

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

(Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXI, Eighth Session, 2006/1928 (Saka)

No. 6, Monday, July 31, 2006/Sravana 9, 1928 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCES	1-2
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 101, 102, 104 and 105	5-32
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	32-325
Starred Question Nos. 103, 106-120	32-70
Unstarred Question Nos. 737-885	70-325
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	326
INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	
Report	327-328
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
Thirty-Fourth Report	328
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour	
Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu	329
(ii) Death of Indians in a fire accident occurred in Manama City, Bahrain on 30-7-2006	
Shri E. Ahmed	365-367
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: Apprehension of terrorist attacks on Key Indian installations as revealed by National Security Adviser	329-333
(ii) Re: Situation arising out of Israeli attack on Lebanon	333-352
CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006—Introduced	353-354

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

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i)	Need to stop illegal cutting of trees in Dang forests of district Balsar, Gujarat	
	Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel	354
(ii)	Need to release funds for development of Schools in Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council area of Darjeeling, West Bengal	
	Shri D. Narbula	355
(iii)	Need to provide financial support to onion growers in Tamil Nadu	
	Shri S.K. Kharventhan	355
(iv)	Need to check erosion on the banks of river Bhagirathi in West Bengal	
	Shri Adhir Chowdhury	356
(v)	Need to interconnect National Highways No. 21 and 22 from Aut to Luhri (Sainj) in Himachal Pradesh and declare it as a National Highway	
	Shrimati Pratibha Singh.....	357
(vi)	Need to construct building of North-West Railway Zonal office at Jaipur, Rajasthan	
	Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	357
(vii)	Need to divert the route of some North-East bound trains to link Oria, Jalon, Uttar Pradesh	
	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.....	358
(viii)	Need to expedite the four laning of National Highway No. 215 from Padmapur to Barbil in Orissa	
	Shri Ananta Nayak.....	358
(ix)	Need to check the spread of Chickungunya disease in Maharashtra	
	Shri Sanjay Dhotre	359
(x)	Need to rescind the order declaring Godavari and Panchavati Express trains as Super-Fast besides reviewing the hike in their fares	
	Shri Harishchandra Chavan	359
(xi)	Need to ban the use of Endosulphan as a pesticide for aerial spraying in cashew plantation in Kasargod district, Kerala	
	Shri P. Karunakaran	359

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xii) Need to provide special economic package for the drought and flood affected farmers of Alappuzha district in Kerala Dr. K.S. Manoj	360
(xiii) Need to construct an over bridge at Jagdishpur railway crossing in district Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh Shri Paras Nath Yadav	361
(xiv) Need to implement reservation policy as per the provisions of the Constitution Shri Alok Kumar Mehta	361
(xv) Need to protect interests of workers engaged in textile industry Shri C. Kuppusami	361
(xvi) Need to lay railway line upto Sahajanwa, Mehndaval, Basi, Dumriaganj, Utrala and Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh Shri Mukeem Mohammad	362
(xvii) Need to collect taxes from Private Company Operating dams in Khed, Maharashtra Shri Adhalrao Shivaji Patil	363
(xviii) Need to provide employment to the persons whose lands were acquired for setting up of Rourkela Steel Plant Shri B. Mahtab	363
(xix) Need to establish the proposed plant of Hindustan Paper Corporation in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh Shri Munshi Ram	364
(xx) Need to investigate irregularities in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh Shri Baleshwar Yadav	365
PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2006	367-423 424-502
Motion to consider Shri H.R. Bhardwaj	372

Shri Ananth Kumar	374
Shri Kapil Sibal	390
Shri Mohan Singh	406
Shri Rupchand Pal	408
Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh	414
Shri Rajesh Verma	416
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	417
Shri Prasanna Acharya	420
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	427
Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran	431
Kumari Mamta Banerjee	431
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu	440
Shri Suhdev Singh Dhindsa	442
Shri George Fernandes	444
Prof. M. Ramadass	446
Shri Uday Singh	448
Shri Prabhunath Singh	452
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	454
Shri Marvendra Singh	459
Clauses 2 to 4 and 1	471-487
Motion to Pass	479
RESOLUTION RE: ATTACK ON LEBANON BY ISRAEL	423-424
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	503-504
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	504-508
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	509-510
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	509-510

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, 31 July, 2006/Sravana 9, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*)

...(Interruptions)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri S.M. Guraddi.

Shri S.M. Guraddi was a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989, representing Bijapur Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

Earlier, Shri Guraddi was a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1971.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Guraddi was a Member of the Committee on Petitions during 1986-87.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Guraddi was an active social worker. He served as the President, Taluka Development Board, Muddebihal; Vice-President, Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation and Member, District Central Co-operative Bank, Bijapur.

Shri Guraddi was a delegate at the Seventy-seventh Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Managua, Nicaragua in 1987.

Shri S.M. Guraddi passed away on 23 July, 2006 at Bijapur, Karnataka at the age of 78.

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

As the hon. Members are aware, incessant rains have resulted in floods in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat causing loss of lives and large scale damage to

property. The House expresses its grief over the loss of lives and expresses its sympathy with the victims of the calamity.

As the hon. Members are also aware, about 16 Indians died due to a fire which broke out in a three-storey building in Manama, Bahrain on 30 July, 2006.

The House expresses its deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in this tragedy.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, because of air attack by Israeli forces...(Interruptions) I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour...(Interruptions) The House should condemn...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you may speak one by one. I cannot hear anything if you all speak together.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Government has increased the MSP by Rs. 10/-...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaaidu, I will be allowing a Calling Attention on this issue. You may give a notice for it. Now, please co-operate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice for Suspension of Question Hour...(Interruptions) Now, yesterday because of air strike by Israeli forces, 54 people

including 34 children were killed and this brutal and diabolical attack is still continuing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate the concern you have expressed. I am sure this concern is shared by all sections of the House. I will allow you to raise this issue after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice which is about national security. An article under the heading 'Letter Bomb' has been published in the latest issue of 'India Today', In that article it has been revealed that a person having access to the Prime Minister has direct relations with America and passing on all information to America....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Perhaps our former Minister of External Affairs had the knowledge of this and has also made a mention of this in this book. But the question is that this country does not belong to these people alone. This country belongs to all of us. This issue concerns the security of the country and I want that there should be a detailed discussion on this issue in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the advisor to the National Security Council*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take any name.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has publically announced on CNN T.V. channel that our nuclear installations are on the hit list of suicidal squads and are in danger. No statement can be more serious and challenging than this. The Department of Atomic Energy is with the Prime Minister. The Parliament is in session at present.

[English]

and it is a matter of privilege also.

[Translation]

Such an important thing has been told outside and not in the House and the Prime Minister has not reacted to it. Earlier it was said that agents of Lashkar-e-Taiba are joining our Airforce and names of several VIPs are coming to fore in this regard. All these things have come to notice through various T.V. channels and newspapers. It is a very serious matter and the Government is silent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not minimising its importance. I will allow you to elaborate it after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I want the House to condemn the killings....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak after the Question Hour. Let us take up Question Hour now. Q. No. 101, Shri K.S. Rao.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am also associating with the hon. Member *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri K.S. Rao.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): My name has been left out.

MR. SPEAKER: You are at number one.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind co-operation. I will give you an opportunity after the Question Hour.

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.S. Rao, Q. No. 101.

Availability of Sugar

+

*101. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

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

(a) the production, consumption, export and import of sugar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new long-term pricing and procurement mechanism to provide protection to cane growers, sugar industry and consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revive the earlier system of supplying sugar to all the consumers through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to do away with levy quota system and work out new mechanism for giving direct subsidy on distribution of sugar through PDS;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to further liberalise sugar exports even under such a precarious situation; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) The production and consumption of sugar during the last three sugar years (October-September) was as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Sugar Year (Oct.-Sep.)	Production	Consumption
2002-2003	201.32	183.76
2003-04 (P)	139.58	175.00
2004-05 (P)	130.00	171.44

(P)—Provisional

The import and export of sugar, as per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata during the last three financial years were as under:—

(Quantity in lakh M.Ts)

Financial Year (April-March)	Import	Export
2003-04	0.74	12.00
2004-05	9.33	1.09
2005-06 (P)	5.59	3.17

(P)—Provisional

(b) and (c) The existing policies and laws/regulations of the Government are adequate to protect the interests of main stakeholders, namely, cane growers, producers of sugar and consumers at present.

(d) to (f) No such proposal is under consideration.

(g) and (h) Government, vide notification dated 4-7-2006 has prohibited export of sugar upto 31-3-2007 except export of preferential quota to European Union and U.S.A.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, sugar industry in India has grown substantially well, hats off to the Indian farmers. But, unfortunately, the policies of the Government are crippling the farmers on many an occasion. In 1999-2000, when the production was 182 lakh tonnes with closing stock of 66 lakh tonnes making it to 250 lakh tonnes, the consumption was only 155 lakh tonnes in the country. Still, there was an import of 11.8 lakh tonnes and a loss of Rs. 1112 crore worth of foreign exchange. Similar is the case in 1998-1999 when the production was more than the consumption and the closing stock was also there and a loss of once again Rs. 1110 crore worth of foreign exchange.

In the months of June and July, paper news indicate that even in this year also, there will be more production but still, the Government has announced a ban on the export of sugar at the same time thinking in terms of import of sugar which is detrimental to the interest of the farmers of the country. I wish to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will withdraw the order on ban on sugar export and prohibit import. Moreover, while importing, they want to give exemption on duty on sugar import.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, this decision is taken only for a limited period. Export of sugar has been banned only up to 30th March, 2007. There was a temporary crisis created in the country. The price of cane was going up. That is why, the Government took the decision to allow a little-bit of import and ban export for a limited time to protect the interest of the consumers. But, definitely, in the month of October when the sugar season will start, we will assess the situation and take a proper decision.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, this is not good for the nation and the farmers. I would request you to permit a discussion on this important subject.

MR. SPEAKER: For that, there is a procedure. Somebody has to take recourse to that procedure.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the cost of imported oil is going up substantially because the price of oil is going up internationally. Ethanol is being extensively used in Brazil and other countries reducing the consumption of oil.

So, by promoting the sugar industry in this country, we can reduce the import of oil by promoting ethanol production.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they will fix up some remunerative price to ethanol for encouraging the sugar industry to concentrate on ethanol production.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This particular subject comes under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. But it is true that many countries are diverting sugar juice and molasses towards the production of the ethanol because ethanol is an environmental-friendly fuel. The way the prices of diesel and petrol are going up, in this situation, countries like Brazil and United States of America, have taken a policy decision to start the production of ethanol either from maize corn or from sugarcane juice. A similar situation is also developing in India. There are some sugar mills which have set up ethanol plants and they have started the ethanol production and there is a discussion between the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Petroleum about the prices. I am confident that this particular issue, which is pending for the last few months, will be resolved in another two to three weeks' time. The Ministry of Petroleum and oil companies will announce their policies regarding the prices, and industry will start the production of ethanol. So like Brazil, India will also start the production of ethanol in a big way.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply claims that there is no need to evolve new mechanism for procurement and distribution and the existing regulations are enough to safeguard the interests of sugarcane growers, sugar manufacturers and consumers.

How is it that the Government seeks to ignore the ground reality when there is so much hue and cry about

fluctuation in price, widening gap of production and consumption and irrational export and import policy pertaining to sugar?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: If you study the prices continuously in the last few months, and the latest price of 26th of July, 2006, the retail price of sugar in the country is average Rs. 21. One week back, the price was also Rs. 21. One month back, it was Rs. 22; six months back again it was Rs. 21; and one-year back it was Rs. 21. So, the entire year, you will see the prices are between Rs. 20 and Rs. 21. So, it is not too much high.

