deployed military everywhere. Where military is required it will be deployed and where military is not required it will not be deployed there. Our Government also understand it but words should be used properly.

One such word is also used in the context of Siachin. There is a lot of discussions taking place in respect of Siachin but decision are not being taken. What is truth is not comprehensible. I saw two statements given by two prominent figures. One was perhaps given by hon. Defence Minister, 'Siachin will not be demilitarised'. The second statement was 'we do not intend to demilitarize Siachin at present. Both the statements are right. There is no intention to withdraw military and there is no intention to withdraw military at present. Those who read the second statement begin to think that if government does not want to withdraw army at present then when army will be withdraw. So, it is imperative to use well thought words.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, no running commentary please. You may take your seat.

Nothing, except the speech of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, so far as the problems created by situation is concerned, we are trying to have there solutions and try to find out their solutions in future also. We will do this work together. Today I saw heated arguments which is but natural. But we should not draw farfetched meaning from it. Our neighbours know that they can not occupy our land. We will not allow any piece of our land slip into their lands. We are ready to fight for our defence, they also know it well. I would like to say that we are trying to maintain peace by keeping our defence preparedness. Those who are in power today were sittings in opposition yesterday, those who were in power earlier are now sitting in the opposition. We have to work together and will have to avoid using such words. Such words create mutual bickering. Hoping for peace is good but it is not proper to threaten our present in the hope of peace. It is proper to think of real or long standing peace but it is not proper to talk of peace and side by side preparedness for war. We are required to be vigilant and aware in this regard.

*Not recorded.

I think, the issues I felt will be mentioned by Shri Advaniji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, it is possible for us to understand the concern expressed by hon. Members of the House with regard to the three incidents that have taken place in Jammu. Technically, this matter need not have been discussed as an Adjournment Motion but everybody in the House agrees that matters of this nature should be discussed in the House in one form or the other. And so, it is not necessary to quarrel with the technical aspect of the subject. I think the House would like to condole the deaths of our brothers and sisters that have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, I am not on the point that something had happened in the period of the last Government and so, what happens now should be condoned or should be overlooked. No Government should take that kind of stand and we are also not going to take that kind of stand. It has to be understood by all of us that whatever happens today is the result of whatever we had been doing in the past. Before the NDA Government, other parties were in power. The Congress Party was in power. If something good had happened in the period of NDA Government, it may be the result of the steps taken by the previous Governments. If some mistakes were committed that may also be traced to the mistakes committed in the past. If something good is happening today, we would not say that it is happening simply because we are doing it. May be it is the result of the steps taken by the previous Government. We will have no difficulty in giving credit to the previous Government. If some mistake has occurred, it may also be the result of that.

It is with that intention I have given a document of four or five pages to the Secretariat to be circulated to the hon. Members of this House. I have authenticated it; and I have signed all the pages. I thought that these papers would be given to the hon. members before they start speaking so that they would be able to compare what is happening today with what had happened during the last five years' time and before that period also. It would help them to come to correct conclusions and to find out whether there is any improvement or deterioration in the situation. I am told that these papers will be put in pigeonholes and hon. Members would be receiving these papers and they would be able to read these

papers. They are in chart form. One can understand it at a glance.

Then we have given the list of the incidents that have taken place since 1993 upto this time as to what kind of incidents have taken place, etc. It would be possible for us to understand and assess the situation which is prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir at present and come to correct conclusion whether we have been able to do better or whether the situation has deteriorated. I am not going to read out these things. My colleague Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has explained as to how many times these incidents have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir. We are all sorry for this incident which has taken place there. Instead of blaming each other, we would be trying our best to see as to how these kinds of situations do not take place in future and as to how we can combat terrorism.

I am very happy to say it on the floor of the House. After hearing Shri L.K. Advani, I felt that he is also driving home the same point. After hearing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I was convinced that the approach taken by the leaders of the Opposition was constructive one. They are not here to indulge in blame game, saying, "You committed a mistake, you are responsible for it and you should be penalised". They were saying that these things have happened and these things should not have happened and what can be done to see that these things do not happen again. Nothing can be more useful than the attitude of this nature taken by all the parties on the floor of the House. I am thankful to the hon. leaders who have spoken in the House.

One point which was made by Shri L.K. Advani and repeated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was that in 1994 they had passed a Resolution saying that Doda has become a vulnerable place and something has to be done or something to that effect. I have not actually read the Resolution. So, I am not able to give the exact words. But a concern was expressed and a Resolution was passed that something should be done.

But I would like to say that that was the right thing to do and that is exactly what we should do on the floor of the House today also. We have done in the past also in a different fashion—not in the Parliament, not in the Party meeting but while discussing these issues in Consultative meetings, in the meetings organized with the MPs and others, in other forums also. But only one point I would like to make is that in Doda how many

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

times these incidents have taken place. For example, in 1993, in 1996, in 1996 again, in 1996 again, in 1998 again, in 1998 again and then in 1999, then 2000 again, in 2000 again, in 2001 again, in 2001 again, in 2001 again and in Udhampur also these incidents have taken place in all these figures. What does it go to show? What does it indicate? It indicates that that area is a vulnerable area and there are people who were there who are trying to take advantage of the situation prevailing over there and trying to do certain things which cannot be acceptable to us, as a country, as a Government, as a people who would like to see that the territory is not trespassed upon or the peace and tranquility is not disturbed. Now, this is what it shows. I am not trying to score a debating point by referring to the Resolution of 1994 or to the incidents that have taken place over here. Now, if the Resolution was passed there, it was in the period after previous Government also the incidents have taken place.

To give very briefly the fact, 37 times the incidents have taken place, not at Doda alone but at other places. I have given the list of all those places. But, I am not on that point. The point which is very rightly made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and by Shri Advaniji also, this is a problem and we shall have to solve this problem. If we are not able to solve this problem, probably we are committing a mistake here or there, and so, let us find out where the mistake is committed and then remove that mistake and solve this problem. I agree with the spirit with which the statement has been made.

Sir, we were asked that nothing has been done to help the people who suffered. Now, this was a little not in tune with which the debate was started. But then, this issue was raised, and very rightly also, any hon. Member thinks that nothing has been done, that hon. Member does have a right to ask the Government: "What have you done?" I think, it is my duty as representing the Government to explain to this House what has been done. Now, this is what has been done. I seek your indulgence when I read out only a few, one or two, pages relating to this. Now, what has been done actually?

"When the incident occurred, 9 injured persons were lifted from the Kulhand and brought to Jammu, given free treatment and all have survived. One was treated locally at Doda."

This is one thing. Second:

"...establish police post with 40 personnel on the spot."

Immediately, a police post was strengthened with 40 persons. Then,

"...formation of Village Defence Committee."

Eighty-five Village Defence Committees have been formed with 605 members in Tehsil of Doda and equal number of rifles have been distributed among the constituted Village Defence Committee members after giving them on-the-spot-training. Now, a point was made by one of the hon. Members that you have done nothing; you have not helped them with the weapons and all these things. This is not a fact. This is at one place. Eighty-five Village Defence Committees were constituted.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, 605 people have been given rifles and training to protect themselves. In village Kulhand, district Doda, 44 Village Defence Committees comprising of 113 village defence members have been constituted, given on the spot training and the same number of rifles have been distributed. This is at a second place. So, I am making these points to point out. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are giving them 303 rifles and the terrorists have AK-47s. This is what they are demanding.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the point I am making is that you have done nothing. You have not helped them. Now, I am giving you the facts. If any other kind of weapon system has to be given to them, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a decision to provide them with the necessary kinds of weapons. This can be done. But, the point I am making is that nothing was done. This was stated on the floor of the House. I am making a statement on behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. These things are done by Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India is not in the field. Jammu and Kashmir is in the field. This has to be understood. Whatever has been done, has been done by the State Government with the help of the Union Government. But, they are doing and they have done it. Then, the special recruitment drive of youth is being undertaken by Jammu and Kashmir police so that the recruits are trained and posted in the same areas to provide full security to the inhabitants and avoid such incidents in the future. The CRP is recruiting 3000 men and officers. SSP is recruiting 2500, and five India Reserve Battalions are being created, which gives an

opportunity to 5000 members to be included. That means, 10,000 young men will be recruited in the Armed police. They will be attracted away from the terrorists activities into a disciplined force.

Then, coming to establishment of army camp, one camp has been established in Kulhand village. It was done immediately. Then, there is distribution of *ex-gratia* compensation. Sir, Rs. 5000 in cash and cheque amounting to Rs. 95,000 have been paid to the next of kin of the deceased at their respective residences. I was told on the floor of the House very boldly that not a single pie is given. This kind of statement demoralizes the people and demoralizes the Government also. It has to be avoided it has been done. Then, Rs. 5000 in cash has been paid to each of the injured persons. Coming to ration, 18 quintals of atta and one month's ration has been given to the families. The list of orphaned children of these areas along with their papers of providing Rs. 800 per month scholarships have been prepared and submitted to the National Foundation of Communal Harmony which is going to help them.

Then, Sir, pension to the widows. In Kulhand area, Rs. 5000 per month have been sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner of Doda. The other things are restoration of electricity, water, drinking water, construction of roads and all those things. But, I am not going into all those details. What the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has done, has been brought to our notice and I have just brought those facts to your notice. So, please let us not say it on the floor of the House. On the floor of the House, if we make the statements boldly, which are contrary to the fact, the impression created outside is that nothing is being done. That impression is very demoralizing. It has to be avoided. When it is done in the face of the fact, well, it is very, very agonizing. I would not say anything more than this on this point.

Sir, very good points have been made by both the leaders and other hon. Members also. The question was very rightly raised. Are we going to withdraw our forces from there? Is there any proposal for accepting the concept of demilitarization from that area? Demilitarization is something more than withdrawing the forces from that area.

On this point, the hon. Defence Minister has made a statement very clearly and we should certainly go by what he has said. There have been demands made by all the political parties and individuals who have spoken

to the Government that in order to build confidence, we may reduce the force level in Jammu and Kashmir and some people suggested demilitarisation. ...(*Interruptions*) I am saying some people have suggested this. The neighbouring country also has made a statement like this. The authentic report is not with us, but we have read what has appeared in the media. But the Government of India, at the highest level, more than once has said that we are a peaceful country, we do not believe in always using the force, but we have a duty to perform and unless and until there is peace and tranquillity and terrorism ceases over there, then the question of reducing the force level does not arise. This kind of a very calculated and restrained statement made on this point should be enough to convince the hon. Members of this House that the Government of India is not out to take any decision which is not going to be in the interest of the country.

The terror level has come down, the number of incidents has come down, the killings have come down, the killings of the civilians have drastically come down and the graph shows that the earlier figure has reduced this time and yet we have decided that unless we are convinced that terrorism has come to an end fully, this kind of a decision will not be taken.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Have you reduced the deployment of Army or not?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will come to that. One of the advantages of discussing a matter like this is, we come to know the views of hon. Members. Hon. Members should understand that when they express their views, the hands of the Government should also get strengthened and welcome this kind of a discussion on this point. We should have a discussion on the law and order situation in the country, we should have a discussion on the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, North East States, Naxalite-affected States and also on communal harmony, not to blame each other, not to point our fingers at each other, but to understand what actually can be done and a debate of this kind helps us to understand as to what is the view of the people. What is coming out of this debate is that this is a matter in which the Government has to be very careful.

While on the one hand we do not want to rely entirely on the forces, on the other hand it is not possible for the Government of India to demilitarise certainly and reduce the forces. If some redeployment is done, that is a

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

different issue. Redeployment is different from reducing the forces. Demilitarisation is something bigger than that. Unless we understand the meaning of 'redeployment', 'reducing the forces' and 'demilitarisation' we would not be able to go forward. The Government of India and specially the experts will be in a position to redeploy the forces in the manner in which it has to be done, where it is necessary, the forces can go to that area and where it is not necessary, from there they can go to other areas. This is redeployment and this should not be treated as withdrawal of the forces from the area and that is certainly not demilitarisation also.

Sir, I am very happy to hear the views of hon. Members from all sides of the House. They made very good points. They reassured us that the direction in which we are trying to march is not a wrong direction and it is very reassuring. What have the hon. Members said with respect to the policy which we should follow? They said: 'Talk when talking helps, act when acting is necessary.' This is exactly what they are trying to say. They were trying to say that it is a multi-pronged approach if not single-pronged approach. I am saying that we are talking to all responsible individuals, responsible parties, trying to understand their point of view and trying to explain our point of view to them. This talking to them has really helped. We have talked to them in Srinagar; we have talked to them in Delhi; we are talking to them individually; we have talked to them in small groups; and we have talked to them in bigger groups also.

Let me tell you, Sir, very respectfully, on the floor of the House that when we talk to them, we were convinced that there are certain points on which we should go with them and there are certain points on which they would understand our point of view. There is a ground on which agreement can be there. That was a result of talking to them and we would continue talking to them.

The hon. Prime Minister was happy to meet the leaders who had come here two times. We are going to meet them also. When we are talking to them and if they are proposing certain things, that does not mean that we are accepting them outright without understanding the implications of what they are asking for and what can be done there. We would certainly hear them respectfully, understand their point of view. But, then we, do, will assess what should be done and what should not be done. But there should not be any opposition to the dialogue that we can have with people over there.

That was what was done by the previous Government and that is what is being done by us also and that is what is suggested by the entire world that do not rely upon force, rely upon dialogue, if possible solve them.

But at the same time, I would like to say that we would like to discharge our duty. Discharging our duty is not shouting at the top of our voice and saying that I will do this thing, I will do that thing. If determination is there in our heart to discharge our duty, that is more than enough. Loud words will not help us but real determination in heart will help us. I have no doubt that if Government is determined, if the House is determined, if the people are determined, we will just do the duty in a proper manner and we will not fail in doing that.

Fortunately, for us, the people in India also wanted peace. This is my view that more than 90 per cent of the people in our country and in other countries also want that this problem be solved. I have had an occasion to go to Bangladesh also to attend a SAARC Home Ministers' Conference and one of my friends had gone to Pakistan also. He was also telling me what the people feel there and my assessment of the feeling of the people in Bangladesh is with me. Certainly we understand what the people in our country want. More than 90 per cent of the people in our country and in other countries also are for peace and tranquillity.

Sometimes, we get a feeling that the Governments of these States are also understanding that by encouraging terrorism, they are not only creating problems for other countries, but they would be creating problems for themselves also. They are also inclined to see that the terrorist activity is reduced. But at the same time, there are people who are interested in carrying on the terrorist activity and they are spending means, material and money in carrying on terrorist activities and they are continuing with that.