Secondly, we have seen three years back, sufficient price was not given to the farmers. That is why, they shifted from sugarcane to some other production and there was a crisis in the country. Now, ultimately, we have to take a decision to import. So, if we have to protect the interests of the consumers, we have to see that there is sufficient production. If we have to see that there should be sufficient production, we have to pay proper price to the farmers. That is why, a balanced approach has been taken by the Government of India.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we talk about sugar production, the name of Shri Sharad Pawar comes to the fore automatically because he has contributed a lot to sugar production. Maharashtra contributes 35 per cent sugar production of the country which the hon. Minister himself has also admitted. The president of Maharashtra Co-operatives Federation has said that the farmers are not getting remunerative prices of sugarcane because of which the farmers are growing other crops. It has resulted in fall in sugar production. He has accepted this in his reply and I want to know from him as to what he is doing to increase sugarcane production as well as give remunerative prices to farmers and what efforts he has made in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Highest ever prices of sugarcane were paid to the sugarcane growers of the country last year. Today Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugarcane producing state of the country and Maharashtra is at the second place. Given the pace with which new sugar mills are being set up there I am hopeful that this

situation will continue. So far as prices are concerned, for the first time the farmers were paid at the rate of Rs. 140 per quintal last year in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Southern states. Therefore, acre-age of sugarcane plantation is increasing. I hope production of sugarcane in the country will be around 227 lakh tonnes this year. The requirement of the country will be around 180-190 lakh tonnes. This year the farmers of the country will grow more sugarcane in order to ensure surplus production of sugar in the country because in the state policy the Union Government as well as state Governments have resolved to protect the interests of the farmers. Benefit of this will be visible at ground level and we will continue this policy.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, four or five questions arise in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise only one question

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: As it involves import, export and production so I will put mixed question. The hon. Minister said that Uttar Pradesh is at number one position in sugar production but if we look back we will see that at some point of time Maharashtra and Bihar were also topped the list in production of sugar. But during recent past sugar production in Bihar has declined and I do not want to go into details of role and fault of anyone in this regard. But as per prevailing situation the industrialists from other states are very anxious and eager to set up industries in Bihar. The farmers of the state have suffered a lot as a result of closure of sugar industry in the state. I want to now from the hon. Minister whether the Union Government are formulating any policy in regard to states where the outside industrialists intend to set up industries so that those people may not have to face any difficulties in setting up industries there and the farmers of such states could avail benefit of it. I would like to say that different rates of sugarcane prevail in various states. The farmers in Bihar are not getting the same rate of sugarcane which is being paid to farmers in Uttar Pradesh. Will the Government consider to frame a policy to fix uniform rate of sugarcane all over the country.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, so far as price is concerned, the government fixes one price for the entire country. But apart from this some states i.e. Punjab,

Haryana, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and southern states have taken different decisions in this regard. These states have taken different decisions. Therefore, state governments try to pay more than the uniform price fixed by the Central Government so that the farmers could get more. Therefore, we do not want to interfere in it. They should get more. We will extend our support to this. About Bihar, it is true that sugar industry was started there about 100-125 years ago. Later a number of sugar mills were closed down there. The hon. Members know better than about the problems there. When it comes to setting up new sugar mills, the presence policy of the Government of India is that we tell them to set up mills in Bihar because the southern states and Uttar Pradesh are the surplus sugar states and the transport cost is high in sending surplus sugar from Uttar Pradesh or the Southern states to Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and the North East. The high transportation cost is finally transferred on to the consumer. If we want to reduce the burden of this cost, we will have to see as to where the sugar mills could be set up in the North-Eastern India. Bihar has more potential. Therefore above 5-6 sugar mills would be set up in Bihar this year, if the discussion of the Chief Minister with the State Minister in my department, Mr. Akhilesh Singh is any indication. Investors have been selected and the Bihar Government has recently announced a new policy to help new persons who are ready to invest there. The investors would be benefited from that and a way out would emerge to solve the long standing problem of Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Also across the border on the East.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We are ready to have them in Bengal also.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugar mills have paid more than Rs. 7000 crore to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh as sugarcane price which is a record this year. The private mill owners paid Rs. 140-145 for per quintal of sugarcane and the public sector mill owners also made the payment of the sugarcane within the stipulated period. If we go by the history of sugarcane,

every third year records increase in sugar production which in turn results in decrease in the production of sugarcane in the fourth year and as a result the farmers do not get reasonable price, but this was the peak year. I want to know from the Government of India whether they propose to formulate a policy to strike a balance between production of sugarcane and sugar? As the Government of India propose to convene a joint meeting of the Chief Ministers and the Agriculture Ministers of the sugar producing states to chalk out a permanent strategy to end the recurrence of fall in the production of sugar every year and vice-versa.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, a permanent policy is to be formulated in this regard. As I had said at the outset that barring one or two states the prices of sugar hovered around Rs. 20 or Rs. 21 per kg. It was Rs. 22 only for a week. Then we gave more concession in the release order. For four-six months last year it was reported in the media that the prices of sugar are going up. In response to that we decided to import and discontinued export at the same time. This ultimately harms the interests of farmers. Because when the international market is good and prices are up in the international market and there is stock of sugar in the country, we had to take a decision to ban the export to maintain the price level. But if we do not think on it soon, ultimately it would affect other sectors besides the farmers. Therefore, the Government of India have decided that we would take the advice of the state governments immediately after the crushing season starts in the month of October and in consultation with them we would take a decision so that the production is not affected and the farmers' income is also not affected that would also facilitate India get an opportunity of its entry in international market.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious fact has come to the fore on the sugarcane issue. There is no industry in the entire world where raw material renders the industry as its own. The sugar industry is only such industry where the sugarcane grower himself takes his produce at the doorsteps of the sugar mill owners on the bullock-carts, carts, tractors, trucks etc. and sells it at a throw away price, Underweighing is also indulged in by the sugar mill owners and we have not so far been able to get them the price of their produce instantly and if they

get the payment for their produce six months later it is presumed that they have got the payment in time. In Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh police had fired at the farmers several times while they were demanding payment of their sugarcane.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will introduce at the counter payment system in the interest of the farmers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this is the responsibility of the state government. As far Uttar Pradesh, I have the report that there was confrontation. But this is the first year. The responsibility of the payment of the sugarcane prices to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh is on the sugar mills. After the intervention of the state governments, the sugar mill owners have made full payment to the farmers. The total outstanding arrears are only 2.39 per cent in the entire country. This figure is the lowest ever.

[English]

Growth Rate of Food Production

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*102. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of food production has failed to keep pace with the rate of growth in population;

(b) if so, whether the stagnation in production has led to food shortage in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has urged the Government to prepare a road map to improve yield and boost food production; and

(d) if so, the 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) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The average growth rate of foodgrains production in the country during the years 2000-01 to 2005-06 is 2.1 per cent whereas the average growth rate of population during this period is 1.6 per cent.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACCP) while recommending Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major agricultural commodities also makes recommendations for improving production and productivity of various crops from time to time.

(d) Several schemes and programmes for enhancing food production and productivity are under implementation as a consequence of which production increases are seen in crops such as rice, coarse grains and oilseeds as shown below:—

Crop Production

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2000-01	2005-06 (4th Advance Estimates)
Rice	84.98	91.04
Coarse Grains	31.08	34.67
Oilseeds	18.44	27.73

The fluctuation in yield of food crops such as wheat are being addressed through expansion of area, enhancing seed replacement rate and propagation of high temperature tolerant high yielding varieties. Similarly in the case of pulses, steps like enhancing seed replacement rate, promotion of ridge planting, encouraging intercropping of short duration pulse crops, are taken. Schemes under Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) are also on going.

[English]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, it is indeed a matter of some satisfaction that the growth rate of food grain production has been higher than the growth rate of population. However, the hon. Minister, in his reply, talks of fluctuations in the yields of food crops and there are several schemes and programmes that have been talked about on an experimental basis.

My question to the hon. Minister is, that in view of the high degree of fluctuations in food production over the last several years, whether the Government is considering developing and implementing a stable and sustainable food grain production and management policy. If so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, as far as policy is concerned, there is no problem over that. But the production is not totally dependent on policy, it depends on nature too. Sometimes, there is no rain, sometimes, there are some other reasons also. To be frank, if we study the entire agricultural production of the country, the real problem is in two areas. One is oil seeds and the other is pulses.

Today, we are facing the problem of wheat but this is an exception. Here, there is no shortage of production, the only problem is because of the liberalised APMC Act and certain other elements, which have taken advantage of that situation. They have paid little more money to the farmers and they have succeeded in procuring more than the Food Corporation of India. That is the reason why the wheat problem is there.

But it is true that there is a serious problem of pulses in the country. One of the reasons is that pulses crops are essentially taken in the rain-fed areas. The farmer is not ready to take pulses crops in irrigated areas, therefore, the production is limited. Research is going on for a number of years, but to be frank, we could not bring down the shortage and we could develop new varieties in which practically one can take three or four months' time as against six months. But yield-wise we have not reached to a satisfactory conclusion.

The scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the scientists of one international organisation called ICRI located in Hyderabad, are concentrating to develop new varieties in the oil seeds and pulses: We are expecting that there will be some break-through.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what role there is for biotechnology in increasing food production.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there is one more question on this today. There is a lot of heated discussion going on in the country as to whether we should encourage transgenic gene in the new varieties.

There are some plus points and there are some sizeable sections who support it and there is a sizeable section who opposes it also. The BT has been introduced in this country in one crop, that is, cotton. There are some other crops also, which have been developed outside India, for instance, rice. Some of the countries have developed a new variety called golden rice outside India. There are certain companies, which are asking for permission to take, but we have not taken any decision. We have to study whether it is environmental friendly or whether it is useful or convenient for local population

As far as developing the variety with the use of biotechnology is concerned, one has to take very cautious approach and we are very cautious about that.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: [Translation] Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in the reply [English] "The average growth rate of foodgrains production in the country during the years 2000-01 to 2005-06 is 2.1 per cent whereas the average growth rate of population during this period is 1.6 per cent." [Translation] This is the average rate but main crops vary, from state to state. For example, cotton is the main crop in my Vidharbha area. Rainfall during the last three or four years has been below average resulting in low cotton production. On the other hand, Maharashtra is a State where cotton monopoly scheme is implemented. Two years back, Maharashtra government had fixed the rate of cotton at Rs. 2300 per quintal and last year it was fixed at Rs. 1700 to 1800 per quintal. On the one hand, the production is going down

and on the other the farmers are getting lower rate. Owing to this, 62 farmers have committed suicide during the last two months and 17 farmers have committed suicide just within last 48 hours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I am putting the question. We are not going to fetch any result unless we go into the root cause of this question i.e we should first solve the problem of irrigation as agriculture there depends on monsoon. I want to know as to what our government are doing for this. The problems of farmers cannot be solved unless we solve the problem of water. Although a number of dams are proposed there but work has not been started as yet. So the problem remains as it is and the farmers are forced to commit suicide. Various other suggestions have been made for improving production but I feel, this reason has also to be looked into.

MR. SPEAKER: You are discussing it, you please put your question. There can be no full discussion on it.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: So I want to know as to what our government are doing in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, so far as the problem of suicide by farmers is concerned, this is there are no two opinions that a very serious problem. All the parties in this House are deeply concerned about it. Instances of suicide by farmers especially in certain districts in Vidarbha have been raised here. This is true that when we went into the root cause of the problem, we found that there were two or three main reasons for that and of that 'non-availability of assured water' being the most important. Therefore, a discussion was held at the level of Prime Minister to address the problem of that area and he himself announced a package for six districts of that area in Nagpur. The hon. Member is referring to Buldhana district, which is also included in that package. In the package, he has announced to provide financial assistance from the center to complete all the minor, medium and major

irrigation projects in these six districts during the next three years. It has been decided that funds required for completion of all the projects in Buldhana district which have environmental clearance will be provided by the Ministry of Water Resources through IBP Scheme. The work will be started after the end of this rainy season and this will be started from Buldhana....(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, Cost of production is mentioned in part 'c' of the question. I want to tell the hon. Minister that prices fixed by the CACP are less than production cost and due to that 15 to 20 per cent farmers in the country are choosing not to sow their crops. The government are contemplating to give prices of agricultural produces according to their production cost. In view of this, do the government think that any changes in the policy of determining the cost of production are necessary? If so, what are the plans of the Government in this regard so that the loss being suffered by the farmers as a result thereof could be minimized?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: CACP considers a number of issues while fixing cost of production and this include several factors namely, [English] cost of production, changes in input prices, input-output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on the industrial cost structure, effect on the general price level, effect on the cost of living, international market price situation; all these issues are considered by CACP. After that CACP also takes opinion from all the State Governments and then ultimately they come to some conclusion, and then they submit their proposals. By and large, their proposals are always accepted by the Government or they are also improved by the Government. It is true that nowadays because of certain other situations, there is a continuous demand from the farming community to see that there should be better prices; there should be some improvement in prices. We are seriously considering whether we should introduce a Minimum Support Price as one concept.

Actually, procurement price might be different but we are discussing about that. Our total approach is that we have to give relief to our farmers. That is the reason why we are considering this new type of proposal.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister if the growth of food production is all right, then why are the farmers in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and even in Bengal also committing suicide? This is number one.

Secondly, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will investigate the matter if the agricultural land has been given only for the purpose of doing some business. In our State, six lakh acres of land have been given to the businessmen. The agricultural land becomes non-agricultural land. If agricultural lands are diverted to non-agricultural lands, then where from production will come? It would not come from the sky. Wheat is the Government's policy? I would like to know whether the Government would bring a policy not to curb the agricultural rights of the farmers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are two things. One is regarding the suicide cases. The States which have been mentioned here are especially Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. In Kerala, the situation is very different. In all the other three States, the main problem is non-availability of sufficient water. Agriculture, in all these areas, totally depends upon the monsoon. Suppose there is no sufficient rain, then practically they do not get crop, they are not in a position to repay the money taken from the bank or the cooperative societies, they become defaulters, they go to moneylenders, and they have to face a number of problems.

In regard to the issue of conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural land, I would say that some of the States are taking this issue very seriously. Yesterday, I had a detailed discussion with the Chief Minister of Kerala, and the Kerala Government is taking a lot of effective steps to stop this conversion from agricultural lands into non-agricultural lands. But to be frank, for the sake of development, there are a number of projects. Without acquiring land, you cannot complete these projects. Take the case of any irrigation dam. For constructing the dam, you have to acquire land. Suppose there are any other development projects. You have to acquire land. *...(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is not for irrigation. It is for promoting business. *...(Interruptions):*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is even for industry also. Industry is also equally important. Today we have to remove substantial pressure from agricultural sector to non-agricultural sector. So, we have to develop industry also. Unless and until we keep that type of balance, we will not be able to resolve the agrarian problem. *...(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The Government will be embarrassed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only one supplementary is allowed.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We are not against industry. We have to protect the farmers also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Once upon a time, West Bengal was a major industrial State in the country, and that entire industry was set up on agricultural land. You have to acquire land. That is also a process of development. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not enter into a discussion.

Now, Shrimati Minati Sen.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, whether the Swaminathan Commission has stressed upon the second Green Revolution, and if so, the action taken by the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Swaminathan Commission's three Reports have been received by the Government, and they are under the active consideration for taking a final decision. We will be able to take a final decision practically within no time.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, yesterday, a question was asked to the hon. Minister of Finance regarding marketing of the product that is being produced by the farmer. It is noticed that the farmers who are committing suicide are not the rich farmers.

It is not even the medium-sized farmers, but it is the small farmers especially the peanut farmers, who are

committing suicide. The other day, while replying to a debate, the hon. Finance Minister stated that it was for the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with this matter. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to what specific steps he is taking to save these small farmers especially the peanut farmers so that they get not only the Minimum Support Price but also they get prices for their produce in time, in the time of their need.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The price is one issue. We had done studies especially in the four States where the cases of suicides are quite high, to find the main reasons for suicides by farmers. In addition to this, there are a number of other NGOs also who have gone into the details of the root cause of these suicides, and they have made several recommendations. One is that we have to see that water is available. Those States which are totally dependent on erratic monsoon, unless and until, substantial money has been provided to construct minor, medium and major types of irrigation projects and irrigation percentage is improved, it will be very difficult for the farmers to take crop. This is one issue.

Second issue is availability of credit and that also at a reasonable rate. Certain decision has been taken by the Government of India regarding availability of credit. In two years from Rs. 86,000 crore, we have reached to Rs. 1,50,000 crore for cash crop, and that also at four per cent rate of interest. That is also an important decision taken by the Government of India.

Third issue is regarding proper price. Of course, the Minimum Support Price has been practically announced. In fact, we took a conscious decision to allow the farmer to sell his product anywhere, to anybody so that he could get proper price. From this year, especially for wheat and sugarcane, we are experiencing that he has started getting proper price. In addition, we have to improve a number of other laws also.

We have to take some collective decision also by which, ultimately, the farmer would be able to sell this produce in the market and get proper price. We are trying our level best to take our Indian produce in the international market to take better price from outside. So, from all these angles, we have to work together and take a little liberal approach.

My only problem is that supposing, there is a lot of production of onion or tomato, nobody looks at the onion farmers or the tomato farmers. But supposing, there is a shortage of onion or tomato, immediately there is a demand from the media and all cross-sections of the people that we should stop export of onion and tomato. But this is not the way. Ultimately, if we have to protect the interests of the producers, the farmers, then we would have to take a liberal approach.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Mitrasen Yadav.

This would be the last Supplementary on this Question. We are only on the second Question. I cannot be so liberal. Sorry, every solution cannot be achieved through Question Hour, sorry. You have to take recourse to other methods also.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agricultural is an agriculturist and his reply is flawless.

MR. SPEAKER: We can take up more questions if you ask small questions.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Had the farmers of the country been satisfied with his reply and had their problems been solved, they would not have resorted to committing suicide. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that the farmers in the states where crops are ruined due to less rainfall or due to scarcity of water, are committing suicide. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any policy to provide any subsidy or compensation to save the farmers from such situations?

The other point is that... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No *dusri baat*. No, I would not allow this. [Translation] Is any compensation provided to the farmers?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the hon. Member's question is regarding problem of water. This is true that a

need to improve budgetary provision for irrigation has been felt for several years and the farmers will be helped out if the House is unanimous on the issue. For the last several years, 0.35 per cent of our total budget has been provided for irrigation.

[English]

It is not even one per cent. Unless and until, we take corrective actions on these issues, these issues would not be resolved.

I will be very happy if the entire House is going to support this type of thinking, I think we will be able to take some corrective action.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 103. Shri Ramdas Athawale—Not present.

Imports of Urea

*104. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Urea imported during the last three years and the current year and the amount spent thereon;

(b) whether the cost of urea imports during the said period is much higher than the cost of urea indigenously produced;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of urea in the country at cheaper price rather than importing it?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The quantity of urea imported on Government account during the last three years and the current year and the amounts spent thereon is as below:—

Year	Quantity (in lakh MT)	Value (in lakh US\$)
2003-04	Nil	Nil
2004-05	6.41	1524.83
2005-06	7.31	1891.01
2006-07 (upto June 06)	2.75	723.24

Besides, above imports, Government has also imported 13.25 lakh MT of granular urea in 2005-06 at weighted average price of US\$ 155.23 C and F per MT and 4.58 lakh MT granular urea in 2006-07 (upto 30-06-2006) at weighted average price of US\$ 169.05 C and F per MT from Oman India Fertilizer Company under the long term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA), wherein Government of India is committed to off take all production of urea upto the rated capacity of the plant, at pre-determined annual prices.

(b) and (c) The cost of imported urea varies according to the international price of urea prevailing at the time of the actual import. The average price of imported urea for the last three years and in the first quarter of the current year is as below:—

Year	Imported Urea			Indigenous Urea Average cost of production (Rs. per MT)
	Weighted avg. C and F price (US\$ per MT)	Average Exchange Rate	Weighted avg. C and F price (Rs. per MT)	
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	No import on Government account			8626

1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	237.88	44.93	10688	9638
2005-06	258.56	44.27	11446	9353
2006-07 (upto June 06)	263.09	45.47	11962	9353*

*Provisinal

The cost of production of urea in the country varies from unit-to-unit depending upon its vintage, efficiency and the feedstock being used. The cost of production of indigenously produced urea currently varies from Rs. 4949 per MT to Rs. 20573 per MT. Thus, while certain units produce urea at a cost lower than the price of imported urea, others produce at a relatively higher price. The cost of imported urea on the other hand is determined and based on prices prevailing in the international market at the time of imports.

(d) In order to ensure adequate availability of urea from indigenous sources, the Government has announced a policy, wherein all units producing urea at a cost lower than the import parity price are allowed to produce urea to the maximum extent even beyond 100% of the rated capacity.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, what is the quantity of urea produced indigenously during the last three years? I want to know from the Minister, through you, Sir, what is the gap between demand and supply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, urea production was 192 lakh tonnes in 2004, 202 lakh tonnes in 2005 and 200 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 whereas its consumption was 197 lakh tonnes in 2004, 206 lakh tonnes in 2002 and 221 lakh tonnes in 2005-06.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Is the Government aware that in Tamil Nadu, the farmers are using "Panchakavya" made out of agricultural waste, cow dung

and cow urine instead of urea and pesticides? It gives very good yield. I want to know whether the Government of India will come forward to support the farmers to encourage this type of organic farming.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have increased the earlier price of SSP. We would consider the suggestions given by the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister how many fertilizer production units are closed in our country, especially, in the Eastern Zone of our country. In Haldia, there is Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation. That is a big factory but it is closed. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to activate, to revitalise it or not.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the factories under HFC and FCI which have been closed are: Ramagundam, closed on 5-9-2002; Gorakhpur, closed on 5-9-2002 and Talcher closed on 5-9-2002. One factory at Korba in Chhattisgarh could not be started. Factories in Barauni and Haldia were also closed in 2002. Factories in Sindri and Amjor have also been closed. We are trying to revive these factories located at different places. For that, I am going to send a detailed proposal to CCA and it has been sent for inter-ministerial consultations ... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Barauni? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have told about Barauni
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get diverted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The previous Government had decided to sell the land and property of all these closed factories and plants. But, when I became the Minister, I said that property would not be sold and, therefore, property has not been sold. Now, gas has to be arranged for it. As you know that naphtha prices are many times higher than gas. So it is necessary to have a gas based plant and I am having talks with the Petroleum Minister in this regard. We will start this plant as soon as gas is made available. We will not allow closure of this plant. We have stated in the common minimum programme that all the factories lying closed would be revived for that purpose, I am going to the Cabinet.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, fertilisers, especially Urea, is the life-blood of agriculture and is essential for the farmers, not only of Punjab but of the entire country. However, the farmers have to stand in long queues and pay an exorbitant price for purchasing the fertilisers. This leads to a pervading sense of gloom and disillusionment among farmers. It is one of the reasons that compels the farmers to commit suicide. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to make the fertilisers, especially Urea, easily available to the farmers. What steps have been taken by the Government to check the exorbitant rise in the price of Urea and other fertilizers?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of urea, DAP or MOP is concerned, the Government give subsidy to the company on the increased prices. The farmers used to get urea at the rate of Rs. 4830 per quintal four years back and even today they are getting it at the same rate.

Sir, as far as the supply is concerned, it is decided jointly by the Agricultural Ministry and the state Governments as to how much urea, DAP and MOP should

be supplied to each state, when it should be sent, to which point it should be sent, how it should be sent—whether by rail or by road. The lists of all the states are sent to us accordingly. We have a list for every state. There is no such state where less fertilizer has been supplied. Rather, each state was supplied more fertilizer than what it had asked for.