For that, everybody should not be blamed. We should understand their intentions and we should behave in that fashion. I think, that was the policy that was followed by many previous Governments. That is not a wrong policy to follow here. On the one hand, we will be very vigilant and on the other hand, we will understand the real intentions of the people, of the Governments, of the terrorists and those who are out to create problems for us. We will accordingly do that. What is being done here is, in our country also, an allegation being made is that for political reasons, to get more votes, you are helping the minorities. This is a kind of allegation made. As a

matter of fact, this allegation can be made by those who are for protecting the weaker sections in the society. Those who are not having enough members to protect themselves and say that for reasons of getting votes, you are adopting the policy. Any man who understands the number game would not support the people who do not have enough numbers but would support people who have bigger number. This kind of allegation can be reversed and can be thrown at the face of those who are making this kind of allegation against some of the political parties. We are not doing that thing. We would like to see and it is the essence of democracy that minority has also to be protected. If we do not protect the minority, then the democracy would be every terrible, then the majority vote would help, but if you neglect minority, if you crush minority, if you do not help them, if you do not understand, then this kind of system is not going to be helpful. That is why we are requesting that look, we want to be just to everybody in the society. To whichever religion or caste or creed or section of the society they belong, we are for helping them in their just causes. One should not take any objection to this kind of thing.

Let me very carefully work my submission that unfortunately sometimes some of the leaders, some of the parties try to do certain things which does create cleavage in the society. We have no right to say: 'do not do this'. We have only a duty to risk, to appeal to them that please avoid this. If this happened, this will create problem for all of us. It has to be avoided. That which divides is not acceptable to us. That which unites is acceptable. That which divides is not religion also; it is not science also. That which unites is the real religion, if any religion has to be respected for that matter. So, we would respect that please help the people, not the Government, the people to create an atmosphere in the country which will avoid division.

Sir, there were some statements made against some of the persons who are not in the House. Now, the Chief Minister's name was again and again repeated and that too on the basis of the statements that somebody has read in the newspapers. First of all, you do not have to depend on the newspapers. Unless you are convinced that that is done, you cannot depend on the newspapers. That is a rule. That is what the Rule Book says. The Chief Minister was not here. If he was here, he could have defended himself. But, again and again it was said. Then the Minister or somebody on behalf of the Government is expected to reply to what you are alleging against the Chief Minister.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It came in the Television throughout the country. So, everybody has to depend upon what they saw on the Television.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The point I was making was that if a person is not in the House, if he is not able to defend, you cannot make allegation against him. There is a legislature. There he will appear. Let them say and he will reply there. but, I would like to say for me it is not possible to accept what you have said on this point. I shall have to find out as to what kind of statement was made, what was the context in which it was made, what were actually the words which were spelt. This is a forum where you can unite; this is a forum where you can evolve a policy. This should not be a forum which can be used for misleading the people outside of creating wrong opinion in the minds of other people. If we avoid doing that, that would be very useful. I do think that though the discussion was not unrequired, yet the discussion certainly could not have taken place in this form. It was only for this reason I would say that the Adjournment Motion cannot be accepted by us.

But the intention that such an issue should be discussed was certainly laudable and we appreciate it.

15.20 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am delighted to note that every section of the House is unanimous on the need of holding this discussion. I can understand why the opinions were divided on whether to hold a discussion through an 'Adjournment Motion' or under 'Rule 193'. I would once again like to draw your attention towards my initial speech on this issue. There was criticism in this House that I neither condemned nor lambasted it. I would like to say that two ministers of the Government have grasped my initial speech in two different ways.

Sir, I agree that my speech in the morning was focused on not various but a single point. And that point was that as we condemn all the terrorist attacks taking place across the country or the attacks taken place in Jammu Kashmir but we should be able to contrast them with the recent terrorist incidents occurred in Udhampur and Doda. They are different from other incidents of

[Shri L.K. Advani]

terrorist attacks. By saying so, I am not indulging in any vote bank politics. This situation is comparable, if my memory serves me right to my visit to Srinagar to attend the funeral of Shri Tika Lal Tapilu. I met the then Chief Minister Shri Farooq Abdullah and told him that in my opinion it was not an isolated incident. The terrorists are on a killing spree and are neither sparing Hindus nor Muslims. This particular incident is not akin to the one as I reminisced, this has got a background. Later on he made a statement, but I know that I told him or may be not but today I can say about this 'Operation Topak' and the ploy of killing by thousand cuts. This issue was discussed with the then General. One aspect was to make Jammu and Kashmir a state with Hinduless population. This was one of the aspects of the four pronged strategy. I am talking about the four aspects because after hearing my today's speech, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs felt that I have raked up some communal matters or raised some Hindu vote bank issue

[English]

today we are discussing this issue after religious cleansing has become a reality in the Kashmir Valley. This is why, it is not just an apprehension.

[Translation]

He has got no apprehension in this matter. It is fine that he took notice of it.

Sir, when there was a bomb blast in Srinagar on 14th April in which five civilians were killed, all the four organizations claimed responsibility and when 32 people got killed here, not even a single organization came forward to own the responsibility. I had started my speech by pointing towards this obvious difference. It would not be right if you view this issue from a communal angle. It is not that if a Hindu gets killed, there is grief and if a Musalman gets killed, there is no grief. I think my colleague Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has given a detailed reply in this regard.

Sir, terrorist attacks can have separate aims. I am of the opinion that if the nation or the Government think that they have wiped out the terrorism by figuring out the goals of the subsequent terrorist attacks, they are not right.

[English]

We are still alive and kicking. They want to affirm their authority. They want to affirm their position. That is all. And I would agree

[Translation]

I would not say that the number of such incidents has decreased or it is the same or there has been an increase or the Government failed to curb it.

[English]

I had never at any point of time suggested that because I am conscious as the Home Minister is conscious that whatever happens in this regard the whole country is one. All Governments would like to do the same thing. Though we may think that a law like POTA is necessary, you may think that it is not necessary. It is not because you do not want to tackle but you think that even without POTA, you will be able to tackle it just as in some States you permit certain laws which you do not permit in other State though the same law is needed in that State also.

[Translation]

I would not like to divert the topic.

[English]

I will not go at a tangent. I would point out what is all right in Maharashtra, why should it be regarded wrong in Gujarat and the law be held back even though passed by the Assembly?

[Translation]

I am not going to discuss it but basically I would like to say this because they have repealed POTA and also are not in favour of demilitarisation.

[English]

Minister said "We have taken back troops." About that they say "It is redeployment of troops." You have suggested that. You have not said it. But I have with me Shri Pranab Mukherjee's statement in which he says: "We had pulled out 30,000 troops between November 2004 and January 2005." I would not understand from this statement that it is redeployment of troops. This is pulling out troops. Pulling out troops cannot have any other meaning except what is meant.

I believe that in the present situation, Jammu and Kashmir has not yet arrived at that stage where pulling out troops would be desirable, particularly when there is

a consistent demand from across the border that there should be demilitarisation. It only encourages your colleagues in Jammu and Kashmir itself to say that not only POTA should be scrapped but also even the Armed Forces Special Powers Act should be repealed. I have seen a statement of the PDP General Council. It says that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act should be repealed.

Now, these are the consequences of steps taken by you or statements given by you so much so that I believe that the very first statement made by this Government says that terrorism will not be bracketed with dialogue suggesting that terrorism may continue but that will not affect the process of dialogue.

May I submit that even though the process of dialogue should not be related to the number of incidents or this incident or that incident, I do feel that there is a basic demand that has been made from our side all along, which has been intensified after the Joint Statements made by General Musharraf with the then Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee in 2004. The rationale of that basic demand is accepted by the whole world. The basic demand is that not only Pakistan's territory should not be used for cross-border terrorism but also the infrastructure for terrorism set up across the border should be dismantled. This is something about which the Government must keep on pressing and it must keep on pressing to the extent so much so that Pakistan should know that the peace process cannot go on endlessly while keeping on this kind of a thing.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee himself has said it. I have seen his statement in which he said that 59 terrorist camps were still operating in Pakistan. I have seen this statement. I have also read a news report saying that Syed Jalaluddin, supremo of the Hizbul Mujahiddin has been arrested in Pakistan lately.

Now, for a long time Pakistan has always said that Syed Jalaluddin is not a Pakistani, he is an Indian. He contested the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir and not in Pakistan. Therefore, he is an Indian. I may also point out that his name is among the 20 persons whom we have demanded to be handed over. We have demanded that these persons should be handed over to us including Dawood Ibrahim. This is a right time for pursuing this matter by the Government of India and seeing to it that this man is handed over to India for trial. After all, he has been guilty of many terrorist acts in India.

Sir, I have nothing more to add except to say that on this particular issue of Udhampur and Doda, the issue of Village Defence Committees is very important. I would like to point out here that some steps have been taken, but they are not as yet reassuring. A lot more needs to be done—how to do it and to what extent to do it. After all even one needs training for how to use a 303 rifle. So, if there is a demand for automatic weapons in order to be able to combat the terrorists, who have all kinds of weapons, a training course should also be there. The demand itself need not be rejected. It is something that should be seriously thought of.

So far as the finances are concerned, I have known how difficult it has been for them to carry on with these Village Defence Committees and the hon. Minister is fully familiar with the whole problem. I would only say that on the situation in Doda and Udhampur, if there is any specific issue that needs to be tackled, it is the issue of Village Defence Committees.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The motion is negatived.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the Calling Attention issue is concerned, it will be taken up tomorrow with the addition of names of Shri Harin Pathak and Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I will abide by whatever you decide. But then the Calling Attention Motion on communal disturbances covering all areas. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not on all areas. It is on a recent incident.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the hon. Members are responsible. Nothing should be said which may create any problem.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, we shall have fullfledged discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It depends on the hon. Members who have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have already given you the notices. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You try to persuade them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to Zero Hour a little later.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.33 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th May, 2006."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th May, 2006."

The Motion was adopted.

15.33 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

PRODUCE CESS LAW (ABOLITION) BILL, 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): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, with your permission on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Sharad Pawar I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940 and the Produce Cess Act, 1966."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Sir I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhury—not present.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there has been a long-drawn struggle by the people of Nepal for restoration of democracy. The King of Nepal dissolved the Parliament and promulgated a state of emergency in February last year. A Seven-Party Alliance was formed and this Seven-Party Alliance fought for the restoration of democracy in Nepal. During this struggle, a number of people have sacrificed their lives and became martyrs. The people of Nepal strengthened their struggle and the entire country was behind this struggle. The struggle was against the monarchy and for restoration of democracy and restoration of Parliament.

Ultimately the people of Nepal have become victorious. The King of Nepal had to restore the Parliament. The people of Nepal could achieve this success. We, the people of India, always extended our support to the people of Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: After all, it is our friendly neighbour. But let us keep some limit.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The extremist forces have also agreed to come to the mainstream and this is

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

the success of the struggle of the people of Nepal. We congratulate the people of Nepal for their victory, for democracy, for the human rights. We should remember the sacrifices made by the people for democracy, for the freedom of the country and for human rights.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a free country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We congratulate the people of Nepal for their victory; for their success; and for the restoration of democracy in Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: If any one wishes to join—as I have got some indication—you may send in your names.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I want to speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please speak for one minute.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the development in Nepal once again proves that the people are invincible, people shall triumph and people shall win, whatever may be the strength of the* rule in any part of the world. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nepal is our friendly country. Nothing should be said about it that may be misconstrued. Very well, you can send greetings to the people there.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: People have won ultimately. We send our greetings.

MR. SPEAKER: That word should be removed.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Secondly, we wish the new Government of Nepal to succeed in all possible ways. Thirdly, the Party who is known as Maoists—I do not know what is their name—they are also a part and parcel of the Nepalese society. They are also patriots and they have also been fighting for the liberation of Nepal.

We fervently believe that there will be a total front between all the patriotic forces including those who have been fighting with arms for a stable government, for economic growth of Nepal, for improvement of living conditions in Nepal and for a new Nepal. we wish a democratic sovereign Nepal will emerge to take its rightful place in the world. we believe that Nepal is a secular country, a republican country and ultimately, they will march towards socialism, a classless society.

*Not recorded.

Long live friendship between India and Nepal. Long live the working people of Nepal. Long live the struggle for socialism and for social welfare.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to associate myself with him.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party. I also want to associate myself with him. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You all send names.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have acceded to that—all the names will be recorded.

The names of Md. Salim, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Lakshman Seth, Shri Sunil Khan and Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy may be included. Please send the slips.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: May I suggest that Indian Parliament should send greetings to the Nepalese Parliament and Nepalese Government? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is not the method. You are sending your good wishes.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your names on a slip of paper. It will be duly acknowledged. Your participation will be acknowledged.

...(*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): We are all for parliamentary democracy and there has been restoration of Parliament in Nepal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have stood up.

MR. SPEAKER: You have silently stood up.

15.40 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—Contd.

(ii) Strike by doctors in various hospitals of Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): I am raising a very grave and sensitive issue. A strike is going on in all the hospital of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Certain norms have to be followed.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to request to leader of this House to take note of this serious issue. I would like to receive a response from him.... *

MR. SPEAKER: This portion should be expunged from the records.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have not used any unparliamentary language.

MR. SPEAKER: There was not any use of unparliamentary terms, yet certain norms have to be followed to transact business in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am raising a very significant and sensitive issue. Life in entire Delhi is under chaos due to the strike in Hospitals. Patients, irrespective of the fact whether they are the residents of Delhi or outsiders who came here for treatment, are panic stricken. As a result of negligence on the part of the doctors towards treatment, there are repeated reports in newspapers that two persons died, four persons died etc. Daily there are similar reports about various hospitals.

One more serious report about Safdarjung Hospital has come to light that it has declared a child dead. When the child was taken to the graveyard for cremation, it was found to be alive. Those people then took the child back to the hospital. The child was again declared dead and later on was cremated. This incident is the aftermath of the reservation issue. I do not wish to express my views either in favour of or against the reservation issue. But newspapers are reporting that Shri Arjun Singh is continuously playing games. It is not known whom he has set as his target of these games. Is Shri Pranav Mukerjee has target or is it Shri Manmohan Singhji? This, I do not know. The poor people of the villages are definitely suffering due to these games. There are no arrangements in place for the treatment of the people who came here in the hope of getting treatment and absence of treatment has forced them to undergo harrowing items on the roads. The residences of MPs have taken the shape of Mini Hospitals. Our residences are crowded with patients turned away from hospitals. Some complain about lack of food and other say that they are in need of treatment.

[Translation]

Patients fail to understand as to where from they should seek treatment.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to take this issue seriously. If the doctors do not withdraw their strike then the Government should make arrangement for treatment in Delhi by calling Army doctors. Alongwith this, through you, I would also like to tell Shri Arjun Singhji that the kind of step he has taken may or may not hurt others but he is definitely going to hurt himself. Therefore, he should take care to protect himself and the Government should take steps to make arrangement for the treatment of patients this is what I would like to submit.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I have also given notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I just want to mention that I am concerned, and I share the concern of the hon. Member. I have noted his suggestions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the situation is very much grave today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, your notice was received after the stipulated time.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: There is nation-wide outrage over this issue. There was police brutality on the striking medical students. This is the reason that the entire Indian Medical Association. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow the plea in future that "I can give notice today." I am not going to allow violation of the rules from tomorrow. I have been very very accommodative. I will do it for the institution.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Indian Medical Association has gone on strike, and the entire Government hospitals today is in a very bad shape. The patients are suffering, and the Government is not responding. They are not coming forward to rescue the patients, and they are not holding any negotiations with the medical students. The entire nation is worried about this issue because it has affected the entire country. Now, the brutality on the medical students has spread to the entire country. Therefore, the Government should respond on this issue. They should hold talks with the medical students who are agitating, and the medical institutions should be run, so that the patients do not suffer. The Government should come to their rescue, and the Government should come forward with a statement on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Shri Virendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hospital being constructed by the Ministry of Labour of the Union Government for beedi workers in my parliamentary constituency Sagar, Madhya Pradesh is ready. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The time is not over as yet. You should have some patience. Two Members cannot speak simultaneously.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: The hospital being constructed in Sagar for beedi workers would be

completed at a cost of six crore rupees. The building has been completed a year ago however the work of electricity fittings is still to be completed. The funds which the Union Government had provided last year have already been spent for the purchase of instruments. Most of the beedi workers live in Sagar district. Despite the fact that the building has been constructed it is not being used. The possibility of theft and causing damage to the building by anti social elements has arisen. Even the beedi workers are also facing difficulty as they have to go to Jabalpur and Bhopal for treatment.

Therefore, through you, I request the Ministry of Labour of the Union Government to provide the remaining funds to execute the electricity fitting work and give cooperation in making the hospital functional.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Next, I would like to call the name of the most cooperative and efficient MP, namely, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the Government of India for making an announcement to construct an international aerodrome at Jaipur. However, it has increased my problems. 24 colonies are located at Tonk Road near boundary wall on western side of Jaipur Airport. These colonies were set up even before 1980 and in these colonies JDA, Municipal Corporation has provided facilities like road, drainage, sewer line, park, waterline, community centre etc. Besides, out of these 24 colonies most of the colonies are approved by JDA. Poor people have constructed houses on 95% of plots of land by taking loan from various agencies. 11.95 acres of land of 24 colonies on Tank road has been sought for DBOR in Airport. After going through the proposed map of airport, it has been revealed that if DBOR is shifted 150 metre towards proposed new terminal in the east, the people living in these colonies can be saved from getting displaced. Alongwith this, the State Government would not have to incur expenditure of crores of rupees. Keeping in view the presently available land at airport, there is no necessity of acquiring 11.95 acres of land. At present Jaipur Airport has been in possession of more land as compared to other airports of the country. Therefore, the land, which is in possession of the Jaipur Airport should be used for developing Airport.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

Therefore, I request the Union Government that International Airport should be constructed on the same land, which is presently earmarked for constructing the airport, and not even single house of the already inhabited colonies should be touched, and it should be named as Maharaja Mansingh International Airport, after the name of the person who had contributed a lot for Jaipur city. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious matter. Injustice is being done to crores of devotees of Lord Krishna. It is known the world over that several mountains associated with Lord Krishna in Bharatpur, Rajasthan and thousand year old other places connected with life and divine deeds of Lord Krishna are being grossly neglected by the State Government of Rajasthan.

15.50 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The matter becomes even more serious because despite the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Court, the Government is not taking this matter seriously and the mountains are being destroyed in the name of mining. In this way our culture and ancient heritage is being destroyed. I would like to request you that the Government should intervene in this matter without any delay and take concrete and effective steps to protect ancient and historical culture and heritage of "Brij Bhumi". Today the Government is not paying attention towards this issue despite the fact the Saints are launching Movement for this purpose. The whole world is observing what the BJP Government is doing there, which consider itself as saviour of Hindus. Through you, I would like to request the Government to take concrete action as early as possible to protect "Brij Bhumi" and make efforts to stop the mining which is hurting the feelings of the devotees of Lord Shri Krishna so that our ancient culture, civilization and the land of Lord Krishna could be protected. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to intervene in this matter keeping all these issues in mind.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I fully support the views of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and while association myself with that I demand that mining work should be stopped immediately.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to bring the attention of the Central Government to the need to provide sufficient security to Indians employed in Afghanistan. The Government of India has made it clear that there is no question of withdrawal from Afghanistan. In that context, it is the primary responsibility of the Central Government to give protection to all those Indians employed in Afghanistan in developmental activities.

We have the sad memory of Manikanthan from Kerala who was working in Afghanistan and was brutally killed by the Taliban forces. The company which employed him had made many promises but those promises have not been fully met till date. His family is still in panic. They have not been compensated adequately. That is one aspect.

Recently, an Engineer from Andhra Pradesh, K. Suryanarayana was also brutally killed by the Taliban forces in Afghanistan. There is television news saying that ISI of Pakistan was also involved in the killing of the Engineer from Andhra Pradesh. Some agency has condemned it but it is still a fact that in all these killings ISI is having a role. We are now in peace talks with Pakistan. However, in the television reports from Afghanistan, it has been claimed by a Commando of Taliban forces that K. Suryanarayana was murdered at the instance of ISI.

This is a very serious question. The Government will have to inquire about the statement on brutal killings. Pakistan Government has not so far denied the fact. What exactly is the situation now? There are many Keralites and Andhriles working in Afghanistan. They are not directly employed by the US imperialists but they are employed by some companies functioning there. Unfortunately, the Government is not taking proper steps to give sufficient protection to all those people who are employed there. It is their primary duty to protect them. Or else, the Government should straightaway withdraw all those who are working in Afghanistan. At that same time, they say that there is no question of withdrawal. In that case, the Government should seriously consider these brutal killings by Taliban. If it is done at the instance of ISI, it is a very serious matter. It has to be viewed with all its seriousness by the Government of India, and our Mission in Afghanistan should be given strict direction for providing sufficient protection. Afghanistan Government

may also be contacted to give sufficient protection to Indian employees there.

Hence, I once again request the Government to make a response for the brutal killings of Indians in Afghanistan. Killing is being continued. Shri Manikantan has lost his life. But so far nobody has given sufficient compensation to that poor employee.

With these words, I once again urge the Government to take serious view of the matter and do all that possible for giving protection to the Indian employees in Afghanistan. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Me and my Party had passed a Resolution in the Assembly to release Shri Abdul Hasad Masani, who is an ISI agent. Why do you not ask him to contact ISI? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My party and I are asking the Central Government to give protection, not you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, four people including three police officials were murdered and five people were injured in Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh on 12th May. This is the same place where before this, several such incidents took place. 52 people were kidnapped and 15 people were killed by naxalites in this district. Not once but several times it has been said in the House that more than half of the States in India are affected by naxalism. We cannot evade our responsibility by saying that law and order is a State subject. This Question relates to economic and social disparity in a true sense. The Government have neither taken the requisite action nor formulated any action plan in consultation with States in this regard. This is a serious issue and it relates to poverty, helplessness, economic and social disparity. If the Government do not take any immediate action over this serious problem then in future this problem may further aggravate. Through you, I would like to request the Government that the Minister of Home Affairs should formulate some effective action plan immediately in consultation with the Chief Ministers of State and the Chief Secretaries to check such incidents.

*Not recorded.

I feel that this is a very serious problem being faced by the country and if efforts are not made for its solution then in future this problem may further aggravate.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[*English*]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I also associate with this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire country is really facing a serious problem as mentioned by Sumanji. Whether it is Chhattisgarh, Parts of Uttar Pradesh or Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand or Orissa, the problem is getting worse gradually. The Union Government have to formulate some action plan seriously in this regard. If the Government do not formulate any action plan, then this problem may pose danger to the unity and integrity of our country. Through you, I request the Government to take some action over this issue seriously.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 16—Matters under Rule 377.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. MOHAN: Sir, I have also given a notice for raising a very important matter of urgent importance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The remaining special mentions would be taken up before the adjournment of the House today.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on a very important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak in the evening.

15.59 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need for relaxation of conditions for recruitment of Armed Forces in the State of Himachal Pradesh**

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the break in the Parliament, I had an opportunity to inaugurate the recruitment rally being undertaken by the Army Recruitment Office, Mandi in my Constituency. A large number of youth came forward for this recruitment rally. Himachal Pradesh is known for brave, industrious and loyal people. Many soldiers laid their lives during the wars or in insurgency operations. I have come to know that a number of vacancies have been apportioned to the State as per the recruitable male population ratio (RMP). It has also come to my notice that there are certain States, where these vacancies in the Armed Forces as per quota of RMP remain unfilled.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Defence Minister to ensure that the conditions of RMP is relaxed for the State of Himachal Pradesh as a matter of policy, and more vacancies should be allocated keeping in view the diligent, brave and loyal trait of people; and till the policy is finalised, the unfilled vacancies of other States are transferred to Himachal Pradesh.

- (ii) Need to provide adequate funds for ensuring availability of water for drinking and irrigation purposes in Banaskantha Parliamentary constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Banaskantha is facing acute shortage of drinking water as this area is drought affected and also quite backward bordering area. Ground water level has depleted so much and consequently water is available neither for drinking nor for irrigation. In many a villages, only salty water is available. The drinking water scheme in vogue in said area has not made much headway as adequate funds are not being allocated for it, thereby water crisis is deepening day by day. There is a need to make special arrangements for drinking water as well as water for irrigation otherwise the condition is not going to improve

upon. Water for said area can be arranged only from Daroi and Narmada dams.

Through the House, I urge the Central Government to allocate at least Rs. 500 crore for making arrangements for drinking water as well as water for irrigation in my constituency, Banaskantha.

- (iii) Need for early implementation of 'Rajiv Gandhi Energy Scheme' in Amreli District, Gujarat**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Rajiv Gandhi Energy Scheme has been started by the Central Government in Bharuch, Narmada, Jamnagar, Junagarh and Bhavnagar districts of Gujarat for providing electricity to farmers, tribals and Harijans in the country. This scheme is aimed to facilitate the farmers in increasing their crop yield and also for providing development avenues to Harijans and the tribals. But, unfortunately, said scheme has not been implemented in my district Amreli, whereas, agriculture is main occupation in this area and majority of people are engaged in it. Said area also comprises very large number of harijans and tribals. People of my Parliamentary constituency have been deprived of the benefit of this scheme.

Through this House, I urge the Central Government to implement Rajiv Gandhi Energy Scheme in district Amreli, falling under my parliamentary constituency.

16.00 hrs.

- (iv) Need to involve local people and agencies for rehabilitation activities in Tsunami hit Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is worst affected by Tsunami devastation, needs to be brought back to normal life ensuring the livelihood of the people. Though after the disaster, some relief work has been done, which is commendable, but for the construction of permanent shelters, the views of beneficiaries should have been taken into account. It is pertinent to mention here that only shelter cannot help in the livelihood of the people of the Islands. The victim should have been involved in the construction activities, which will give some kind of earnings for their livelihood and the shelter too. In such

a condition, I do not think that the time schedule could be maintained.

Andaman Public Works Department is not being awarded the work. A number of agencies are sent from mainland for new construction work in the Islands which jeopardise the income avenue of the local people.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to convene a meeting of the newly constituted Islands Development Authority which is chaired by the Prime Minister for the immediate appraisal of the status of the Islands and also to see his instructions given to Islands during his visit to Port Blair are fully implemented.

(v) Need to ensure supply of LPG through pipeline in Jaipur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Many a cities in the country have been connected with gas pipelines. Laying of gas pipelines facilitates the supply of gas and also its availability at lower rates. Therefore, I urge the Government to connect Jaipur, the Capital of Rajasthan with gas pipeline soon.

(vi) Need to minimize inordinate delays in running of trains and provide relief to the passengers from paying indirect surcharges

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Passenger trains in the country have become habitual of running late when train cross one zone and enters another one it is deliberately delayed. It seems that the railways too is in the grip of increasing sentiment of regional discrimination. If it is not contained, its unified structure may face a serious threat.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways has stated that the Government will provide facility to the passengers without fare hike. Now the journey has been made expensive indirectly. If one has to change train of reaching destination, one will have to pay surcharge twice. The benefit of long distance travel available earlier, has been withdrawn. Moreover, around 200 trains have been declared super fast trains. Commuters travelling in said trains will have to pay surcharge. These trains are superfast trains by name only. These run late, have no drinking water facilities, seats are broken and of course, no safety.

I would urge hon'ble Minister to not to levy surcharge on such trains. Long distance train benefit should be restored and trains should run on time.

(vii) Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose crops have been damaged due to elephant menace in Keonjhar and Sundergarh Districts of Orissa

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): The elephant menace has posed a serious problem in the State of Orissa particularly in Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts. The farmers are the main victims as the elephants are coming out of the forest just after sunset and destroying the crops. Even the standing crops are destroyed by them. Most of the farmers in these two districts are small and marginal farmers belonging to SC, ST or OBC. They have no means to grow alternative crops. The elephants are even pulling out people from their huts and small dwelling units.

Under the circumstances stated above, the farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency may be provided with adequate compensation for growing alternative crops and to earn their livelihood.

(viii) Need to set up a Passport Office at Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): In the globalised scenario the number of Indian nationals migrating to foreign countries for employment, is increasing day by day. Out of lakhs of Indian Nationals working abroad, majority of workers are from Tamil Nadu, particularly from my native District Kanyakumari and Kerala. At present, untold hardships are being experienced by them in renewing the passport and for the new applicants in getting the passports in time.