Sir, problem in supply occurs when fertilizer is sent to a state's headquarters but it fails to reach the nearby villages, districts or towns due to faulty distribution system. Time and again, I have written to the State Governments time and again to improve their distribution system. Consumption of urea, DAP and MOP fertilizers will increase further if the distribution system is improved in the states.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards Maharashtra where you can see long queues of farmers at the shops even today for purchasing fertilizers but they are not getting it. Therefore, many farmers have demanded that people's representatives should raise this issue. When we held a meeting in this regard, we came to know that railway rakes were not being made available for Maharashtra as a result of which there is shortage of fertilizer. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister towards it in the meeting also and had also written a letter. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he would talk to hon. Railway Minister to make available as many rakes as possible for Maharashtra? Secondly, as per Supreme Court's order, a truck cannot carry more than 9 tonnes of fertilizers in case of transportation of fertilizers by road. Therefore, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will find some solution to this also or he will arrange maximum railway rakes for Maharashtra from the Ministry of Railways?

Sir, in the end, I want to know from the hon. Minister the quantum of urea, DAP and MOP demanded by the Maharashtra government, the quantum sent and maximum quantity that can be given further?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a brief question and so should be the answer.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra Government had demanded 7,42,500 tonnes of fertilizers. 7,28,800 tonnes were supplied to it but till 15

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

July, 2006 only 5,73,000 tonnes have been sold out and the remaining 1,52,000 tonnes are still lying unsold. As soon as Shri Sharad Pawarji told me that there was shortage of fertilizer in Maharashtra, I have immediately ordered to send 50,000 tonnes more fertilizer. It is being sent there but 1,50,000 tonnes of stock is already there for sale.

SHRI TOOFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh holds an important place in the country in agricultural production and it is the largest state in terms of population. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has considered setting up a chemical fertilizer plant there? If so, the time by which it is likely to be set up and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, there is a Dankal Factory which was started earlier but was closed later on. The second factory is in Gorakhpur. We are trying to connect it by pipeline. If it gets connected with pipeline, then gas can be supplied to it via Haldia, Durgapur, Sindri and Barauni. But gas should be available for that and the Government are making efforts in this regard.

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now I have heard that the Ramagundam Fertilizer situated in my constituency is being sold to the nagarjuna Fertilizers. Is it true? If so, then it should be started as soon as possible. This factory is lying closed for more than 10 years and no Government plan is in sight till now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, it is true that a proposal has been received from Nagarjuna Fertilizers. The Government are looking into it.

[English]

New Legislation on Media

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*105. **SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:**

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new legislation to regulate the media;

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

(c) whether the views of all sections of the media on the legislation has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a comprehensive legislation to regulate the Broadcasting media in consultation with the media and the concerned Ministries. The proposal is still at consultation stage and the details have yet to be finalised.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Sir, in a democracy media is the fourth pillar and unrecognised opposition. Media has to be competitive in character, but unfortunately it is being monopolised by some organisations. What are the steps taken by the Government to check the emerging monopolies in the media sector?

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this Bill, as has been referred to, is now under process at the drafting stage, consulting Ministers and stakeholders. I do share the concern of the hon. Member that monopoly control on FM station, electronic media and newspaper has become very prominent in Indian scene at the stage. Therefore, I am having a meeting with the stakeholders on August 14th, before I proceed to the Cabinet.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Sir, may I ask my second supplementary in Tamil?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, You may.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: In Tamil Nadu, Podhigai Channel of Doordarshan is telecasting Tamil

*English translation: of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

programmes meant for viewers from across the country and the globe. Podhigai Channel, which used to have full-fledged half-an-hour news telecast is being discontinued with. There is an attempt to do away with that and the duration of news telecast is sought to be reduced. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether 30 minutes news telecast as it was broadcast earlier will be resumed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the Question.

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is not linked with this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what was the need to bring this bill?

Sir, I would like to remind that same thing was done in the year 1975. Then why it was needed to be brought once again. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that Shri Devegowdaji Government in the year 1997 and Shri Vajpayeeji's Government in 2001 thought to bring a Bill keeping in view the problems of cable network content regulation community to ensure that nobody's interest suffers.

Sir, I have clarified in my statement and would like to reiterate.

[English]

I gave the statement:

"Nothing at any point of time will be done by the UPA Government which is meant to encroach upon the Fundamental Rights of the Press and electronic media, as has been reported in a section of the

press, which is clearly an uncalled for apprehension out of context."

[Translation]

I want to say that a ruling of Supreme Court came in 1995 that GROB is a public property and if anybody tries to interfere in it the Government must control it on this basis a Bill was introduced in 1997. There is so much hue and cry at the time of cricket match that we cannot view it. We framed guidelines in regard to showing the match but the Supreme Court ruled that guidelines are not enough and directed to formulate a law. Keeping all these problems in view we decided to formulate law in such a manner that every one's conduct is proper and nobody makes interference.

12.00 hrs.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier Minister Jaipal Reddy had said in this House time and again, Shri Sharad Pawarji is also present in this House, when Broadcasting Bill was introduced he was the Chairman of Select Committee. My question is as to what is Government's view about the total Comprehensive Bill and the earlier Broadcasting Bill instead of regulating and disciplining them?

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, keep in view the Bill which was tried to be brought earlier, the conversion bill and cable regulation Act, the circumstances which has arisen in the country and maintaining the freedom of journalists and news current affairs we must think about it. After twelve o'clock in the night obscenity is being telecast by some private channels. It cannot be stopped unless we bring a law to this effect.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Flood Control

*103. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has been assigned any role in flood management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allocated funds to the State Governments for taking measures like desilting canals, repairing embankment, to raise embankment of ponds etc;

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

(e) the assessment of the Government on utilisation of funds granted and the further steps proposed for improving flood management?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Drainage and embankments are the two measures specifically mentioned in entry 17 of List-II (State List). Therefore, flood management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is only technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

(c) and (d) In order to enable State Governments to tackle the fury of floods and control of erosion of river banks, the Government of India, however, provides central assistance in certain cases which are critical in nature. At present, the Government of India has been providing central assistance under Centrally Sponsored/State Sector Schemes for anti-erosion works and for raising,

strengthening and construction of new flood embankments. During X Plan, a outlay of Rs. 428.25 crore has been provided for central assistance and a total of Rs. 218.92 crore has been released in last three years to the states. The scheme-wise and State-wise details of funds released during the last 3 years under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for food management and erosion control are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The funds released to the states by the Central Government are being monitored by central agencies, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Brahmaputra Board and Central Water Commission and utilization certificates are being obtained from the states, from time to time.

As regards steps by Government for improving flood management in the country, the Government of India, after the unprecedented floods of 2004 in Assam, Bihar and other parts of the country, constituted a Task Force headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission to examine the causes of the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighboring States, Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh; review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion; suggest short-term and long-term measures for management of floods and erosion control and examine related international dimensions and suggest future course of action. The Task Force submitted its report in December' 2004.

Statement

Scheme-wise and State-wise details of funds released during the last 3 years under the Centrally Sponsored and State Sector Schemes for Flood Management and Anti-erosion works

(All Figures in Rupees crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of States	Fund released in last 3 years (2003-06)
1	2	3	4
1.	Critical Anti-erosion works in Ganga basin States	Bihar	41.13
		Uttar Pradesh	25.63
		Uttaranchal	2.77

1	2	3	4
		West Bengal	35.02
		Himachal Pradesh	2.32
		Jharkhand	1.50
			<hr/> 108.37
2.	Critical Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley	Assam	39.54
		Nagaland	1.20
		Sikkim	2.16
		Manipur	2.12
		West Bengal	2.03
		Arunachal Pradesh	4.00
		Meghalaya	0.68
		Mizoram	2.76
		Tripura	5.94
			<hr/> 60.43
3.	Improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country	Andhra Pradesh	4.50
		Bihar	12.00
		Orissa	4.75
		Uttar Pradesh	1.50
			<hr/> 22.75
4.	Maintenance of flood protection works of Kosi and Gandak Projects in Nepal Portion (Kosi- Bihar, Gandak-Uttar Pradesh)	Bihar	9.12
		Uttar Pradesh	3.47
			<hr/> 12.59
5.	Raising, strengthening and extension of embankments on Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Kamla-Balan and Khando rivers	Bihar	13.53

1	2	3	4
6.	Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar	Bihar	1.25
Grand Total			218.92

[English]

Relief to Poultry Growers

*106. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occurrence of bird flu in certain parts of the country had adversely affected the interests of poultry growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain poultry growers have committed suicide on account of loss suffered thereby;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has provided/proposes to provide any relief to such poultry growers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Due to isolated occurrence of bird flu in certain parts of the country, the consumption and prices of poultry products in the country were adversely affected, resulting in financial losses to the poultry growers.

(c) and (d) A few cases of suicide resulting from economic distress caused due to bird flu have been reported.

(e) and (f) The Government has implemented a financial relief package for poultry growers. The relief measures provided for in the package include:—

(i) A moratorium of one year on repayment of existing principal and interest for term loans and

working capital due to all scheduled banks, cooperative banks and RRBs.

(ii) Conversion of working capital into term loan. The first year of repayment would be after the expiry of moratorium period.

(iii) Re-schedulement of term loans availed by poultry units over an additional period of two years from the agreed tenor of the term loan.

(iv) After conversion of working capital into term loan, poultry units may be permitted to draw additional working capital depending on the commercial viability of each unit.

(v) Barring willful defaulters, Reserve Bank of India not to treat defaulted accounts as NPAs.

(vi) Grant one time interest subvention of 4% for a period of one year on the outstanding principal amount as on 31-03-2006 (not including any part of the principal amount that has become overdue).

Further it has also been decided to initially release one lakh MT of maize at a provisional price of Rs. 550 per quintal from the Government stock to poultry growers for use in poultry feed.

(g) Question does not arise.

Control of E-Pollution

*107. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed norms to control E-pollution caused through electromagnetic radiation emanating from the electronic gadgets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these norms are being adhered to strictly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The electromagnetic radiations emanate from natural and man made sources including electronic gadgets, mobile phone towers, antennas. The Government so far has not notified any norm in respect of electromagnetic radiation for mobile phone towers etc.

A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi for preliminary study on "Health hazards due to Mobile phone Towers". After discussions and deliberations, this Committee has opined that overall there is not enough evidence to show direct hazards of Radio Frequency (RF) exposures from mobile based stations. The Committee, however, has recommended, amongst others, that a precautionary approach should be adopted till further research data is available.

An internal Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to study and develop expertise in the area of electromagnetic radiations from Telecom infrastructure and to prepare precautionary guidelines in this regard.

[Translation]

Assistance to Flood Affected States

*108. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the possibilities of floods have increased in certain States due to the monsoon this year;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have so far been affected by the floods;

(c) whether the Union Government is extending any assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the assistance provided to the States during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The magnitude of flood discharge and damage varies from year to year. The flood situation in the country is being monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC). The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal have been reported as affected by floods during current monsoon.

(c) Flood management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Ministry of Water Resources is, however providing central assistance to States under centrally sponsored/state sector schemes for anti-erosion works, improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country, raising and strengthening of embankments, etc.

(d) The assistance to the State Governments under the schemes are released on receipt of proposals from them. This year, the proposals for release of funds has recently been received from Government of Bihar.

[English]

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

*109. DR. K.S. MANOJ:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the total funds released to farmers during the said period with the break-up of State and Central share therein, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the inordinate delay in sanctioning of insurance amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken thereon;

(f) whether the Government has taken final decision on the recommendations of Joint Group constituted to

study the improvement required in the existing scheme and to include more crops in NAIS; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the changes made therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) State-wise details of farmers benefited during the last three years (i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06) are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Financial liabilities including claims under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are shared between the Central and State Governments on 50:50 basis. No State-wise allocation of fund is made under the scheme. Funds are released to the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), the implementing agency for the scheme, which in turn settle the admissible claims of farmers. Details of funds released to AIC under NAIS during the last three years and in the current year are given as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Funds released to AIC
2003-04	637.93
2004-05	350.00
2005-06	749.55 (including Rs. 0.55 crore for NER)
2006-07	275.00 (As on 4-7-2006)

Stat-wise details of claims settled/paid alongwith break-up of State, Central and AIC's share therein during the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Admissible claims under NAIS are worked out and settled by the AIC based on the yield data made available by the State concerned. Normally, AIC settles the admissible claims within two months after the receipt of yield data from the concerned State Government provided the share of funds of the Central and State Government have been received by the AIC. But sometimes due to discrepancies in yield data, legal cases etc. settlement of claims are delayed. Therefore, some States/farmers have complained from time to time about this. The Joint Group constituted to suggest the improvements required in the existing scheme has examined this issue and made recommendation regarding early settlement of claims. the Government is looking into the matter.