There are only three Regional Passport Offices, two of which are in Chennai and one is in Tiruchirapally catering to the needs of applicants from all over Tamil Nadu. A cursory survey, reveals that next to Chennai the maximum number of passport applicants dealt with the passports issued are from the Regional Passport Office at Tiruchirapally. Seeing the pitiable plight of the applicants and the undesirable practices perpetrated upon them by Private Travel Agencies, the Government was kind enough to open up passport cells in District Collectorate. Now from the statistics and details collected from District

[Shri A.V. Bellarmin]

Collectorate passport cells, it is understood that next to Chennai, it is the passport cell functioning at the District Collectorate, Kanyakumari, which is receiving the maximum number of passport applications and these are sent to Trichy B.P.O. for processing and issue. It is ascertained that an average number of 85 to 100 applications are received every day nowadays at Nagercoil Cell unlike 20-25 received in 2002. But applicants suffer from undue delay in getting the passport as it consumes much time in complying with the requirements such as police verification report etc. So, it will be facilitating to the applicants in and around Kanyakumari District, say Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts, if the Government considers setting up a passport office at Nagercoil and it will be economical if the existing district passport cell is upgraded and made as a passport office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar—Not present.

(ix) **Need to set up 'Farmers' Development Council' for the benefit of farmers in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to set up a separate Development Council for Farmers. Farmers in the country are in pitiable condition. They do not get remunerative price for their produce. They get sufficient loans from the banks alright, but have to face the fury of weather, consequently, they are compelled to commit suicide. 70 percent population in our country comprises of agriculture labourers and the Government do not pay proper attention towards them. In view of this, there is a need to set up a Farmers' Development Council on the lines of Industrial Development Councils so that it can deliberate upon the condition of farmers and make suggestions to the Government for their betterment.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to it and urge him, keeping in view the problem of farmers, to take adequate measure for setting up of Development Council for Farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A.K.S. Vijayan—Not present.

Shri Rajesh Verma—Not present.

Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil—Not present.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh—Not present.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa—Not present.

(x) **Need to prepare a comprehensive railway development plan with a separate Budget for Pondicherry**

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The Union Territory of Pondicherry is a far-flung area and is scattered in between three States of India, namely Pondicherry and Karakal regions in Tamil Nadu. Mahe (800 kms. away from Pondicherry) in Kerala and Yanam (890 kms. away from Pondicherry) in Andhra Pradesh. The people, traders, administrators and other sections of the society have to interact with the people of other regions. Unfortunately, these four regions are ill connected by Railways. Pondicherry, the capital city of the Union Territory is not well connected even by an express train with the neighbouring Chennai city. The movement of people is highly hampered by the lack of railway facilities. The territory is making rapid strides in industry, trade, tourism and education and if proper railway facilities are not provided, the dynamism of Pondicherry would be really halted. Therefore, the Ministry of Railways should prepare a comprehensive railway development plan for Pondicherry taking into account the geographical peculiarities of the Territory and a separate Budget should be earmarked for this purpose.

(xi) **Need to get survey work done for construction of Inland Waterway in Tizu river in Nagaland between Logmatar and International border of Myanmar**

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Sir, the Government of India is aware that Nagaland is under special category State. People of Nagaland do not know that the inland water transport is also available in the country. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Shipping had taken up a project for construction of inland waterway in Tizu River in Nagaland between Logmatar and international border of Myanmar for promotion of Indo-Myanmar border trade through inland water transport.

Inland Water Transport (IWT) proposed 42 kilometre length of waterway to be taken up. The Survey work had been awarded to Minor Ports Survey Organisation (MPSO) and assurance given by the Minister was that survey work has to commence shortly. In the meantime, this

survey work could not be taken up because MPSO has been diverted to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to take up post-Tsunami survey. However, the Minister had again given the written assurance to me that to explore possibility of deputing another survey team to commence the survey work in Nagaland during last season. But this survey work is yet to start.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Shipping and Road Transport and Highways to get the survey work started by any team or agency and get Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared immediately.

16.18 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 17—Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to move**:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it may be recalled that the said amendment Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 2006 and was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 21st March, 2006. The Ministry of Company Affairs is implementing the e-governance initiative through a project termed as MCA-21. This project will provide the public, the corporate entities and others an easy and secured on-line access to MCA services including filing of documents and data access to corporate information required to be in the public domain under the statute at any time and from anywhere. This would result in efficiency in provisions of professional services and statutory supervision of corporate processes through the use of modern information technology and computers.

Sir, the proposed amendments enable modifications of the Act by notification in relation to amendment and format of electronic records and provide for electronic

identity for company directors. There are adequate safeguards provided in the proposals in respect of use of powers to subordinate legislation that would follow the enactment of the proposed amendment. The changes proposed will enable implementation of MCA-21 project which, in turn, will modernise administration of the corporate sector in India.

Therefore, the limited changes proposed to enable implementation of MCA-21 are commended for approval of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support this Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2006. This Bill, as I presume, has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha without any debate and, therefore, I am also not very keen on a debate on this Bill here.

I am very happy that the Government has, at least, introduced a Bill which would facilitate e-governance in this country. I think, it was long over-due. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I felt, this sort of a Bill should have been introduced much before. While I appreciate the fact that people would now be allowed to file their documents from anywhere, I particularly appreciate the point that any director of a company is going to have a Director's Identification Number. This is one of the most important features of this Bill. It is because as a Member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing the security scam, which worked for two years during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, I know that it is the directors of the financial institutions and companies who mostly create various financial irregularities and frauds. There would be a company director who would cause a lot of financial loss to a company but by virtue of his being a director in another company, he would take loan. But if the Government provides a Director's Identification Number, then it would be easy for the public and also for the companies to know that this was the man who had committed a fraud elsewhere. So, I appreciate this provision in the Bill. For those people who become directors in multiple companies this is going to serve as a deterrent from causing any fraud or irregularities.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 15.5.2006.

**Moved with the recommendations of the President.

16.24 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

I am also happy about the fact that it has been provided in the Bill that a director could not have more than one identification number. It was found that in PAN one person has filed application for four to five PAN and that has created a situation conducive for him to perpetrate a fraud and take loan from different banks and from different financial institutions. I appreciate the fact that there should be one identification number for one director. He should not be allowed to file applications by giving false addresses and get more than one number.

The other point is about the obligation of the director to intimate the Director's Identification Number to the concerned companies. This is also very much required because whenever we file any return to the Income Tax Department, or in any other case we are obliged now to indicate our PAN numbers.

Just like that, Director Identification Number is also absolutely required and the obligation of the company to inform the Director Identification Number to the Registrar is also an appreciable feature in this Bill.

I am happy that violation of any such provision calls for a fine of Rs. 500 per day. That is quite appreciable. You will have to pay a penalty of Rs. 500 per day. But I do not think it is less. Paying Rs. 500 everyday, I think, is quite heavy.

I thank the hon. Minister for bringing out such a good Bill to enhance corporate governance in the country and to strengthen corporate entities. I appreciate and support this Bill.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, I rise to support this Bill and the amendments that are being brought in. As my predecessor, Shri Swain, has said, this Bill could have been easily passed without discussion. But since there is a debate on the Bill, I would like to outline a few points here.

It is a very progressive piece of legislation which enables companies and other entities across India to use the great benefits that the electronics and information technology sectors have brought in. The easiest way of filing returns will not only ease the filing of returns wherever they are sitting, through their designated

Directors but there will also be a reduction of human interface with the Government Departments. This filing of returns will necessarily lead to a lot of reduction of general harassment which, all of us know, will happen whenever people contact the Government Departments. I think, for this purpose, the Government and the Minister need to be congratulated for bringing this piece of legislation. It will ensure that companies can file their returns fast and also ensure that results of what they are filing in can be available quickly through Internet and other electronic means. It will mean that information can be assessed and collected fast. Even our information agencies that use the kind of information that is put in will feel it easier to collect the information and display the same for public access.

I must outline some of the provisions of the Bill here. One is, of course, about the Director Identification Number which my predecessor talked about. But when you see the documents pertaining to the Bill that is being proposed, I think a very comprehensive and a very detailed procedure is being followed. A legacy data for the last two years is being computerised and scanned so that once the system comes into effect, some historical data is already available there. It is already talking about opening up of about 52 or 53 locations where offices shall be established that shall do hand-holding operations for companies, corporations and entities that may not themselves be able to shift over from a physical form of filing to the electronic form of filing. Normally, it is seen that whenever something goes electronic, it is not an interface that is extremely easy for the use of a large number of people. There are barriers created by non-accessibility of Internet. There are problems of language and there are problems of people trying to understand how forms are filled in. I think this small provision in which they will envisage, for the next two years, that physical help is available across the 52 or 53 important locations is an excellent step taken by the Department of Company Affairs.

There is also a provision of digital signature certification to ensure that documents remain safe and secure and you can actually give secure options to companies to file in. I would tell the Minister and the Government that technology in the Internet and the electronic fields is changing extremely fast. While we keep creating more and more secure options on the Net, there are people constantly trying to break any form of secure option that is available. Therefore, to counter that and to prevent that, very often, experts in IT field are coming up

with new intricate options to keep documents secure, to keep information secure and to keep database secure.

There is a provision in this Bill that wherever changes are required in the electronic filling in of forms, it need not be brought in further legislation, but it can be just notified. It may be kept in Parliament for thirty days' notice and since it needs quick reflection, it may quickly be taken on after that. I think that is a step that is to be commended. I would only say the link between the Department of IT which I am sure keeps track of changes, which are constantly going on, and the Department of Company Affairs should be constant so that wherever an opportunity comes people realise that there are new forms of hacking or opening into data bases available and there are better forms of protection available. There are better forms of keeping lines more secure that should be taken immediately taken on and put into the system.

My last urge is that, though this form of application has come in some fields—we have already found that this has come in the income tax—there are large number of interfaces still available between the Government of India and citizens, and between various State Governments and its citizens where electronic form of filling or electronic interface with the Governments has not really taken off. There are lot of programmes and lot of skills that have been spoken about, but very few of us have seen the actual results of the kind of initiative that could be taken up through what is broadly called e-governance in India.

I would take this opportunity to urge the Government to speedily take on, wherever possible, this form of interface. This reduces not just harassment, but enables people to not travel long distances. It helps people from stopping to interface with rather tough and hostile Government environment. Otherwise, they have to go to Government offices to file applications or simply just access small applications. It would enable more people in a family or in an economic entity to use the interface, understand, realise and even fill in forms. It would generally lead to probably more honest work environment in India.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Once again I support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. But at the same time I may have to point out certain difficulties that may arise in the

implementation of the Act. The Bill appears to be simple one. This has been introduced mainly for two purposes. One is to issue Director Identification Number by the Central Government. Second purpose is to switch over to electronic forms. These are the two main purposes for which the Amendment Bill has been introduced.

Regarding the issue of Identification Number Cards, there may arise some difficulties. Now, the time allotted for getting the Director Identification Number for persons who have become Directors without a number is sixty days. They will have to apply for the same within sixty days. I do not know whether this will be sufficient for all the Directors who have been appointed without an Identification Number. I do not know whether we will be able to comply with this provision within the time allotted under the statute. This may be looked into. Sixty days may not be sufficient because thousands and thousands of people are appointed as Directors without an Identification Number. I do not know whether all of them would be able to comply with the provisions of this Bill. That is one thing.

Secondly, time allotted for the Registrar for giving the Identification Number is one week. That also is not workable because one week's time is not sufficient. How can he give Identification Number to all these people within a period of one week? The idea is good. The provision is also good. But how far it will be workable is a matter to be seen. In a country like ours I do not know whether this provision of the Bill would be complied with as desired by the statute.

There are practical difficulties which you may please look into. I think, you will have to come with another amendment. Do not come for that purpose.

Now, coming to switching over to electronic form, that is a laborious work. For example, switching over all these applications and then details, all these will have to be in electronic form. That is a good thing. I fully agree. But there also, some difficulties may arise. That I cannot predict now. What kinds of difficulties may arise in the future is a matter to be seen afterwards. Again, with abundant caution, I advise the Government that switch over, all of a sudden, to electronic form, will not be possible. But the electronic form is good, and electronic document also is as valid as per the new Act, that is, Information Technology Act, 2000. By this Act, all these electronic forms become a documentary evidence. So, I would like to suggest whether all the electronic form under Section 610B of the Act, how far it will be possible, that

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

is also a matter to be worked into. Since the Rajya Sabha has already passed it, I am not moving any amendment because it will go back to the House again. So, I do not do that purpose. But whether this Technology Act Section 610-B will be fully implemented, this is a matter to be decided.

With these observations, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2006 and associating myself with the views expressed by other hon. members I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards only one provision. I do not know whether small companies have been taken into its ambit or not but if the Director of the Company would err then company will be imposed a fine of Rs. four thousand as per its provision and if it fails to pay this fine then Rs. 500 will be added per day. One does not know what kind of situation will brew-up as a result thereof. It may be my ignorance of the facts but I am only seeking a clarification and would like the Hon. Minister to address it during his reply. How much fine would be imposed on a defaulting company—it would be Rs. five thousand if caught once and if it is delayed by five-seven days then the fine would be Rs. five-seven ten thousand more. Thereafter, nothing can be done because they are giving it a legal structure. It is being brought as an Act and further action would be taken within the ambit of a rule. Therefore, one does not know how far this stringent provision would be effective since the assessment of the fine would be made on the basis of the provision. So, the provision appears to be falling short in many ways. I believe a company would be shelling out Rs. 20-25 thousand for its registration and other expenses and if Rs. five thousand is imposed as a fine and in case of its failure to pay the fine, Rs. 500 on daily basis is added to that fine, I feel it would be peanuts—it should be reviewed. I am extending him my full support. I belong to a rural background. There we encroach the land so that through a fine it comes into record. So there should not be any loopholes in this provision to be misused in future. There can be such a loophole. So he should review it.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The accounts payable, accounts receivable, invoices, purchase orders are the four words which I have mentioned. They sound very boring but are critical back office functions. If one gets them wrong, the whole institution falls down and companies can go bust. Get them deliberately wrong and people go to prison eventually. Corporate America woke up to the prison part just a while ago. I would like to ask the Minister, with this Bill have we woken up to that provision? We have come across, a large number of vanishing companies within last 10-15 years. What steps are there to stop a company from vanishing? What method is there to track them and to punish them? This Bill, of course, is confined to, more or less, giving a statutory provision, giving it a legal structure by e-governance and a number of amendments to that effect has been mentioned but, specially, the MCA-21 is the point which is being discussed. It is clear that reforms and upgradation of basic legal framework for corporate entities is essential for sustainable economic reforms.