(f) and (g) After the report of the Joint Group was submitted it was circulated among the States/UTs and other concerned for their comments/views. The Joint Group in its report has given number of recommendations which include interalia reducing the unit area of insurance to gram panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity level, coverage of presowing risk, post-harvest losses and coverage of perennial crops. Most of the States/UTs have agreed to the suggestions given by the Joint Group. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group, a proposal for review of NAIS is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

NAIS-Farmers Benefitted and Claims Paid during the Year 2003-04 as on 20-07-06

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered	Premium (in lakh)	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Sharing		
						AIC	State share	GOI share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1737070	6083.96	21491.66	318708	5911.04	7790.31	7790.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2. Assam		12358	21.37	34.55	4088	20.17	7.19	7.19
3. Bihar		150340	286.52	2638.3	61769	283.69	1177.31	1177.3
4. Chhattisgarh		502927	736.17	5.17	393	5.17	0	0
5. Goa		793	0.55	0	0	0	0	0
6. Gujarat		1038430	9937.44	585.49	30079	585.49	0	0
7. Himachal Pradesh		3871	5.11	0.16	370	0.16	0	0
8. Jharkhand		26127	43.38	267.7	11869	43.36	112.17	112.17
9. Karnataka		1864476	4405.65	50780.64	1531038	4634.34	23073.15	23073.15
10. Kerala		40213	105.03	624.8	16493	72.45	276.17	276.18
11. Madhya Pradesh		1521371	3481.73	876.74	49748	851.97	12.38	12.38
12. Maharashtra		2761657	4602.46	29558.46	1439088	3618.6	12969.93	12969.93
13. Meghalaya		1381	4.7	0	0	0	0	0
14. Orissa		841002	1718.4	1830.79	39529	1379.25	225.77	225.77
15. Rajasthan		61200	121.02	14.19	997	14.19	0	0
16. Sikkim		316	0.36	0	0	0	0	0
17. Tamil Nadu		65964	212.35	894.48	16572	205.5	344.49	344.49
18. Tripura		1005	1.74	3.66	215	1.44	1.11	1.11
19. Uttar Pradesh		999699	1686.93	3695.92	144821	1584	1055.96	1055.96
20. Uttaranchal		10731	15.5	32.63	4854	15.49	8.57	8.57
21. West Bengal		748173	1257.52	681.17	106516	681.17	0	0
22. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		86	0.24	0	0	0	0	0
23. Pondicherry		2927	10.94	15.39	592	8.45	3.47	3.47
Total		12392117	34739.07	114031.90	3777739	19915.93	47057.98	47057.98

NAIS—Farmers Benefitted and Claims Paid during the Year 2004-05 as on 20-07-06

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered	Premium (in lakh)	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Sharing		
						AIC	State share	GOI share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2592621	10598.31	9296.85	313435	8770.11	263.37	263.37
2.	Assam	21241	37.62	59.37	2376	13.22	23.08	23.07
3.	Bihar	411576	1094.71	23987.21	323145	1099.77	11443.72	11443.72
4.	Chhattisgarh	738704	1226.1	504.64	38123	356.92	73.86	73.86
5.	Goa	643	0.2524	0	1	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	1068284	10842.94	28906.21	34963	5606.46	11649.88	11649.89
7.	Haryana	168583	502.83	133.35	16799	108.44	12.46	12.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25529	33.57	2.55	897	2.55	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4486	4.71	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	123313	136.56	1060.55	59313	136.56	461.99	461.99
11.	Karnataka	963418	3989.43	2648.17	150926	2648.17	0	0
12.	Kerala	32549	91.18	38.68	2144	38.68	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2132923	6039	5969.4	259301	4476.49	746.46	746.46
14.	Maharashtra	2210168	4803.36	13005.76	701543	2924.64	5040.56	5040.56
15.	Meghalaya	1504	10.66	0	90	0	0	0
16.	Orissa	1083404	3048.13	1504.79	53108	1504.79	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	1943030	5510.08	14333.79	376384	5374.49	4479.65	4479.65
18.	Sikkim	167	0.17	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Tamil Nadu	145639	620.72	3854.23	47478	533.02	1660.6	1660.6
20.	Tripura	1772	6.61	3.85	484	3.23	0.31	0.31
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1733371	3178.54	12200.77	619890	3228.57	4486.095	4486.095
22.	Uttaranchal	2882	3.28	1.87	738	1.39	0.24	0.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23	West Bengal	808484	1685.15	1861.729	119900	1554.79	153.47	153.47
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	118	0.31	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Pondicherry	3682	14.68	34.75	647	14.67	10.04	10.04
Total		16218091	53478.90	119408.52	3433685	38396.96	40505.79	40505.79

NAIS—Farmers Benefitted and Claims Paid during the Year 2005-06 as on 20-07-06

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered	Premium (in lakh)	Claims Paid	Farmers Benefitted	Claims Sharing		
						AIC	State share	GOI share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2247535	10726.84	29102.32	660886	6892.97	11104.68	11104.67
2.	Assam	22535	58.3	0	219			
3.	Bihar	409946	1295.96	0	125637			
4.	Chhattisgarh	665750	1120.95	0	524			
5.	Goa	565	0.21	0	0			
6.	Gujarat	891075	8532.61	0	7472			
7.	Haryana	121400	246.71	0	7315			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9499	13.58	40.07	2555	7.48	16.3	16.3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4501	5.63	0	0			
10.	Jharkhand	825122	722.59	0	595185			
11.	Karnataka	882203	4525.07	0	0			
12.	Kerala	31931	95.35	129.6	5999	33.07	48.27	48.26
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2176304	7188.05	235.29	19818	235.29	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	2553929	4970.03	2878.39	233485	2878.39	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	1969	11.05	0	0			
16.	Orissa	1130061	3011.82	373.83	19352	373.83	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17. Rajasthan		2336996	6764.79	1179.68	662280	1179.68	0	0
18. Sikkim		79	0.0927	0	0			
19. Tamil Nadu		119750	547.12	58.98	44439	58.98	0	0
20. Tripura		2633	8.69	0	237			
21. Uttar Pradesh		1276586	3327.79	0	0			
22. Uttaranchal		15550	27.12	0.29	885	0.29	0	0
23. West Bengal		837973	1800.67	0	140332			
24. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		208	0.72	0	0			
25. Pondicherry		4831	20.79	2.51	460	2.51	0	0
Total		16568931	55022.53	34000.96	2527080	11662.49	11169.25	11169.23

Food Credit Card Scheme

*110. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pilot Project on Food Credit Cards under Targeted Public Distribution System was formulated and is being implemented in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the achievements of this pilot project so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement this project throughout the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 13.20 crore for the 10th Five Year Plan for the pilot project in three States, viz. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, to implement the Smart Cards as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. An amount of Rs. 1.12 crore has been disbursed during the last 3 financial years, i.e.,

2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. No money was disbursed during 2005-06.

(c) to (f) The progress of the project of the three States was reviewed and it was not found satisfactory. Operational difficulties such as lack of awareness and education of the consumers and the Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers, lack of electricity in remote and hilly areas high costs involved, etc. did not allow the Scheme to take off successfully. In view of this, it was decided that this Scheme in its current form need not be continued. However, keeping in view the basic objective of the Smart Card scheme of using information technology, it has been decided to take a scheme for computerization of PDS operations in all States and UTs. Under Phase I of this scheme, computerization of ration cards, PDS module, FPS profiles and FPS operations is proposed to be taken up for which a token amount of Rs. 5 crore has been provided in the current year's budget.

Renovation of Water Bodies

*111. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government launched a pilot scheme of national project to repair, renovate and modernize traditional water bodies directly linked with agriculture in certain States;

(b) if so, the progress made under the scheme in various States;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented in toto;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expand the said pilot scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The scheme "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been sanctioned in 24 districts of 14 States. The work is in progress and the same has been completed in respect of 67 Water Bodies. The scheme, which was approved in January, 2005 is to be implemented during the remaining period of Xth Plan. However, it is likely to spillover beyond 31st March, 2007. No decision has been taken to expand the scope of scheme.

Water Quality Assessment Authority

*112. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues; and

(b) if so, the achievements made by the authority so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) with effect from 29th May, 2001 through Ministry of Environment and Forests Extra-ordinary Gazette Notification dated 22-6-2001.

(b) The main achievements made by the Authority so far are as follows:—

On the basis of the assigned functions, WQAA made review of water quality related activity in the country for

improvement in this regard. The WQAA constituted an Expert Group on Water Quality Monitoring System for suggestions/recommendations for review of monitoring programme for uniformity in the monitoring systems. Also a Task Force was constituted to recommend measure for optimum Water Quality Observation Network and coordinated data collection and dissemination system. On the basis of the recommendation of the Expert Group and Task Force, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has formulated the Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring and a Gazette Notification on Uniform Monitoring Protocol was published by MoEF in June, 2005 which was circulated to all the states and concerned central agencies for implementation.

State Level Water Quality Review Committees have been constituted in 34 States/UTs to coordinate works assigned to them in respect of Water Quality such as Water Quality Monitoring Network, identification of problem areas. The WQAA also decided that while approving water quality related projects, holistic view about water quality management aspect need to be adopted and considered for funding. Through the Authority, interaction among all the states and the concerned central agencies was organized and role of water quality review committees towards water quality management, identification of problem areas and hot spots, evaluation of existing system of monitoring network and implementation of awareness and graded training were emphasized. On the basic studies about conservation of ecosystem, the WQAA has got a study made on minimum flow of rivers through a Working Group.

The authority reviews of water quality related matters on a continuous basis as per the objective set for it.

Allocation for Macro Management Scheme

*113. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any funds under the Macro Management Scheme of Agriculture to some States for the current financial year to give major fillip to the agricultural sector;

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

(c) whether the impact of the scheme has been assessed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The funds released under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme, State-wise, so far during the current financial year are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The three Institutes, namely, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata, NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) and Agriculture Finance Corporation Limited (AFCL) have been commissioned to make an impact assessment of the MMA Scheme in the specified States/Union Territories assigned to each. The draft Study Reports broadly indicate that the scheme has been quite successful in achieving its objectives, though there is scope to further improve its efficacy in terms of coverage and implementation by State agencies.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme—Macro Management of Agriculture Release of Funds, State-wise during 2006-07

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Release (1st instalment)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.80
3.	Assam	8.00
4.	Bihar	10.85
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.92
6.	Goa	2.38
7.	Gujarat	4.54
8.	Haryana	13.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.00

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	8.30
12.	Karnataka	29.95
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24.90
14.	Maharashtra	43.65
15.	Manipur	8.80
16.	Mizoram	10.00
17.	Meghalaya	7.20
18.	Nagaland	10.00
19.	Orissa	12.75
20.	Rajasthan	43.68
21.	Sikkim	7.60
22.	Tamil Nadu	30.38
23.	Tripura	8.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	37.00
25.	Uttaranchal	14.36
26.	West Bengal	15.95
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.13
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05
29.	Lakshadweep	0.13
Total		413.34

NB: (i) A sum of Rs. 21.05 Crores in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 8.30 Crores in respect of Chhattisgarh, 14.05 Crores for Gujarat and Rs. 15.30 Crores in respect of Kerala released as 1st instalment has been adjusted against the unspent balances of the previous year. These are in addition to the releases indicated above in respect of these States.