The Bill is said to be comprehensive with a focus on promoting greater transparency and better governance. It is recognized that the framework for regulation of corporation entities has to be in tune with the emerging economic scenario so as to encourage corporate governance and protect the investors' interest and the other stakeholders. Dr. J.J. Irani was appointed and a Committee was formed and that committee, which was set up on 2nd December, 2004, has come out with a report in May, 2005 stating the flaws of existing Companies Act and pressed for the strengthening of reforms in various disciplines as covered in principal Act relating to regulation of companies in the country. The report had stated, had stressed on creating a healthy and investment destination for foreign investors. The objective was also to create more remunerative opportunities for the Indian investors also. There must be changes in the Act, which the Committee had stated, to comply with the changing business environment in the country. I would like to make it clear, Sir, that the proposed changes in the Companies Act will emphasize more on self-regulation and greater accountability through disclosures. Now, the onus is on the companies themselves. The law when enacted in full, will entail penalties including criminal liability for violations of prescribed norms. The Government has launched a major e-governance project known as MCA-21; MCA—Ministry of Company Affairs—and 21 meaning 21st Century on 1st March, 2005, which was launched in Coimbatore. I

do not know whether the Minister also went to Jaipur to launch that but it started with the Prime Minister's presence. It started on 1st March, 2005. It was a sixty-week project, which I had gathered. Through this, the entire business process of registrar of Companies is being shifted to e-governance mode. But, the question is has it been able to eliminate the physical interface between companies and the ROCs. All services such as registration of new companies, filing of annual returns and balance sheets and also viewing of documents, are all these things being done online? What is the position today? The Government had come out with a concept paper on Limited Liability Partnership Law. What steps have been taken in this regard? There is a grave problem today which is being faced due to slow liquidation process.

If a company has outlived its utility or if the directors of a company want to close the company, can they do that in simple terms? How many such cases are there? I need not refer to that now. But I think the Minister is aware of it. For long years, some companies want to wind up, but they are not able to do so. Is that flexibility available in this Bill or do you intend to bring that type of provision in future? The House would like to know about that. Then, what steps have been taken to speed up the mechanism and improve on the recovery rate within the existing legal framework? My doubt is, this issue has not been addressed in this Bill.

The major changes envisaged through this Amendment Bill are, allotment of Director Identification Number (DIN), which will, no doubt, help in paperless transaction, e-filing facility which includes incorporation of new companies, filing of Annual and other Statutory Returns, registration and verification of charges and applying for various approvals and clearances. Besides, inspection of company documents, request for certified copies and reporting of investor grievances can be done through the MCA-21 portal.

The allotment of Director Identification Number and digital signature are essential pre-requisites for e-filing. This will, no doubt, help companies. I commend the Government for this. The Government has done the right thing. This will help the investors to easily get the information on the companies which they are seeking to know. According to the provisions of the Companies Act, a person is entitled to file returns in the physical form also. Manual filing is, therefore, a legally available option. You cannot insist on e-filing alone unless the relevant section in the Act is amended. Have you done it or are

your keeping both the options open? More than the forms, the new rules also mandate that the director of the company obtain a Director Identification Number (DIN) and digital signature.

At the end, I would like to know as to why the Ministry of Company Affairs was in such a hurry to start MCA-21 in March, 2005, when the Bill was yet to be placed in the Parliament, what to speak of passing it. What was the urgency? The country and the House should know the reason for it. Why did the Government want to put the cart before the horse? Can the Minister explain it? Does he have an answer?

Sir, all of us are aware that 24 amendments have been made to the Companies Act in the past, with major amendments having been made in 1988 and 2002. The MCA-21 is one of the largest e-governance projects being carried out at a cost of Rs. 350 crore or more. It was supposed to have ended on 24th April, 2006. MCA-21 opens a whole new world of information on the corporate sector by becoming the largest ever repository of information.

The Ministry of Company Affairs should keep pace with the world. Dealing with frauds is an important role on which little has been achieved. I would urge that more steps be taken to protect the interests of citizens of this country.

With these words, I support the Bill, but at the same time, I would like to hear clarifications on the questions which I posed to the Minister.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, the Companies Act 1956 was enacted in 1956 and has been amended 24 times, as has been rightly said. It was merely a patchwork. In different committees and standing committees, we have been jointly members with Shri Kharabela Swain, Shri Mahtab and Shri Radhakrishnan, who is not present in the House at the moment.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Jairam Ramesh was also a member.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: He is now my colleague in the Ministry.

The problem has been that a few crore documents were filed every year with different registrar offices. It was humanly not possible to go through all the documents

[Shri Prem Chand Gupta]

whether they were right or what they were containing or what they were not containing. From 30,000 companies in 1956, as of now, we have over seven lakh companies. The workload has increased. There was a hue and cry that documents were not available and there was harassment at ROC Offices.

The step, to introduce MCA 21, which we have decided to take is a revolutionary step. It is a historical step. In different committees, this issue was discussed and it was approved. With this, e-filing would reduce the interface, the issue which was raised by my colleagues. The interface of public with Government officials would reduce to a great extent and MCA 21 would help in that.

Sir, with seven lakh companies, ROC offices had become mostly acting as receiving documents only. There was no strength left for any inspection, any findings as to what is going on in different companies. We had the cases of corporate frauds, we had the issue of many sick companies. So, with MCA 21, all these factors would be under control. I hope that we would be able to look into these issues more efficiently.

Sir, an issue has been raised by Shri Sandeep Dixit that technology is changing very fast and security of data is very important. There is no doubt about this. This project, MCA 21, provides for adequate safety measures on which he can be rest assured.

Shri Radhakrishnan, who is not present here, has stated that whether 60 days' time is sufficient for directors to apply for DIN certificate. I am glad to tell him that almost 1.5 lakh directors have already applied for DIN certificate. Our offices have been allotting DIN without any delay. If there is any problem, we will look into that.

Sir, you would appreciate that in any new system whenever it is introduced there may be some teething problems in the beginning. But as far as MCA 21 is concerned, we are in control and we have started this MCA 21 project in almost 12 stations and except for some teething problems the project is taking place smoothly.

Shri Mahtab mentioned about accounts receivable and payable. I want to tell the hon. Members that with digital signature certificates, accounts cannot be deliberately made wrong. It is not possible. Whatever you file is stored and it cannot be changed later on. So safety measure has been taken care of.

Sir, DIN would definitely curb the menace of vanishing companies. Today, many companies file their directors name in the name of their drivers, their peons, domestic helps, etc. With this DIN you would be able to get the complete history of a director as to on how many companies' board he is director, what is his background, whether he is a defaulter, all the information would be available on Internet. So, there would be no chance of any wrong information. In fact, to a great extent, we would be able to check the menace of vanishing companies.

Sir, when UPA Government came into power, we were finding that almost one and half lakh companies were not filing returns. We tried to look into this issue. We gave them an easy exit route and I am glad to say that almost 30,000 companies came forward to take advantage of this scheme. We are trying our best. Sir, as a habit, there are some wrong-doers. We have to look into that aspect also.

Mr. Mahtab asked for LLP, LLP Bill is under consideration of the Government and I may tell him that very soon he will see that. On the Companies Act, 1956 Dr. J.J. Irani's Committee Report has been received. The Bill is under final drafting. I feel and I hope that we should be able to introduce the Bill in the hon. House in the Monsoon Session.

Official liquidation, as Mr. Mahtab said, is a serious problem. I fully agree with him. There are companies in liquidation for the last fifty years. Over fifty years, there are companies in liquidation. Here, we are just helpless. We are trying to resolve it by bringing some changes very soon. Amendments in the Companies Act in the year 2002 were made to set up National Company Law Tribunal. However, these were challenged in the courts and the matter is presently pending before hon. Supreme Court. Once the order of the Supreme Court is received, the Government shall take further steps.

Closure of companies would be easier with MCA 21 in place. It would be easier because we have reduced the number of forms. Earlier there were many forms to be filed by a company which we have reduced to some extent. With the changing time, we would ensure that there is no doubt in it. E-filing is to become mandatory. That is why we are here in the House today. We want your permission. Although we could do this under IT Act, 2000 but we decided that we should go to the hon. House and take permission to introduce E-filing as mandatory.

MCA 21 would deal with frauds also because all the information about the companies would be available on the Internet. Except for certain informations which are not in public domain, rest everything will be available on Internet. This will definitely check the frauds, which have taken place in the past, as more information would be available.

So, Sir, these were the issues which were raised by the hon. Members. I am grateful to my friends who wholeheartedly supported this Bill and for any apprehension on their part I am always available to them. They can always come and consult me and they can bring it to my notice. With these words, I would request that the House may pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.01 hrs.

CESS LAWS (REPEALING AND AMENDING) BILL, 2005*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up item No. 18—Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to move:**

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments relating to levy of cess on certain items, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset there is no question of opposing this Bill because this Bill's objective, as it is seen, is to give some concessions to the export of agricultural produce. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: The hon. Member may yield. Sir, I have not even made an opening statement. I think, the Member has jumped above me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The Chair has called my name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you permit me, I will make my opening statement.

Sir, I know these questions are uppermost in the minds of the hon. Members. Sir, if you give me permission, I will make a brief opening statement.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, shall I sit down?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. You please take your seat. Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I have never seen anybody so quick at 5 p.m. at the end of a long day.

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**Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make this opening statement on this important Bill. I wish there were more Members present when this Bill was being considered and passed although I must say that the Orissa contingent is in full strength, the Kalinga contingent is in full strength. I wish to congratulate the Members from Orissa for having stayed till five o'clock to have this Bill considered and passed.

Sir, the starting point of this Bill is the Common Minimum Programme, which has a very elaborate section on the Government's agenda on agriculture. One of the pledges made in the Common Minimum Programme, and I wish to quote from the Common Minimum Programme is this. It says: "Controls that depress the incomes of farmers will be systematically removed." It is our contention that a cess which is basically in the nature of a tax on exports does depress the control of farmers and, therefore, this initiative was taken almost a year ago in August 2005. It was then sent to the Standing Committee. It was considered in the Standing Committee and now we have this Bill.

Sir, earlier during the day we were supposed to consider or at least the introduction of two other Bills to be repealed which also impose cesses on the export of agricultural products but due to the Adjournment Motion today we could not take it up. So, what we are doing this afternoon is only dealing with a limited portion of this problem of controls which depress the incomes of farmers. We are actually only repealing cesses which are imposed by five pieces of legislation. We are going to remove the cesses on the export of agricultural and processed food which is levied under the APEDA Cess Act of 1985. We are going to remove the cesses on export of tobacco levied under the Tobacco Cess Act of 1975. We will be eliminating the cesses on the export of spices which are levied under the Spices Cess Act of 1986.

We are going to remove the cesses on the export of marine products which are levied under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act of 1972. We are going to be formally eliminating the cesses on the export of coffee which are levied under the Coffee Act of 1942.

Sir, my senior colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar was supposed to introduce two other Bills which impose cesses under the Agricultural Produce Act of 1940 which is still on the statute book, and the Produce Cess Act of 1986.

I suppose those two Bills will be introduced tomorrow and they will go to the Standing Committee. But these five cesses are the subject matters of legislation which we are discussing today.

It is my request that at the end of today we pass this legislation which will remove the cesses on the exports of (1) agricultural and processed foods, (2) tobacco, (3) spices, (4) coffee and (5) marine products. Sir, the importance of this Bill lies in the following and I want to address the question that had been raised by my hon. colleague much earlier before he was cut short.

The agricultural exports today constitute about 10 per cent of our total export basket. About 10 per cent of India's total exports are accounted for by export of agricultural and marine products. Now, 10 per cent is not a very large number. In fact, it has been coming down. Over the last 10 years, the share of agricultural and marine products in the total exports of the country has come down from something like 15 per cent to about 10 per cent. So, it is not that the dollar that agricultural exports bring that is important but employment that they generate is more important.

For example, we take coffee. We export about 80 per cent of our coffee production. About a half million people are involved in the production of coffee in our country, the bulk of which is exported. About four million people are employed in the marine products industry. About two-and-a-half to three million people are involved in the cultivation of spices which go into export. Similarly, in the tobacco industry—Mr. Rao comes from the centre of the tobacco heartland—we have about three million people directly involved in the cultivation of tobacco and about 30 per cent of our tobacco production is exported.

So, I would urge the hon. Members not to look at the contribution of exports of agricultural and marine products from the dollars that they bring in but from the jobs that they generate. As a proportion of the total exports, as I said, they do not constitute more than 10 per cent of the export basket. It is not my contention today that by removing all the cesses, this 10 per cent is going to become 20 per cent or 25 per cent. This is going to take a long time. But I think the most critical element of agricultural and marine products export is that almost eight to nine million families are dependent for their employment, for their economic livelihood, on the exports of these agricultural and marine products. It is because of the employment angle that agricultural and marine products export assume such an importance.

Secondly, from the cess that is being levied, the amount that we are collecting is not very large. For example, we collect only about Rs. 3 crore or thereabout from the tobacco cess. We collect about Rs. 7 crore to Rs. 8 crore from the spices cess. We collect about Rs. 22 crore to Rs. 23 crore from the marine products cess. We collect about Rs. 55 crore to Rs. 56 crore from the cess on APEDA, on the agricultural products other than basmati rice and wheat. So, the total amount of cess that we collect is in the region of about Rs. 120 crore.

Now, if you take the total agricultural exports, the total agricultural exports last year was about Rs. 37,000 crore. Out of that, the cess amount is only about Rs. 120 crore or Rs. 130 crore. That does not come to the agricultural sector or to the export sector but it goes into the giant machine or a black hole called, 'the Consolidated Fund' of the Government of India.

So, if you look at it as an incidence of export value, it is between 0.3 and about 0.8 per cent. So, the cess amount that we are collecting is not very large. So, by removing the cess, the finances of the Government of India are not going to be disturbed in any manner.

It is a very small cess. The cess is a major irritant because the manner in which the cess is levied is that it is levied as a duty of customs. Therefore, all the delays associated with the formalities of documentation, procedural formalities of going through exports etc. add additional cost on the exporter. For example, a tobacco exporter from Guntur has to go to Chennai to do all the procedural formalities, which could take anywhere between two to three weeks, and this adds a cost to our exports. At a time when the Indian agriculture is facing severe competition, not just in Indian markets but also in world markets, any step that we take to reduce the cost of supply of Indian products would make Indian agricultural products that much more competitive. In the last few years we have seen how, with the emergence of countries like Vietnam for example, Indian pepper, Indian tea and Indian coffee have come under severe competition. So, if we are able to depress the margins, it is our contention that the market share of Indian agricultural products will improve.

Now, with this Bill we are going to remove a cess which is making Indian agricultural products more expensive by 0.3 per cent to about 0.8 per cent. So, it is definitely going to make Indian agriculture and Indian marine products that much more competitive. It does not

make much economic sense to export a tax and a cess is basically a tax. Therefore, the Government has come forward to enable the Indian exporters of agricultural products to become more competitive in the world market.

Sir, what the WTO does and what other countries do to reduce their subsidies on agricultural products which are competing with Indian products is a separate issue altogether which we can discuss. But through this Bill, we are removing a very major disadvantage that we have put the Indian exporters of agricultural products to in the last few years for a variety of reasons. It is my hope that this legislation is passed unanimously. I am sure it enjoys wide support because it is a very major step forward in ensuring the economic prosperity and livelihood of millions of families who depend on these exports for their future.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments relating to levy of cess on certain items, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you once again. There is no question of opposing this Bill as the hon. Minister, who is a very good and renowned economist of the country, has articulated very well and has told us about the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. But here I have got my doubt. My doubt is regarding the WTO question. Will the cess benefit, which the agricultural exporters get by repealing this Bill, be comparable to the subsidies given by the WTO countries and developed countries? Now, 70 per cent of our population depends on agriculture. This Bill guides the Agricultural and Processed Food Products, Export Cess, Tobacco Cess, Spices Cess and Marine Products Export Development Authority Act and the Coffee Act. So, basically these organisations are controlled by the Boards and they are involved in export of these particular goods.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

Sir, the hon. Minister rightly pointed out and gave us how much money we get from the exports and definitely this cess, which was a burden and the procedural delay which is to take place for getting a cess for exporting

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

your produce, will definitely help the growers. But, at the same time, my doubt is this. Can we compare ourselves with Brazilian coffee and can we compare ourselves with the other Marine Products which have been exported from Thailand? The main thing is that Rs. 40,000 crore of agricultural produce goes down the drain because there is no proper packing industry in the country for food processing.

Now, you have announced the Horticulture Mission. So, unless you have a strong food processing network in the country, you will not be able to get that much of money from the exports.

Eventually, the farmer suffers because it is produced by the farmer and then it is exported. Eventually, the farmer of the country suffers.

Along with this Bill, the Government must come forward with a serious enactment for increasing food processing and opening the doors for foreign investors also in food processing, mainly in marine products along the coastline of India where millions of fishermen live on this produce. There is no question of opposing this Bill. But, at the same time, we must show concern to these plantation crops mainly like coffee and tea. There is no mention of tea here. I do not know why.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: There is no cess on tea.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Thank you. Therefore, I support this Bill. I hope that the benefits accruing from the exports should be reinvested in other backward areas of the country like for coffee plantation. There are non-traditional areas for coffee like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, North-East etc. where coffee should be developed. By the virtue of this Bill, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister through you that in Koraput, Kalahandi constituencies, in the KBK area, coffee has been thriving and coffee programming is also going on just across the Araku Valley. We want a Deputy Director posted there. I have written to you also; but that work has not been done.

As you know, agriculture in our country contributes only two per cent of the GDP. How much benefit will our farmers get if this cess or export tax is done away with? I remember that during our Government, last time, a few shiploads of Basmati rice were sent to Europe and they were not accepted by the European Union and they were

dumped completely; they were rejected. Instead, the same European Union purchased rice from America known as Texmati. This type of big brother attitude by the developed countries to under-developed countries and Third World countries should be stopped. The Government should always fight for it.

Till now, in the WTO papers, the Agreement on Agriculture is still blank. In the Doha Summit you could not achieve anything. In the Cancun Summit you could not achieve anything. Today, big players like Monsanto dealing Bt cotton etc. are coming. Generic seeds are coming. Eventually, we will be completely slaves of these developed countries unless we do not take stringent steps to protect ourselves.

With these few words I support this Bill initiated by the hon. Minister. I hope my State, Orissa benefits from it the most because we have got the longest coastline in the country. I hope my State, Orissa benefits the most because it has got the longest coastline. We have an organised fishing industry. But we do not have an organised packing industry and food processing industry. We have got large stretches of land for Horticulture Mission. But we still do not have the processing units. I stress upon the Government to put up more processing units in my State.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I specially thank you for giving me an opportunity twice in the same day to speak in this august House.

I stand to support the Repeal Act that the hon. Minister has brought in. He very eloquently, in his introductory speech, stated the reasons and the logic in this Act in which the Government is planning to repeal the APEDA Cess Act and the Spices Cess Act completely and bring in amendments to cut out the Sections relating to cess in the Coffee Act, the MPEDA Act and the Tobacco Cess Act. Furthermore, the other Acts that also impinge on any form of cess on exports of agriculture, which, of course, are not pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce, would also be subsequently brought into this august House, maybe tomorrow or day after.

Sir, the action on repealing of these Acts is needed. I do not think that there is any logic any more for these Acts remaining and as soon as possible, the cess needs to be brought out and taken away. As the Minister said, it is not just the matter of Rs. 120 crore which come into

the Consolidated Fund of India and it is not just a matter of whether it will actually lead to increase in some form of export by agriculture or increase in the share of agriculture in total export of India. A cess reduction of Rs. 120 crore, a reduction or removal of the vast amounts of paper work, an interface with Government's machinery that all incidents of cess normally involve would reduce time taken and time consumed by entrepreneurs in this field from non-productive enterprise. They would get a relief of about Rs. 120 crore directly in their exports which in one sense will make them somewhat more price competitive in the international arena and on the other hand, they would be able to reinvest or invest these Rs. 120 crore in whatever field they may feel like.

In terms of agriculture, it is quite clear that for the last 15 years or so, there has been constant talk and direct evidence from across India regarding crisis in agriculture. In agriculture, including those in plantations, whether it is coffee or tea, in agricultural allied activities, whether it is animal husbandry or in fisheries, there has been a squeeze in the amount of profit or in the amount of income that the farmers are getting and the amounts of incomes than the profits that the people, who are in food processing industry and involved with them, are taking. The margins of farmers have been constantly coming under pressure.

In many senses, of course, a large number of studies in the agriculture and evidence from the field shows that the Indian agriculturist, the Indian farmer is actually subsidising this country by his labour. If he actually takes the amount of labour a person may put in at the minimum wages, a farmer is not able to get even that much from his produce. In that sense, 70 per cent of Indians, who are working in the Indian agriculture, just do not give us our daily bread, our food, our fruits, our fish, our milk but also subsidise us to sustain ourselves in this country. I think, even little amounts of effort to reduce their distress, to give them some little benefit is greatly welcome. The Minister mentioned that directly or indirectly, it would lead in some sense to ease the pressure on the livelihood of about 30 million workers. He spoke of that, but I would like to add one point here that very often when certain economies, when certain businesses are in stress, little let offs, little margins can actually start making great benefits. Sometimes, just a little benefit of about Rs. 100 crore, reduction of some transaction cost, reduction of transaction issues, some increase in exports would actually start taking off pressures on the margin of many of these

commodities. I think, in that sense, the removal of cesses on many of these products would very directly add to increase in incomes in these sectors.

Sir, I would also like to urge upon the Government at this moment that all other Acts, all other such cesses, all other such restrictions, whether on agriculture or on agriculture allied commodities or on fisheries, should also be looked at very seriously. In the last 15 to 20 years, we have been hearing that a large number of committees, a large number of studies, a large number of assessments have been done and a slew of legislations have now been termed either as too old or totally unnecessary or some as extremely restrictive of our economy. Actually, irrespective of whether it was intended or not, in some senses, about ten years ago, some of these laws may have been important, but there were other reasons why such laws were brought in. Most of the laws governing production or export or movement of agriculture and allied commodities are actually now being found to be highly restrictive and have actually led to pauperisation of the farmers or crisis in agriculture. I think, the Government must take up almost all these Acts as urgently as possible. I know that there is a slow speed in which the Government mostly looks at repealing most of these Acts, but a number of Acts are very old. As the Minister himself mentioned, one of the Acts that he is now repealing came way back in 1940.

I think that is the period maybe of 15 to 20 years and subsequent to that a number of Acts were similarly brought in, and most of them still remain on the statute book. Those could also simultaneously be brought in as soon as and with as much speed as possible. Some of them pertain to the domain of the Minister himself, and many of the others would come under the domain of agriculture or some of the other industries linked with agricultural produce or produce of the allied industries.

I do not think much really needs to be said about this Bill. I do congratulate the Minister for bringing in this Bill within two years of the formation of the UPA Government. It is another very very clear example of our commitment to the Common Minimum Programme. The speed and sincerity with which our Ministers, and our Government—under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh—have actually been following the various tenets of the Common Minimum Programme and bringing them either by way of legislation or by way of programmes right across the country is very good.

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the Bill. It is a belated legislation. Why do I say so? In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Central Government come to the conclusion that taxes and duties need not be exported, and that finding was done only in July 2005.

We were agitating for a long time that agriculture should not be taxed; the farmers should not be taxed; and their products should not be taxed, but the Central Government was taxing them all along. We are in the global market, and the developed countries are giving subsidies to the farmers to a large extent. So, they control the global market.

Now, after signing the World Trade Agreement, the Indian farmers are at a disadvantage. I would give one or two examples to explain my point. Kerala is producing more than 90 per cent of natural rubber. Natural rubber is purely an agricultural produce, but when the World Trade Agreement was signed, it was taken as an industrial product, which was detrimental to the rubber growers in India. From the moment of signing the World Trade Agreement all subsidies—which were given to the farmers, especially, the rubber growers—were stopped forthwith as per the terms of the agreement because natural rubber became an industrial product.

Secondly, we know the *Copra* or dried coconut is nothing but an agriculture product. But unfortunately, when our country entered or signed the agreement, *Copra* was included in the industrial product list. Can a sensible man do this? In the World Trade Agreement, the Indians who negotiated for the agreement have put in their signature and have put *Copra* as an industrial product whereby the coconut growers of Kerala did not get any subsidy from that date onwards. Primarily it is an agriculture product. What was its effect in the global market? *Copra* or coconut oil was imported into India from Philippines and Sri Lanka, which was detrimental to the interest of the growers in Kerala. In the case of rubber farmers also, rubber was imported in Kerala as per the terms of the agreement, which was detrimental to the interest of the rubber growers in India.

The Government was all along exporting taxes along with the agricultural products. At last, they have come to the conclusion that taxes and duties need not be exported.

This is all right, and good, but it is not enough. We will have to alter the terms in the World Trade Agreement.

Copra, dried coconut, is primarily an agricultural product but it is included in the list of industrial products. That must be taken off that list and put back in the list of agricultural products. Similarly, natural rubber is an agricultural product which has wrongly been included in the list of industrial products to the detriment of the interests of rubber-growers in India.

Australia is a developed country and yet they are giving subsidy to their farmers. However, the coconut-growers of India do not get any subsidy. Even soyabean farmers in America get subsidy but the poor rubber-growers in India do not get any subsidy. This is the hard reality that is facing us. It is high time that Government of India took initiative to ensure that there is some alternation in the listing of agricultural and industrial products as per the World Trade Agreement. It is a very important matter affecting lakhs of farmers in the country.

Taxes are levied on spices like pepper, cardamom, etc. Customs duty, sales tax, and all such taxes are levied on these items. What is the purpose of levying these taxes? The purpose is to export them to other countries. This is the very hard reality. At last the Government came to the conclusion that taxes need not be exported. It is a good development. The brain of the Government has been working all along but they were still under the impression that taxes and customs duty will have to be exported. At last the Government has realised that these taxes need not be exported and they have taken this measure. However, this is not enough. Something more will have to be done. So, when we meet in the World Trade Organisation we should see that these wrongly included items should be put in the correct lists that are available.

Sri Lanka and Philippines are able to give high subsidies to their farmers to make them competitive in the international markets. At the same time, the poor farmers of India are committing suicides every now and then. Farmers in India have committed suicides in thousands due to the debt trap in which they find themselves. Because of the wrong policy of exporting to other countries, they were not able to survive. The Government has all along been following this policy. But, what was the result? The result was suicides of farmers throughout the country. About six hundred farmers committed suicides in Kerala. Hundreds and thousands

of farmers committed suicides in the country, including the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, because they could not repay the loans taken from banks and societies. Due to reasons beyond their control, they could not even pay interest on the loan taken.

Natural calamities like tsunami, floods, drought, etc., are taking place in the country periodically. But the Government was all along turning a blind eye to all these realities. They were still taxing these poor people and their products with customs duty and tariff regulations and the poor farmers have been committing suicides. This is a very deplorable condition obtaining in India. At least some relief will be given to the farmers after passage of this Bill. However, that is not enough. There are other strong measures required. The Government must write off all the loans, write off all recovery proceedings and save the farmers. Farmers are in debt not because of any lapses on their part but because of natural calamities. So, I would request the Government to take this as just the beginning in the process of correcting its policies. The Government must take this as a beginning and see that other measures follow. We have another Bill introduced today.

The Produce Cess Laws (Abolition) Bill, which has been introduced today has also the same policy. At last, the Government came to the conclusion with eyes wide open that farmers committing suicide has become the order of the day. They came to the rescue of the farmers in a same way but not in a satisfactory way. This Bill also is a similar Bill which we will discuss later on.

With these observations, I support the Bill. But the Government should take it as a serious matter and issue and save the farmers from starvation by bringing other laws also. The Government should give them relief from debt trap by writing off of the loans, about which I have already mentioned. I am not going to repeat it. I conclude with the hope that the Government will come up with other measures, I fully support the Bill.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. At the outset, I should say that export of produce from this country has been not much of great concern for the policy-makers and for the people at large of this country. Especially when we are reminded of 1940, we are also reminded of the Second World War; we are also reminded of the purge that was taking place in Europe. Most of the colonised countries which were giving

succour to the European countries were at loss and we also remember the Great Famine of Bengal during that period. The mindset in the last 65 years was that, firstly, we have to protect our domestic market.

First, we have to look into the interests of our citizens. If something is left, then only, we can export those commodities to the outside world. That was the mindset for the last 60 or 65 years. But since a new idea has come up in 1991; the World Trade Organisation has come into existence, and the globalisation has become the fashion of the day, transport of commodities from one part of the world to another has become a very essential part of our livelihood, and also that of our commerce. That is the main reason why the Government perhaps is thinking and has brought this Bill for consideration of this House. There are, as the hon. Minister has stated in his opening remarks, certain logic behind it. But, at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of this House and also of the Minister—if he can educate us in this respect—as there are at least seven Acts, as he mentioned. Out of which, the first two Acts are governed by the Agriculture Ministry and the rest five Acts are governed by the Commerce Ministry. Export of several agricultural produce is subject to levy of cess.

In recent years, international trade in agricultural product has become extremely challenging. It is very rightly so for India. Especially, he has also mentioned about certain countries, namely Indo-China which were not producing those products earlier. Even in the African continent, certain countries have come up with those products which they did not produce that much to compete in the international markets. But this thing has come up, and India is competing with those countries. These are the compulsions which are before the Government and before those exporters.