(ii) Due to huge amount of unspent balances available with Punjab, Delhi and Pondicherry, no release has been made to them so far during the current year.

(iii) Chandigarh and Daman and Diu have not projected any requirement; hence, no allocation made.

Crops for Bt. Technology

*114. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of crops for which Bt. technology is being used at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to eliminate its usage in those products which are produced in large quantity by indigenous techniques;

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

(d) whether Indian farmers have incurred heavy financial losses and health hazards due to its farming; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Sir, Bt. cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.

(b) and (c) The transgenic approach is complementary to and not a substitution of the indigenous and conventional crop production technologies. Further, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the competent authority to approve or disallow the release of genetically modified crops in accordance with prescribed requirements.

(d) and (e) As per the information provided by different States, the production of Bt. cotton is higher by 15% to 30% as compared to non-Bt. cotton. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that farmers had suffered losses on account of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds supplied by M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) Ltd., in certain districts of the State. No reports have been received from other Bt. cotton growing States about financial losses and health hazards to farmers on account of Bt. cotton crop.

[Translation]

Availability of Steel

*115. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment or proposes to make an assessment of the availability of steel in the country at present;

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

(c) whether keeping in view the shortage of steel, the Government has formulated any scheme to appoint steel distributors in all the districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the quota norms in appointment of dealers;

(e) whether any study has been made to ascertain the factors responsible for production of steel less than the target; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Based on the data related to production, exports and imports monitored by the Government, the overall availability of finished steel in the country in 2005-06 was 38.35 million MT which is higher by 11% compared to 2004-05. Figures of state-wise availability are not maintained.

(c) There is no shortage of steel in the country. All major producers in public and private sector have their distribution networks. Special thrust, however, is being provided in having distribution outlets at State, District and Sub-District levels through Public Sector Undertakings, namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).

(d) SAIL has already appointed 200 dealers in 97 districts of the country and RINL has appointed district level dealers in 40 districts of the country. State-wise details are in the enclosed statement.

Subject to the applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria,

applications belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are accorded due preference.

(e) and (f) The production of finished steel during the last two years has grown at a compounded annual growth rate of about 7.5% which is higher than the target envisaged in the National Steel Policy.

Statement

State-wise details of dealers appointed by SAIL and RINL in the country

(As on 1-06-2006)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Dealers	
		SAIL	RINL
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	15
2.	Andaman-Nicobar	1	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—
4.	Assam	5	—
5.	Bihar	22	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	1
7.	Gujarat	6	1
8.	Goa	—	1
9.	Haryana	12	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	—
12.	Jharkhand	16	1
13.	Karnataka	2	1
14.	Kerala	—	2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8	1
16.	Maharashtra	3	1

1	2	3	4
17.	Manipur	2	—
18.	Meghalaya	1	—
19.	Nagaland	2	—
20.	Mizoram	2	—
21.	Orissa	19	3
22.	Punjab	14	1
23.	Rajasthan	7	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	3	3
25.	Tripura	6	—
26.	Uttaranchal	4	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	23	2
28.	West Bengal	32	3
Total		200	40

Improvement in Coverage of AIR and Doordarshan

*116. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the amount spent against the funds earmarked during the Tenth Plan to improve the coverage of AIR and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special package has been provided or likely to be provided to the States for the expansion of FM coverage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 411.00 Crores was approved for the

expansion of AIR services during 10th Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred upto June, 2006 is Rs. 59.26 Crores. The details are given in the enclosed statement-I. Doordarshan's 10th Five Year Plan for expansion and improvement was approved at an outlay of Rs. 2563 Crores (Capital) and expenditure incurred up to June, 2006 under

capital is Rs. 908.88 Crores. Details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) A special package has been provided only for Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern States (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands). The details are given in the enclosed statement-III and IV respectively.

Statement-I

Details of the amount spent against the earmarked during the 10th Plan

(i) Continuing schemes of the 10th Plan:

(Rs. in crores)

Type of the transmitter	Allocation under 10th Plan	Amount spent 03, 2006	SBG upto (2006-07)	Amount expenditure upto 31 June, 2006
MW	32.00	21.02	1.27	0.06
FM	17.00	8.08	1.56	0.03

(ii) New Schemes of the 10th Plan:

(Rs. in crores)

Type of the transmitter	Allocation under 10th Plan	Amount spent upto 03, 2006	SBG (2006-07)	Amount expenditure upto 31 June, 2006
MW	16.00	1.89	0.34	0.02
FM	346.00	27.46	23.00	0.70

Statement-II

Expenditure under Capital during 10th Plan

		1	2
Year	Expenditure (Rs. Crores)		
1	2		
2002-03	369.43	2003-04	218.46
		2004-05	117.08
		2005-06	167.79
		2006-07 (till June, 06)	36.12
			908.88

Statement-III*Jammu and Kashmir Special Plan*

Sl.No.	Place	Projects
1.	Kathua	10 kW FM Transmitter (Replacement of 6 kW FM Transmitter)
2.	Srinagar	300 kW MW Transmitter (Replacement of 200 kW MW Transmitter)
3.	Naushera	20 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
4.	Rajouri	10 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
5.	Kupwara	20 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
6.	Khalsi	1kW MW Transmitter (relay)
7.	Tiesuru	1 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
8.	Nyomarp	1 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
9.	Diskit	1 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
10.	Padum	1 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
11.	Drass	1 kW MW Transmitter (relay)
12.	Kargil	200 kW MW Transmitter (relay)

Out of which there are two schemes for FM stations under above Plan:

1. Upgradation of Kathua from 6 kW to 10 kW
2. New 10 kW FM Station at Rajouri

Statement-IV**1. North East Special Plan (Phase-I)**

- (i) 10 kW FM Transmitter at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)
- (ii) 10 kW FM Transmitter at Kohima (Nagaland)
- (iii) 10 kW FM Transmitter at Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

2. North East Special Plant (Phase-II)

- (i) 10 kW FM Transmitter, playbac studio, staff quarters at Gangtok—(additional channel)
- (ii) 5 kW FM Transmitter, playback studio, at Silchar—(additional channel)
- (iii) The following 1 kW FM Transmitter, voice over recording/dubbing, field production facilities, staff quarters at 19 places:—

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Daporijo
2. Anini
3. Bomdila
4. Changlang
5. Khonsa

Assam

6. Karimganj
7. Lumding
8. Goalpara

Manipur

9. Ukhrul
10. Tamenglong

Meghalaya

11. Dawki

Mizoram

12. Tuipang
13. Chemphai

14. Kolasib

Nagaland

15. Wokha
16. Zunehboto

17. Phek

Tripura

18. Udaipur

19. Nutan Bazar

- (iv) 100 W FM Transmitter at different locations in NE region (100 places) to cover uncovered area.

[English]

Eco-Sensitive Zones

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

(a) the total number of eco-sensitive zones declared by the Union Government in various parts of the country;

(b) the steps proposed by the Union Government for creating ecological balance in eco-sensitive zones;

(c) whether the financial assistance would be given to eco-sensitive zones to maintain the ecological balance and preservation of natural forests and habitats in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the monitoring committees have been set up in all the eco-sensitive zones; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified three areas namely; Dahanu Taluka, Mahabaleswar Panchgani and Matheran in Maharashtra State as eco-sensitive zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) The developmental activities in the eco-sensitive zones are to be regulated for creating ecological balance in these zones.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A high level Monitoring Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri J.G. Kanga on 29th October, 2001 for Mahabaleswar Panchgani Region. The tenure of this Committee was upto 28-1-2005. For Matheran, a Monitoring Committee was constituted on 1st January, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Shri U.K. Mukhopadhyay. The tenure of this Committee was two years. A Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority was setup under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice (retired) C.S. Dharmadhikari on 19-12-1996 to deal with the issues relating to Dahanu Taluka.

Utilisation of EPF

*118. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from different trade unions regarding irregularities in the utilisation of funds collected under the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain cases of misuse of funds under the Employees Provident Fund against the interests of the employees have been noticed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) Investment of monies belonging to Employees Provident Fund is made in accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 and as per the pattern of investment prescribed by the Central Government from time to time. The Government has not received representations from different trade unions regarding misutilisation and misuse of funds collected by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation under the Employees Provident Fund managed by the Central Board of Trustees (EPF).

Private FM Radio Stations

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

(a) the number of stations presently available after completion of the first phase of FM Radio broadcasting through private agencies, State-wise;

(b) the present status of the second phase;

(c) the number of additional frequencies likely to be added, State-wise;

(d) whether all parts of the country are proposed to be included in any one of the FM Channels;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) 21 private FM radio channels—Maharashtra—5, Delhi—3, West Bengal—4, Tamil Nadu—4, Karnataka—1, Gujarat—1, Uttar Pradesh—1, Madhya Pradesh—1 and Andhra Pradesh—1, set up under phase I regime, are presently operational.

(b) The Government invited bids for 337 channels in

91 cities across the country. Out of which 245 channels got finally allocated for which Letters of Intent (LOI) were issued. Two LOIs were later cancelled for non-fulfillment of terms and conditions. Grant of Permission Agreements (GOPA) have been signed in respect of 10 channels, of which 6 have since become operational in interim set up. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No increase in number of channels in proposed other than those taken up in FM Phase-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase II) provides only for specific channels city-wise. No national FM private channel has been permitted. The policy specifically prohibits allocation of more than 15% of total allocated channels in the country to a single company—including its holding, subsidiary, inter-connected companies and companies with the same management. Moreover, networking of channels by any two entities has been specifically prohibited.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Cities	No. of channels put on bid	No. of channels for which LOI issued	No. of LOI cancelled	No. GOPA signed	No. of Stations operational
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	22	15		2	2
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	4	0			
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	4	1			
4.	Assam	1	4	4			
5.	Bihar	2	8	2			
6.	Chandigarh	1	2	2			
7.	Chhattisgarh	2	8	6			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Daman and Diu	1	2	1			
9.	Delhi	1	6	5		1	
10.	Goa	1	3	3			
11.	Gujarat	4	16	15			
12.	Haryana	2	6	6			
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1	4	3			
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	7	2			
15.	Jharkhand	2	8	7			
16.	Karnataka	4	19	14		2	1
17.	Kerala	5	17	17			
18.	Madhya Pradesh	5	19	15			
19.	Maharashtra	13	42	31			
20.	Manipur	1	4	0			
21.	Meghalaya	1	4	2			
22.	Mizoram	1	4	1			
23.	Nagaland	1	4	0			
24.	Orissa	2	8	5			
25.	Pondicherry	1	3	3			
26.	Punjab	3	12	12			
27.	Rajasthan	6	25	19		4	2
28.	Sikkim	1	4	3	1		
29.	Tamil Nadu	6	23	10		1	1
30.	Tripura	1	4	1			
31.	Uttar Pradesh	9	30	20			
32.	West Bengal	3	11	11	1		
Total		91	337	245	2	10	6

**Implementation of Consumer
Protection Act, 1986**

*120. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has not been implemented effectively by the implementing agencies;

(b) if so, whether the consumer courts and additional benches recommended by the Government have not been established several years after the issue of the notification;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether a large part of the Consumer Welfare Fund remained unutilised in the absence of any specific scheme;

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

(f) the steps taken to ensure better utilization of funds in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are being implemented by the three-tier Consumer Disputes Redressal for a functioning at District, State and National level. The effectiveness of their performance is evident from the fact that of the nearly 26 lakh cases filed till June, 2006 before these fora, about 87% of the cases already stand disposed of.

It is the responsibility of the Central Government to establish the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) at the national level. The Commission has been functioning with 3 benches at present. Additional members are appointed depending on the work load of the Commission.