Many developed countries provide huge subsidies to support their domestic agriculture; and these subsidies enable these developed countries to establish and corner large shares in the global market.

A cess on the Indian export is a genuine handicap to our exporters. But to my mind, this was done very deliberately. It was international that the cess was to collect the revenue from the products that are being exported.

Mr. Minister, you have rightly said that the cess is levied as a duty of customs. Now, by withdrawing cess

[Shri B. Mahtab]

on certain export products, the exporters will no longer have to go through the rigours of all customs procedures before the commodity can be physically shipped out of this country. By doing away with the cess, most exporters can cut down their transaction costs, delays and compliance with the procedural formalities. Here, the amount is not that important. What is important here is this. Do you encourage the export of all produces and want to give a free hand to the exporters? Is this the policy of the Government?

At the same time, I would like to submit that as we facilitate our products to be exported, the same products are also being imported at cheaper rates and they are flooding our market. Just an hour ago, we heard about the MCA-21 networking the whole country through e-governance. We have also heard the hon. Minister saying that from Guntur one has to travel to Chennai, it takes, at least three to four weeks to get his export things cleared. Have we ever considered to have the e-governance system so that we can facilitate our export work?

17.42 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN *in the Chair*]

Have we considered this aspect that when a product which is being produced—if not in Andhra Pradesh—say in Himachal Pradesh, and those things have to be exported from Delhi, then what connectivity have we provided to them? About the product that is being produced from Marathwada, from Vidarbha, how is it connected with Vizag or Mumbai? Have we done that? No, we have not done that. But we have taken recourse to only one aspect to provide some facility to the exporters. Though the amount is not much, yet drop and drop of water make the ocean. And, 0.3 per cent, which is Rs. 65 crore comes from MPEDA as cess. It is all right, you may not collect that money. But that was never invested, say in infrastructure. We may discuss it tomorrow about the agriculture aspect. But I remember that specially in the 1960, in the Second or Third Plan, the money that was collected from the export of agriculture produce was supposed to be invested in the ICAR. Similarly, about the money that is being collected from APEDA and from MPEDA, I do not know how much money has been invested. The hon. Minister may tell us as to how much money has been spent for the development of infrastructure, say, for example, the coastline which was

being referred to by Mr. B.K. Deo. How much money has been provided there to create a new jetty, to provide the refrigeration system, and to provide the cold storage system? I think, not much has been done in that respect. I want to know whether it is going to be done.

I would rather say that you may selectively impose cess because at times, you need to discourage export of certain products; at times—we are all aware—the cess levied under all the Acts is an export tax.

Sir, I will come to what you said when you were here in the Bench and before you want up to take the Chair. Most of the cess which is being imposed or are being imposed—which is now being withdrawn—is on cash crops. It may be copra or rubber or spices or coffee or even the marine products and the persons are not humble farmers or general farmers. All of them are quite rich farmers and what is being done today is for the rich farmers. But yet the manner in which it is portrayed, that is, it is for the agricultural farmers, is not truly right in a sense and they are better off farmers and they are for cash crops. Then the basic question is when everything is being taxed, why not a tax be imposed on this?

I agree that you cannot—when the Budget is placed by the Finance Minister—play with cess because once it is imposed, it is imposed; and you cannot waive the cess in the budgetary declarations. But should we say that in future, you are going to impose or the Government is going to impose certain tax on these products so that certain benefits can also be provided to those people in those areas where these things are being produced?

I will conclude by saying this. A number of items had been mentioned. I am not perturbed if coffee is exported; I am not perturbed if marine products are being exported; I am not concerned if copra or spices are being exported; but I am concerned when milk products are being exported in large quantities and yet we impose no cess on this item. We are importing, despite large cattle population in this country and despite the fact that we have a large production of milk and milk products in our country. Yet our children need more milk and milk products.

This is my earnest request to the Government—let us discourage export of milk products because once we allow that, floodgates will be opened and the victims will be poor children, the children of poor households, who are at least today getting milk at a cost of Rs. 4 in a far off village.

With these words, I would say that the manner in which it is being portrayed, that this is for the farmers, it is not correct actually. But it is only basically to compete in the international market. But my apprehension here is whom are we catering to? It is not for *aam aadmi*.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present Bill should be looked at in view of mainly three points—the Indian economy, our exporters and the difficulties faced by them and how we can increase the export of various products? It is true that we are with the WTO and as such we are competing with these countries. We have accepted it as a challenge and it is necessary to look at this Bill in view of this.

I think when we look at this Bill with this perspective, it fulfils those conditions in several ways. Despite being smaller in comparison to India, countries with bigger export than that of India from the point of view of international trade have achieved success as they have various legal provisions. Their problems are also lesser. As has been specified in this Bill-

[*English*]

"Since the cess is levied as a duty of customs, the exporter is required to go through the rigours of all customs procedures before the commodity can be physically shipped out of the country"

[*Translation*]

The hon. Minister has admitted it himself in the Bill that one has to tide over so many difficulties before shipment; one has to run from pillar to post in the customs department. Clearance for exports has to be taken from so many departments and one has to face so many difficulties in that process. This problem can be removed by withdrawing cess as it is directly related with customs and this would also facilitate our export.

Another point made in the Bill is that-

"In recent years, international trade in agricultural products has become extremely challenging for India with the emergence of competitors."

Indian trade has become extremely competitive owing to the presence of the competitors. It has to be pondered over that how we can sustain in that market. Lakhs of

people are engaged in three-four products *i.e.* Agriculture and Processed food products export sector, tobacco sector, spices and marine products and they earn their livelihood from this. It would benefit those lakhs of families particularly who are engaged in food processing, coffee and marine products. I believe that while withdrawing these cesses we need to ponder over other things so that we can increase our trade and remove the problems of our exporters.

It is true that the big developed countries engaged in exports are advising us to reduce or withdraw subsidy whereas they are making the competition more stiff by giving subsidy to manufactures in their own country. This Bill should be viewed in all these perspectives and from the point of view of Indian Economy. This is the need of the hour. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that an effort has been made to obviate financial difficulties faced by the exporters by introducing such a Bill on time. I would like to make another submission that our exporters should be cautioned on the quality of packaging of the commodities being exported as well as for ensuring their quality.

Recently, I had the chance to visit a Departmental Store in London. There I could see the packing of Indian and foreign products. I was surprised to find that our packaging was of inferior quality. Quality should be improved therein. It will increase our export and we will be able to compete and retain the market which we have captured so far otherwise we will continue to lose the market from our hands and the competitor country will leave us behind. We should bear all these things in mind. With these words, keeping an eye on time I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. We had five speakers and I would respond to four of them since the fifth speaker is now occupying the Chair. I do not know whether I should respond to the Chair's observations or not.

The opening speaker, Shri B.K. Singh Deo made a large number of comments which have to deal with the position of Indian agriculture in the world markets, role of the World Trade Organisation and the agreements on agriculture. I do not think this evening is the occasion for dealing with many of the issues that he has raised because there will be other occasions to debate a large number of issues that he has raised which relate to the

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

broader Agriculture Policy of this Government and the programmes for the development of agriculture. Nevertheless, since he has taken the trouble of raising some of these questions I do want to respond in brief some of the issues that he has raised.

He has talked about the National Horticulture Mission. I want to tell him that in 2004-05, the first year of the National Horticulture Mission, the total expenditure was about Rs. 650 crore.

In 2006-07, the total budgetary allocation for the National Horticulture Mission is about Rs. 1000 crore. I think, Orissa's share would be roughly about Rs. 25 crore or Rs. 30 crore. I do not have the exact number but if my memory serves me right, it is about Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 30 crore. The National Horticulture Mission is a very major initiative of this Government to add value to agriculture and to provide new opportunities for Indian farmers both in domestic market as well as in export markets. I believe that this initiative is now well established. Under the National Horticulture Mission, a large number of initiatives are being taken for improving the quality of planting material and for creating infrastructure that was talked about which is so very essential for the export of horticulture products. I am sure with the cooperation of the Orissa Government and the Central Government very many initiatives that have been talked about will get a further encouragement. There is already an Agri-Export Zone (AEZ), I think, on turmeric and ginger has been proposed by the Orissa Government. Through the Ministry of Commerce, it will be our endeavour to support the development of AEZ. I want to assure the hon. Member that so far the AEZ have remained three words on paper but this year we have taken a decision that we will support the AEZ through an investment window. We are hoping to allocate about Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 60 crore this year through various schemes. I am sure that one of the AEZs in Orissa will see the light of the day and this would provide a very major new market opportunity for the farmers of Orissa.

Sir, you talked about KBK. I myself have been associated with the KBK project ever since it was first launched in 1987 when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi went to KBK. It is a very major initiative of this Government and I am glad that you mentioned the example of coffee. There are non-traditional areas of coffee cultivation that are being taken up. The entire Paderu area which is a tribal area of North-East Andhra Pradesh with borders of your own State of Orissa is an area where organic coffee

is being taken up for cultivation. As you know, in today's world anything that is organic—whether it is organic tea, whether it is organic coffee and whether it is organic chillies—commands a premium in market. I will certainly talk to the Coffee Board and to the extent that we can provide further support and encouragement to non-traditional areas like KBK for the cultivation of organic coffee particularly we will come forward and support. I do want to assure the hon. Member in this regard.

The third area that he talked about was on fisheries. Our export of marine products, as I said, is about 1.2 to 1.3 billion dollars. But our problem with marine product exports is that, 60 per cent of our exports is shrimp. We export nothing but shrimp virtually. We have to diversify our export basket as far as marine products are concerned. After coming into this Ministry, I have reviewed this and I found that very many new areas are possible to develop. So far, the bulk of the marine product export industry really is Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala coast. We are, now, looking at new areas. Gujarat holds great opportunities for exports. Orissa has been identified as a major thrust area. I am going next week to Kerala to meet with MPEDA. So far I could not because of the election code. One of the things that I am discussing with MPEDA is precisely this issue how to diversify our export basket away from shrimps and how to develop new areas which have potential for the export of marine products particularly on the West Coast Gujarat and on the East Coast Orissa. It is my hope that in the next few months, we will be able to develop fisheries potential that exist in new States like Orissa and Gujarat. I do want to assure my hon. colleague, Mr. Bikram Keshari Deo, that many of the issues that he has raised are engaging my attention personally.

The issues that you have raised on the WTO Agreement, we can have a separate discussion on that because it is really not related to the subject matter of this legislation. But I do want to say that it is not my contention that because we are repealing these cesses, suddenly Indian products are going to be world competitive, suddenly our export share is going to increase and suddenly we will be major players in these products. This is not my contention.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I presume that the House will agree to extend the time for another half an hour for finally passing this Bill and also for completing the Zero Hour notices.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: So, it is not my contention to say that suddenly this is going to be very major revolution in agri exports. What we are doing today is removing one important handicap that has been imposed on exports of agricultural marine products. To that extent, we are going to be removing that cost disadvantage of 0.3 per cent to 0.5 per cent which makes our products competitive.

Shri Shandip Dikshit made a large number of points on the import of agricultural products. He also expressed surprise that he was asked to speak twice on two successive Bills that was taken up. I want to tell my young friend that this is the price that he has to pay for remaining in the House at the fag end of the day. The floor managers at the end of the day get hold of whomsoever they can to speak on a Bill. I suppose, you have had to pay a penalty for that!

He raised a large number of issues on agricultural imports. I do want to assure Shri Dikshit, through you, that this is an area that is engaging our attention. We are monitoring not just the export of agricultural products, but more importantly we are also monitoring import of agricultural products because we are very sensitive to this whole issue that import of agricultural products should not affect the domestic agriculture and domestic farmers. We realise as to how sensitive an economic issue this is. It is a sensitive political issue. We realise the great strength of Parliament that raises this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about cardamom and pepper?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, you are in the Chair. But I would respond to your concern separately. I would talk about cardamom and rubber also. Now, I am responding to the general points raised by Shri Dikshit.

Sir, I do want to assure the House that the import of agricultural commodities is constantly kept under check. We do take full cognisance of the need to monitor the import of agricultural products and wherever these products are competitive, wherever these products directly impinge on the domestic production we are constantly fine tuning our policies.

In a large number of areas import of agricultural products takes place in non-competing areas. For example, we import low grade pepper from Vietnam. Our Oleo resin industry uses it and re-exports it. Similarly, we import raw cashew. We process cashew and we

export cashew. Today, India, you will be surprised to know, is the largest cashew importer; India is the largest cashew processor; India is the largest cashew exporter and it is the largest cashew consumer. In any industry, like cashew, the import of raw cashew is not a matter of great concern, but there are areas like in high grade pepper, in rubber, in cardamom, in tea, in coffee, in apples where we need to monitor the imports. I want to assure the hon. Member from East Delhi that the issue of monitoring of agricultural imports is a very major task for the Ministry of Commerce. I would be glad to share this data. This is all in the public domain. We put out this data every months as to how much agricultural imports are taking place, particularly products which are competing domestic production of the examples that I have mentioned. It is the policy of the Government that we will take immediate action where we see that injury being done to domestic producers from imports of agricultural commodities.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, of course, now you are in the Chair, has raised some points. But nevertheless, I do want to say on the points that have been raised that on natural rubber and copra there are divergent views which we can discuss separately. But as far as import of pepper, tea, cardamom etc. is concerned, you are aware that I myself have met all the hon. Members of Parliament from Kerala. I have had two rounds of discussion with them.

I had discussions with the industry and my senior Cabinet Minister has also done the same. We are very concerned that we should not enter into a situation where import of many of these products impinges on domestic production.

You raised the issue of cardamom. Allow me to say that the import of pepper from Vietnam poses no threat to our industry because it is basically import of low grade pepper used by the Indian Oleo and resin industry and re-exported. But the import of high quality of pepper from Sri Lanka is a cause for concern. Import of cardamom duty free from Nepal is a cause for concern. I have personally raised this with my Sri Lankan counterpart and I have raised this with my Nepalese counterpart also recently in Dhaka when I attended the Ministerial Council meeting. India is very sensitive to the particular situation caused by the import of cardamom from Nepal and the import of high grade good quality pepper from Sri Lanka under the Bilateral Free Trade Agreement. I do want to assure that we will take whatever action that is required to protect the domestic industry.