The State Governments have the responsibility of setting up consumer fora at District and State levels. At present, there is a District Forum in every district and a

State Commission in every State as per the provisions of the Act. On the recommendations of the NCDRC, the Central Government has requested certain States to establish additional District Forum in the Districts with heavy load of cases and additional benches of the State Commission in order to speed up the disposal of consumer grievances pending before the State Commission. The State Governments concerned have to take decisions in this regard depending on the availability of budgetary resources.

(d) to (f) The Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) has been constituted by Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue under the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. It is operated by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs with the overall objective of providing financial assistance to promote and protect welfare of the consumers and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in the rural areas. It is a non-lapsable fund which is utilized for financing any worthwhile programme for consumer welfare in conformity with the guidelines and Rules notified under the said Act. A number of projects have already been financed from out of the Fund which include financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for setting up State Consumer Welfare Fund for which seed money at the ratio of 50:50 (Centre:State) is given to the State Government/UT Administrations as one time grant. For North Eastern and other special category states, the ratio is 90:10 (Centre:State). The scheme for setting up of Consumer Clubs in schools and colleges has been decentralized for which allocations are made to the State Governments in proportion to the number of districts in the State/UTs. Department of Consumer Affairs has initiated a number of steps to promote a responsible and responsive consumer movement in the country, which are in line with the best practices in developed countries. These include, setting up of the Consumer Online Resource and Empowerment (CORE) Project, the National Consumer Helpline Project, IIPA Consultancy Project and a project for Comparative Testing of products.

Research Institute

737. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research institutes in Dehradun and Jabalpur have identified tree species producing biopesticides and developed biological controls against Babul defoliator; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and benefits likely to be accrue 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur of Indian Council of Forest Research and Education, Dehradun has screened 32 plant species for obtaining bio-pesticides.

Out of these species, leaf extracts of *Aloe vera*, leaf and seed extract of *Annona Squamosa*, and seed extract of *Pongamia pinnata* are found to be potentially very effective. Spray of these bio-pesticides controls the foliage consumption by insect larvae up to 90 per cent within 24 hours. *Aloe vera* contains a mixture of glucosides called aloin, which has antifeedant properties. Its 0.5% methanolic extract has proved highly effective antifeedant, better than already established neem seed extract. *Annona squamosa* leaf and seed have an alkaloid anonaine. Its 0.5% petroleum ether extract has proved equal to *Aloe vera* in its antifeedant property, and better than neem seed extract in its efficiency.

Pongamia Pinnata contains karanjin which has insecticidal action. 0.4 to 0.5% petroleum ether extract of its seeds has been found to be highly effective in killing defoliating larvae.

The above bio-pesticides are better than commercially available neem based product in their performance. 0.5 per cent neem seed extract controls upto 60 per cent leaf area consumption only. Being more effective than neem against insect pests, these can be used in preference to health hazardous chemical pesticides and neem based commercially available bio-pesticides.

The Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur of Indian

Council of Forest Research and Education, Dehradun has found a parasite (*Carcellia butenzogiensis*) which controls babul defoliator.

[Translation]

Release of Maize to Poultry Farmers of Maharashtra

738. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced to make available maize at concessional rates from the Government stock to the poultry farmers of Maharashtra as a relief measure to overcome the heavy losses suffered due to bird flu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) it has been decided to release 25000 MT of maize from the Government stock to Maharashtra at a provisional price of Rs. 550.00 per quintal for distribution to poultry farmers.

[English]

Surplus Generating Agriculture

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

(a) whether any initiatives have been undertaken to achieve the objective of a dynamic surplus generating agriculture, ensure equitable distribution and provide safety nets for the vulnerable sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several initiatives in this

regard. These include enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system; reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers. The focus of agriculture credit policy is on progressive institutionalization for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small and marginal farmers and weaker sections of society to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices.

A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to farmers. The target of agriculture credit flow for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 105000 crore and the achievement was Rs. 125309.37 crore, and for the year 2005-06 the target fixed was Rs. 141000 crore and the achievement was Rs. 157479.57 crore. To reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government has in the Union Budget (2006-07) decided to ensure that the farmer receives short term credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount. Measures are underway for revamping the Cooperative Credit Structure. A Bill in this regard has been introduced in the Parliament. To provide a safety net to the farmers, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)—(Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana) is under implementation from Rabi 1999-2000 season, and further improvements are being made through a Modified NAIS. The Government has decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers in 31 identified districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala. The package in respect of 6 districts in the Vibarbha region of Maharashtra has already been announced.

To consider various aspects of the problems relating to storage of agricultural produce and to improve the

country's storage capacity and also storage technology, the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" has been launched during 2001. The Bharat Nirman Programme which is under implementation is also focused on infrastructure development in rural areas. The National Horticulture Mission which is under implementation from 2005-06, aims at ensuring a holistic development of the horticulture sector having backward and forward linkages with an end-to-end approach covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, with active participation of all stakeholders. The new scheme 'Micro Irrigation' was launched during 2005-06 to increase water use efficiency, reduce the cost of production and to stabilize production. Actions are underway for setting up of a National Rainfed Area Authority. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' is under implementation aimed at revamping agricultural extension in the States based on the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model.

[Translation]

Dairy Farming In Punjab

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

(a) whether the dairy farmers are not getting the remunerative price for their milk in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also agreed to the report of Institute for Development and Communications, Chandigarh which states that dairy farming is unprofitable to Punjab; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to help the dairy farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd. is paying remunerative price

to its Milk Producer members through District Milk Unions and Village Level Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies for their milk round the year. The average milk procurement price paid to the Producer members for the last five years is as under:—

Year	Milk Procurement price per kg. Fat
2002-03	Rs. 150/- to 175/-
2003-04	Rs. 160/- to 180/-
2004-05	Rs. 160/- to 200/-
2005-06	Rs. 165/- to 185/-
2006-07 (upto June, 2006)	Rs. 175/- to 200/-

(c) Government of Punjab has not agreed to the report of Institute for Development and Communications, Chandigarh which states that dairy farming is unprofitable in Punjab.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c).

[English]

North-East Water Resources Authority

741. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of setting up of North East Water Resources Authority;

(b) whether all the States of North East Region have come to a consensus on it;

(c) if not, the name of those States alongwith their contentions; and

(d) the time likely to be taken in expediting the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The proposal for setting up of North East Water Resources Authority is to establish a cohesive autonomous self contained entity to provide effective flood control, generate electricity, provide irrigation

facilities and develop infrastructure. All North Eastern States except Arunachal Pradesh are in agreement with the proposal. Arunachal Pradesh is of the view that there is not much scope for development of major irrigation potential as the State does not have a suitable river basin to justify the development of medium and large scale irrigation schemes; also the State being hilly does not have much flooding problem and formation of another Authority would virtually add to one more tier and hence the State does not favour its formation. The time likely to be taken for materializing the proposal primarily depends on consensus of all the States.

Non Availability of Medicine

742. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ferrous fumarate an important drug required to treat Anemia, is not available in the market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available said drug?

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) Ferrous Fumarate tablets are indicated for nutritional iron deficiency Anemia. The preparations of Ferrous Fumarate as source of iron are used as single ingredient as well as in combination with Vitamin B12, Folic Acid and other Vitamins. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the availability and shortages of medicines normally based on the field reports received from State Drugs Controllers. No specific report of shortage of Ferrous Fumarate tablets as single ingredient or its combinations with other drugs has been received during the recent past.

Iron Ore Mines under SAIL

743. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Iron ore mines under the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in various States;

(b) the number of mines located at Kiribur and Meghatbur and how long those mines will last;

(c) whether other Iron ore mines are being developed by SAIL to meet the requirement of public sector steel plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is operating nine iron ore mines in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa.

(b) At Kiriburu only one mine is located. The reserves in operating North block of Kiriburu mines is about 40 MT which would last for about 8-9 years. The adjacent South block is considered as replacement to North block.

At Meghahatuburu only one mine is located. The reserves in operating Meghataburu mine is about 22 MT which would last for about 4-5 years. The adjacent Central block is considered as replacement to Meghataburu mine.

(c) and (d) SAIL had developed iron ore mines to meet the requirement of its steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela, Bokaro and Burnpur, To meet the increasing requirement in future, SAIL proposes to develop new mines and expand some of the mines.

The details of the mines to be developed by SAIL, for which mining leases are with SAIL are as under:

1. South Block of Kiriburu
2. Central Block of Meghahatuburu
3. Taldih
4. Manoharpur (Chiria)

SAIL has initiated the process for obtaining mining leases of mines at Thakurani and Rowghat for developing these mines.

[Translation]

National Park Mission

744. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Park Mission is undertaking certain developmental works in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated therefore during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such Centrally Sponsored Scheme under operation.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

TV Channel for Farmers

745. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch an exclusive television channel to facilitate the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that they are not considering any proposal to launch such a channel. However, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has informed that they have initiated a study to assess the feasibility of a 24-Hour TV Channel on Agriculture. Therefore, no time frame can be given.

[Translation]

Provisional Changes in Construction Projects

746. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to make some changes in the provisions made for construction projects affecting the environment, particularly in metro-cities; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the 7th July, 2004 Notification issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, new construction projects above a project cost of Rs. 50 crores or occupancy of 1000 persons or discharging sewage of 50,000 litres/day required prior environmental clearance from the Ministry as per the procedures specified therein. Subsequently, Ministry has issued a Draft Notification vide S.O. 1324(E) dated 15 September, 2005 whereby Ministry has proposed that construction projects in metro-cities above a built-up area of 20,000 sq.m would require prior environmental clearance.

Poultry Farming

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

(a) whether the poultry farming has not been accorded the status of agriculture in the country so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to accord the status of agriculture to poultry farming and to provide modern technical knowledge or poultry farming to the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Poultry farming is a State subject. While some of the States treat poultry as agriculture, others do not.

(c) The State Governments have been requested to treat poultry as agriculture.

The Government is promoting poultry farming on

modern lines through activities of the Central Poultry Development Organisations functioning in different regions of the country and through its schemes 'Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms' and 'Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund'.

[English]

Namrup Fertilizer Plant

748. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set-up another Unit of the Namrup Fertilizer Plant (Namrup-IV);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the additional capacity to be installed, its estimated cost, schedule for implementation; and

(c) the steps so far 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) Government has initiated action to explore the option of setting up another unit in Namrup Fertilizer Complex based on modern technology depending upon availability of natural gas. The details of the project have not yet been worked out.

[Translation]

National Policy for Employees of Private/Public Sector

749. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to chalk-out a 'National Policy' regarding the Health and Security of the Employees working in the private and public sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rate of accidents in the construction and agriculture sector is quite high;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to include the people of these sectors under the said policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The Government has prepared a draft National Policy on safety, health and environment at workplace. This National Policy, inter alia, seeks to achieve reduction in the incidence of work related injuries, fatalities, diseases, etc.

(c) The data regarding accidents in the unorganised construction sector in the country is not maintained at the Central level. However, in the Central sphere 14 accidents took place during the last 3 years in this sector covered under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996. As far as agriculture sector is concerned, no accidents due to power threshers have been reported in the recent past.

(d) and (e) The National Policy, when announced, will cover all sectors of economic activities.

[English]

Production of Litchi

750. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the hectares of land and the areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) the total production of litchi in various areas/States of the country during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has worked out some specific scheme to encourage production and export of litchi in view of the challenges posed by the World Trade Organization; 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 area under Litchi cultivation is about 60,000 ha. in the country. The Litchi are produced in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tripura, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A Statement showing the details of production of Litchi in the Country, State-wise during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been launched in the Country during Tenth Five Year Plan w.e.f. 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring an end to end approach having forward and background linkages covering research, production, post harvest management and marketing with the active participation of all the stake holders. The thrust of the Mission is on area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticulture crops having comparative advantage.