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Similarly, there have been concerns raised by you on natural rubber. This year, of course, the rubber prices have been ruling very well. So, this has not been a cause for concern. But this is a cyclical industry. Next year, the situation could very well change. We are very sensitive to this area and we are particularly sensitive that particular States like Kerala are vulnerable because of the vagaries of these prices. But I do want to say that, to the best of my knowledge, we have not reduced any subsidy on natural rubber or copra in accordance with the World Trade Agreement. We have not been called upon to reduce subsidies. We may have fine-tuned some programmes of financial support. But I can categorically state that the World Trade Agreement on agriculture does not impose any obligation on India to reduce subsidies. I want to repeat this point. Categorically, I would say that India has not reduced any subsidy to any agricultural product in the last ten years on account of any international agreement that India has entered into with the World Trade Organization. If we have reduced subsidy and tried to reduce the growth like in fertilizer subsidy or any other area, it is because of our own domestic financial compulsions. But it has nothing to do with the International Trade Agreement.

Dr. L.N. Pandey has also raised a number of questions on the World Trade Organisation and on the need for having broad agricultural policy. I agree with you that export is a very small component of the larger issue of strengthening Indian agriculture. Indian agriculture requires more irrigation. Indian agriculture requires more research and Indian agriculture requires better price support and better marketing. This is a larger policy of Indian agriculture which Mr. Mahtab also spoke about. This Bill does not address those issues. This Bill addresses the limited issue of cess. I hope, on a separate occasion, we will have an opportunity to discuss all the policy issues that are required for strengthening Indian agriculture.

Finally, Shri Mahtab has also raised a large number of issues. Most importantly, he said that this Bill is not an *aam admi* Bill and this Bill helps only the elite farmers. Shri Mahtab for whom I have a lot of affection is a good personal friend of mine. I have travelled to Orissa with him. I think he is comprehensively wrong on this point. If you look at APEDA Act and if you look at all the agricultural commodities on which we are levying cess, you will find that the only commodity on which we are not levying cess is basmati rice and wheat. On every

other agricultural product, a cess is levied. I do not know whether Shri Mahtab has ever been to the chilly growing areas of Guntur. The chilly-growing farmers are small farmers. A bulk of chilly cultivation is exported. We export Rs. 600 crores worth of chillies every year. The bulk of chilly cultivation is by small farmers holding less than about one and a half hectares of land. About 95 per cent of coffee growers in India are small farmers. About 95 per cent of marine product exporters are basically small exporters. Therefore, to say that we are only benefiting, by removing cess, elite or creamy layer of the farmers is, in my view, completely wrong.

It is actually the farmers across the board who are going to benefit. The small chilly grower, the small coffee grower, the small tobacco grower, the small dairy farmer and the small processed food exporter, these are the people who are going to benefit. It is not the big farmer who is going to benefit. I do want to reassure you that this Bill is very much part of the *aam admi* philosophy which has brought this UPA Government into power.

Another issue was also raised, that we should be very careful on agricultural exports. I agree with that view one hundred per cent. Agricultural export is all very well, but ultimately it is domestic welfare that is most important. Very few people in India know that India was the largest grain exporter in the 19th century. Throughout the 19th century India was the largest exporter of food grains and agricultural products. But that was because we were a poor country. We do not want to export at the cost of domestic consumer, just as we do not want to import at the cost of domestic producer. I want to reassure the hon. Member, Shri B. Mahtab that we do not want to export at the cost of domestic consumer. If the export of milk products is going to lead to an increase or spurt in domestic milk prices, obviously we are going to be sensitive to that export. But I do want to assure you that India today is the world's largest producer of milk. We produce eighty million tonnes of milk. After the Green Revolution it is the White Revolution for which we can be legitimately proud of. If a very small proportion of that eighty million tonnes is exported, I do not think that it is going to cause such a great turbulence in the domestic price situation. If it does and if at all there is a situation, whether it is for milk, whether it is for rice or whether it is for any agricultural product, I do want to reassure you that we are not going to export at the cost of domestic price situation.

As I said, export of agricultural products is not going to bring us great amount of dollars. It accounts only for about ten per cent of our total exports. We are exporting agricultural products not to earn dollars. We are exporting agricultural products to increase the incomes of farmers, in order to increase the livelihood of the millions of families who are dependent on these economic activities, part of which is exported. In the case of coffee it is substantial; in the case of chillies it is very small; and in the case of pepper and cardamom also it is very small. But nevertheless these exports are important to increase incomes of farmers and to increase the employment.

I think I have dealt with all the issues that have been raised. The most important issue that has been raised, of course, relates to the World Trade Organisation and the international impact on India's agriculture and what more needs to be done to strengthen the Indian agriculture. As I said, that takes us into the realm of irrigation, research, extension, price support, procurement and marketing. I think we can have a separate discussion, a full-fledged discussion, on this. The Government has already announced a very major financial restructuring package for the rural credit system.

People have asked about suicides of farmers. I think the single most important reason for the continuing suicides of the farmers all over India is the collapse of the rural credit system. It is simply non-existent. Less than fifteen per cent of the Indian farmers now depend on institutional credit. We have announced a very major programme, Rs. 15,000 crore programme, for reviving the entire rural cooperative credit structure in the next three to four years. This, we hope, will bring about a substantial difference to the availability of credit to farmers, which in my view is the most important requirement for Indian agriculture today.

With these few remarks and with the hope that we will have another opportunity to discuss the WTO and other issues of agriculture, I commend this Bill for your consideration and passing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments relating to levy of cess on certain items, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Collection and payment of arrears of duties

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 15,—

for "2005" substitute "2006". (3)

(Shri Jairam Ramesh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 2,—

For "2005" substitute "2006". (2)

(Shri Jairam Ramesh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Mr. Chairman]
Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Fifty-sixth" substitute "Fifty-seventh". (1)

(Shri Jairam Ramesh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. During the just concluded assembly poll in West Bengal, the country has witnessed unprecedented special drive undertaken by the Election Commissioner for revising the electoral rolls.

But, unfortunately, names of more than 1.5 lakh Indian citizens, living in 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, have not been included in the Electoral Rolls. Moreover, names of millions of Indian citizens, living in pavements, have not been included in the Electoral Rolls.

I demand a summary revision of Electoral Rolls to include these names forthwith. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, summer has only begun but soaring temperatures across the country have already claimed the lives of about 34 people officially though we have got a respite last night and had persistent rain for at least two hours. But, Delhi experienced a maximum temperature of 44.4 degree centigrade on Monday last week whereby authorities had to call on schools to close a week earlier than scheduled for summer vacation because of the blistering heat. In Sriganaganagar in Rajasthan, the mercury shot up up to 47.6 degree Celsius. Temperatures are far higher than what is normal for this time of the year. The temperature in Amritsar was 45 degree centigrade, 7 degrees above normal and even in Shimla temperature has risen up to 29 degrees, which is 7 degrees above normal. I am giving these names because it has affected the whole part of northern India and Central India is now reeling under it.

The Meteorological Department has warned that temperatures will rise further. This warning should be taken note of very seriously. The toll can be expected to rise. The effects of the heat wave have been compounded by the acute shortage of water and power. While the severe heat has made life miserable for middle class, it is the poor and the homeless, who are forced to face the brunt of nature's fury. Most of the casualties of the heat wave are from Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. Almost all those, who died, are from the underprivileged sections of the society. Many of those died are homeless construction workers, agricultural labourers and rickshaw pullers who had to continue working in the soaring heat to earn their daily wages. It is not harsh weather alone that has contributed to the death toll but poverty that stands in the way of millions in this country from finding shelter from the heat and food and water to tide over dehydration. Deaths due to heat wave are a familiar story that unfolds every year across this country.

I urge upon the Government to take steps to provide protection to the poor from the soaring heat. Construction of temporary shelters and provision of drinking water at public places would reduce the incidents of dehydration and heat stroke that have resulted in so many deaths. It is still not too late for the Government to take such measures to reduce the impact of the scorching heat. The Government must take steps to protect poor from this heat wave. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers, consumers and factory owners across the country are suffering huge losses owing to load shedding. The Central Government has cut 288 megawatt power in Chhattisgarh. Only 210 megawatt power is being supplied out of 499 megawatt power which is causing enormous difficulties to farmers during summers, their pumps are no longer working and consumers are facing lot of difficulties. Power is being cut from two and a half to three hours. The situation is similar in Gujarat and Maharashtra. 400 to 500 megawatt more power is required in Delhi, 4000 to 8000 megawatt power is required in Gujarat. In Madhya Pradesh power is being cut from 6 to 8 hours. Thus the Central Government is meting out step motherly treatment in cutting power across the country.

When Chhattisgarh was separated from Madhya Pradesh, 1140 megawatt of power was being generated at that time. Power was being generated from Jawahar Sagar Dam, Gandhi Nagar, Rana Pratap Sagar and Gujarat Sarovar in Gujarat. This way 299 megawatt power out of 1140 megawatt was required by Chhattisgarh. Whereas the Centre has not given even its share of electricity. In addition to it, 288 megawatt power is being cut. Owing to this, the people are facing a lot of problems. I would like to request the Union Government that keeping in view of the circumstances, shortfall in electricity supply to Chhattisgarh State should be done away with the share of 229 megawatt electricity belonging to the Chhattisgarh State as it got separated from Madhya Pradesh State, be distributed without any delay. In Chhattisgarh State, in one year i.e. in the year 2005 Rs. 800 to 900 crore is being wasted. They are suffering losses this way. This year till date, they have suffered a loss of Rs. 1200 crore.

I would like to request to the Union Government to not to treat Chhattisgarh in a step-motherly way. The electricity supply due on account of partition from Madhya Pradesh should be provided to it and whatever reduction in electricity has been done by the Union Government, should also be restored in full.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you Sir. I would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the Union Government to the issue of Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Narmada Bachao Andolan continues to attract the national attention. There are a lot of questions being

posed with regard to the Sardar Sarovar Project. The Sardar Sarovar Project, currently under implementation, is not in conformity with the prescribed condition on the environmental and rehabilitation aspects. There is a demand for suspending the construction work until that failure has been rectified.

The Union Water Resources Minister visited the place and the leaders of the Narmada Bachao Andolan met the hon. Minister. The Supreme Court verdict is also there. This is a very important issue. I would like the Government to take up the matter immediately and address the problems which are being faced by the Narmada Bachao Andolan. The rehabilitation programme should be implemented without delay.

Sir, the problem is that in spite of the movements and the national concern, the NCA has come to the conclusion that the height of the dam can be raised from 110 metres to 121 metres. It will cause more submerging of the population. It will cause more hardship to the people. This is a very important matter. So, the Union Government and the Prime Minister himself should intervene and address the problems as soon as possible. I think, the Government will think over it.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems being faced by the people due to badly damaged roads between Hospet and Amarapur village region in Karnataka on NH-63. The road between Hospet and Amarapur village in Karnataka are very badly damaged.

Due to the bad condition of roads, particularly between Hospet and Amarapur village on National Highway No. 63, repeated accidents are taking place and the vehicular movement has become very difficult. I had already raised this issue several times in Parliament but nothing has been done so far. It has become a horn blowing before a deaf person.

Sir, the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has submitted a proposal for patching-up/repair/maintenance of the road between Hospet and Amarapur village (from 270.400 kms. to 356 kms.). If this proposal is cleared quickly on war-footing basis and required amount is released, the work on the patch-up/repair/maintenance work on this road can be taken up at the earliest and the people travelling between the Hospet-Amarapur village region will get, at least, temporary relief.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that the future of 1200 children has become bleak due to a wrong decision of NAFL. There is a unit of NAFL in Nangal which is in my constituency. A plus-2 school of NAFL was run there in the name of Captain Amol Kalia, martyr of Kargil war. But that school has been given away to private society. That society did not fulfil the necessary norms. As a result CBSE has de-affiliated the school. The school ceased functioning this year. Staff and students of that school were on a hunger strike for a month. I also took part in their strike for a day. During that time small children came up to me with the request that their school be reopened as soon as possible. But it is a matter of regret that NAFL was unmoved by all these happenings. As a result staff, students and people of that locality are a worried lot. That is why I am requesting the Government to instruct NAFL to run the school themselves so that those children can become good citizens by receiving good education. Along with this, I also request the Government to conduct a CBI enquiry into the agreement made between the NAFL and the said private society to find out the real source on whose behalf that agreement was made bypassing the rules and regulations and I request that the school be run by the NAFL.

[English]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad, in his Railway Budget, claimed that there is no increase in passenger fares. but from April last, telescopic fares have been withdrawn abruptly causing great inconvenience and additional financial burden to long distance passengers.

For instance, if we are to go from New Delhi to my constituency, Madurai, normally we have to take two trains, one from Delhi to Chennai and another from Chennai to Madurai. The fare between New Delhi and Madurai inclusive of reservation charges used to be Rs. 587 only under telescopic fares. Now, passengers have to shell out Rs. 537 to travel between Delhi and Chennai and they have to pay an additional amount of Rs. 240 to travel between Chennai and Madurai. Thus, what was Rs. 587 has now become Rs. 777. This is an increase in passenger charges to the tune of about 35 per cent. Earlier on, reservation charge was only Rs. 20 for both the sectors. Now, an additional Rs. 10 has to be paid. Thus Rs. 200/-collected more from the passengers.

Without any budget proposal, that too at a time when we feel proud that we have enacted during the Winter Session of 2005 the Right to Information Act, the Railways

have surreptitiously increased the passenger charges neither informing nor taking the approval of Parliament.

Rail passengers came to know of this only when they went to book railway tickets. This is shocking and precarious a situation. This exorbitant fare hike must not go on any further. This increase in charges must be withdrawn immediately. This kind of heavy increase in railway fares and charges must not be imposed through mere executive orders without taking the formal approval of Parliament.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, construction is an important constituent of the economy, with a gross value output of Rs. 2,200 billion and accounts for over 5.2 per cent of the GDP. Construction constitutes 46.5 per cent of the cost of any infrastructure project. For every rupee invested in construction, 78 paise is added to the GDP. Construction industry has backward and forward linkage with more than 150 industries. It is the second biggest employer of unskilled workers after agriculture, employing about 32 million persons directly and indirectly.

Cement is one of the main materials used in construction constituting about 13 per cent of the total cost. Cement prices were stable at around Rs. 125 to Rs. 145 per bag between 2002 and 2005. However, it started its upward price movement from the end of December, 2005 and reached to Rs. 225 per bag on 31st March 2006. This is a near 100 per cent increase in cement price.

This would result in cost overrun and time overrun for all infrastructural works affecting employment. There has been no increase in excise duty, royalty on limestone, VAT, railway freight or demand growth warranting such steep price increase.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene immediately to control the rise in price of cement for saving the construction industry and millions of unorganized workers engaged in it. I also urge to form a Cement Regulatory Authority to check the cartelizational increase of price of cement.

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 16, 2006/Vaisakha 26, 1928 (Saka).

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

ANNEXURE I

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