Statement

State-wise production of Litchi during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl. No.	States	Production (in '000 MT)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	336.9	339.0	204.9
2.	West Bengal	63.9	64.7	69.9
3.	Assam	18.8	19.8	22.5

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Uttaranchal	13.5	5.8	8.9
5.	Punjab	11.8	12.2	12.6
6.	Orissa	10.8	11.9	11.9
7.	Tripura	9.0	12.5	12.4
8.	Jharkhand	7.5	7.5	16.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.7	2.4	3.6
10.	Haryana	1.2	1.7	1.0
11.	Mizoram	0.7	0.3	0.3
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.3	0.3	0.3
13.	Nagaland	0.2	—	—
14.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	3.4
15.	Others	0.1	0.4	0.3
Total		476.4	478.5	368.6

Source: National Horticulture Board.

Funds to NGOs for Afforestation

751. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organizations that have been provided with financial-aid during the last five years for plantation under the Afforestation Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether these organizations have submitted the utilization certificates after implementation of the scheme and an inspection of their work has been carried out by the Government; and

(c) if so, the number of organizations whose work was found to be satisfactory alongwith the number of organizations which have misused the funds and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) the details of financial assistance provided by the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for plantation under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme for Voluntary Agencies during each of the last five years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The subsequent instalments to the project implementing Non-Governmental Organizations are released only on receipt of the Utilization Certificate and the field inspection report of the State Forest Department.

(c) The work of five Non-Governmental Organizations has been found to be unsatisfactory. Out of this, four Organizations have been black listed for non-implementation of work as per the scheme guidelines and in respect of one, a show cause notice has been issued.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
		Total number of NGOs Assisted	Released Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Total number of NGOs Assisted	Released Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Total number of NGOs Assisted	Released Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Total number of NGOs Assisted	Released Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Total number of NGOs Assisted	Released Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	94.36	22	61.16	23	63.86	15	52.36	11	37.30
2.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	7.97	1	3.98	0	0
3.	Gujarat	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	12.65	13	41.86	9	33.07
4.	Haryana	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	22.82	3	5.24	1	3.14
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	15.47	0	0.00	2	7.16	0	0.00	6	17.60
7.	Karnataka	10	34.28	14	41.53	3	8.64	0	0.00	3	9.66
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	4.00	2	4.06	8	32.05	6	23.31	9	29.00
9.	Maharashtra	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	16.05	9	24.12	1	2.54
10.	Orissa	4	13.90	8	22.18	17	62.84	24	87.12	34	119.01
11.	Punjab	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	14.35	0	0.00	1	2.54
12.	Rajasthan	2	7.00	1	1.77	4	15.95	11	36.77	13	61.87
13.	Tamil Nadu	4	12.00	4	3.68	8	18.42	15	41.37	1	0.32

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14. Uttar Pradesh	6	12.70	7	13.97	19	60.18	18	61.50	30	99.97		
15. Uttaranchal	3	11.25	10	39.32	8	28.90	20	69.68	16	54.20		
16. Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	00.00	0	0		
17. Jharkhand	0	0.00	2	1.50	4	11.15	4	12.64	0	0		
18. Bihar	6	21.90	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0		
19. Kerala	5	20.30	3	9.79	1	3.99	5	13.53	0	0		
20. West Bengal	3	5.84	1	1.00	5	13.02	7	23.43	5	19.68		
21. Arunachal Pradesh	16	40.17	21	63.57	29	101.16	11	40.53	19	67.29		
22. Assam	0	0.00	1	2.88	5	19.93	8	27.40	6	23.67		
23. Manipur	12	35.85	14	43.67	39	135.87	34	110.80	15	58.17		
24. Nagaland	48	126.26	28	82.48	47	159.37	34	116.88	20	79.90		
25. Sikkim	1	3.00	0	0.00	1	3.99	0	0.00	2	5.14		
26. Tripura	1	3.00	1	3.98	0	0.00	1	1.15	2	2.34		
27. Mizoram	1	1.72	2	4.76	7	25.50	16	62.08	0	0		
28. Meghalaya	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	41.13	7	33.78		
Grand Total	159	463.00	141	401.30	251	845.82	266	896.88	211	760.19		

Global Boom in Cotton Production

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

(a) whether as a result of global boom in cotton production, the prices of cotton in the domestic market have slashed and the stocks of cotton in the country are piling up, resulting in a very critical situation for the Indian cotton growers;

(b) whether the present situation has brought down the prices even below the minimum support price level; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the overall interests of domestic cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As can be seen below, average wholesale market prices (WP) of important varieties of cotton at select States/Centres are higher than their Minimum Support Prices (MSP) during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 except for S-6 variety at Broach market in Gujarat.

MSP and WP of Cotton (Rs./Quintal)

State/Centre/Variety	2004-05		2005-06	
	MSP	WP	MSP	WP
Andhra Pradesh/Warangal/MECH	1885	1858	1885	1947
Tamil Nadu/Tirupur LRA	1835	1877	1835	2031
Punjab/Bhatinda/American	1815	1830	1835	1989
Gujarat/Broach/S-6	1960	1839	1985	1875

Domestic cotton prices have shown increasing trend despite of 19% increase in production of cotton in 2005-06, while the world cotton production has recorded a 6% decline during 2005-06.

To safeguard the interests of cotton growers and to avert distress sale in the market, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been purchasing the cotton of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) grade and also below FAQ. Further, to intensify the procurement operations of cotton, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has been nominated as the second agency from 2004-05.

Women Workers

753. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of women workers in organized and unorganized sectors, respectively, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to improve the conditions of the women workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The table giving the details of the number of women workers in organized and unorganized sectors, state-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Several laws have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories

Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc. which provide interalia, creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

Statement

Distribution of Women Workers in Organized and Unorganized Sectors, State-wise, During 1999-2000 (in million)

Name of the State	Organized Sector	Unorganized Sector
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	0.64	14.41
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.11
Assam	0.26	1.33
Bihar	0.12	7.28
Goa	0.02	0.08
Gujarat	0.24	7.23
Haryana	0.06	1.59
Himachal Pradesh	0.03	1.26
Jammu and Kashmir	0.03	0.96
Karnataka	0.27	8.05
Kerala	0.76	2.77
Madhya Pradesh	0.25	12.32

	2	3
Maharashtra	0.63	14.02
Manipur	0.02	0.19
Meghalaya	0.02	0.31
Mizoram	0.01	0.10
Nagaland	0.02	0.10
Orissa	0.11	4.89
Punjab	0.15	2.36
Rajasthan	0.14	7.53
Sikkim	0.01	0.04
Tamil Nadu	0.68	10.16
Tripura	0.02	0.08
Uttar Pradesh	0.30	14.41
West Bengal	0.34	5.48
Delhi	0.21	0.36
Pondicherry	0.01	0.09
Chandigarh	0.03	0.03
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.03
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.01
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.01	0.02
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00

*Source: Computed from unit level data of NSS 55th Round, 1999-2000, Employment-Unemployment Survey.

Production of Mustard Oil

754. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of mustard oil exceeded its consumption during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of mustard oil exported during the said period?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The estimated production, import and consumption of mustard oil registered in the country during the last two years are as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Oil Year	Domestic Production of Mustard Oil	Import of Mustard Oil	Consumption* of Mustard Oil
2003-2004	19.50	0.00024	19.50
2004-2005	23.54	0.00019	23.54

*Consumption of mustard oil has been estimated on the basis of domestic production plus imports

(c) the quantity of mustard oil exported during the last two years is as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Export of mustard Oil
2003-2004	0.01027
2004-2005	0.01286

[Translation]

Exploitation of Labourers

755. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract labourers working in the factories in the country especially in Delhi are being severely exploited by the factory owners and the contractors;

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

(c) whether the Government has framed any laws for the protection of the labourers against such exploitation, which are being violated by the contractors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Complaints are received from time to time alleging exploitation of contract labour working in factories by the employers and contractors. In respect of such establishments, however, respective State Governments are the appropriate Government under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Factories Act, Industrial Disputes Act etc.

(b) and (c) The Central Government have enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 with the objective to prevent exploitation of contract labour. Any violation of the Act and the rules framed thereunder are dealt with strictly in accordance with this law.

(d) In order to check exploitation of contract labour, regular inspections are conducted and wherever any violations are detected, the defaulting employers/contractors are prosecuted. The details of inspections conducted and prosecutions launched under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 in the Central Sphere during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The details of Inspections conducted and Prosecutions launched under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 in the Central Sphere during the last three years:

Sl.No.	Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	No. of inspections conducted	5970	4991	4550
2.	No. of prosecutions launched	3453	3896	3356
3.	No. of convictions obtained	2188	2072	2018

[English]

Committee on Sale of Spurious Goods

756. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee was set-up in 2004 to look into the issues of sale of spurious goods in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has since submitted its reports; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. A Working Group was set up by the Department of Consumer Affairs in January, 2004 on Counterfeit, Fake, Spurious and Contraband Products.

(b) The Working Group submitted its report in May, 2006.

(c) The recommendations made by the Working Group pertain to legislative measures, campaign by all concerned Organisations/Ministries/Departments for enhancing consumer awareness affecting consumer health and safety, class action suits by NGOs/VCOs for disgorgement of unjust enrichment and a unified global campaign to nullify evil designs of international organised

crime groups. The recommendations made by the Working Group have since been sent to the concerned agencies for consideration.

Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal

757. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) recently dismissed the demand of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to direct Karnataka not to store water at Almatti reservoir beyond the crest level of 509 metres; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to the decision of the Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The State of Andhra Pradesh has filed an Interlocutory Application in 2005 before Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) praying inter alia for issuing direction to the State of Karnataka not to store water beyond crest level of 509 metres in Almatti dam. Similarly, the State of Maharashtra has filed an Interlocutory Application before the Tribunal for issuing direction to the State of Karnataka to keep all spillway crest gates at Almatti dam storage fully opened from 1st of July to 15th of August each year to allow free and unobstructed passage of floods to Krishna river. The Tribunal by Orders dated 9th June, 2006 has disposed of the aforesaid Applications of the State of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra by declining to allow prayers.

(b) The state of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have not sent any reactions on the Orders passed by the Tribunal to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Development of Medicine for Bird Flu

758. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have developed a medicine for bird flue; 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. The scientists at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory of Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Bhopal have developed a vaccine against Bird Flu.

(b) An inactivated tissue culture vaccine against Bird Flu has been developed indigenously using H5N1 field strain. A dose of 100,000 TCID₅₀ (Tissue culture initial dose) of the cell culture virus with aluminium phosphate (adjuvant) given intramuscularly has been found to be protective.

Science News

759. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to Broadcast science news in Hindi, English or regional languages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of Medicine for AIDS Patients

760. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether Indian drugs companies are working to introduce a single pill to be used by AIDS patients in a day to check the HIV;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the said pill; and

(c) the time by which said medicine is likely to make available in the market?

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 Office of Drugs Controller General (India) has informed that a proposal to manufacture a three drug combination for the treatment of HIV has been received, which is based on reported approval of the combination by USFDA.

(b) and (c) The details of cost and the likely time by which the said medicine would be available in the Indian market is not maintained by the Office of Drugs Controller General (India).

Land for Sabarimala

761. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on 3rd July, 2006 involving officials of the Government and Representatives of Travancore Devaswom Board have been taken some decisions on an action plan regarding Sabarimala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allotted/sanctioned/decided to give more land for Sabarimala;

(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) A meeting was held in the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 03-07-2006 to review the status of Sabarimala Master Plan implementation. Officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State Government (Kerala) and the Travancore Devaswom Board participated in the meeting.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has diverted 110.524 ha. of forest land at Nilakkal and 12.675 ha. of forest land in Periyar Tiger Reserve for implementing the Master Plan. At present no proposal is pending in the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act for diversion of forest land.

(e) Question does not arise.

Setting up of an Institute

762. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BADIGA:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to set up an institute like National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in some States of the country;

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

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

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) Presently there is an institute named National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) located at Mohali, Punjab. NIPER has

been set up by an act of Parliament on 26-6-1998. It is the first National Level institute of its kind in India in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. It provides Doctoral and PG degree courses in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Realising the need for setting up of more NIPER like institutes in India a committee consisting of experts from NIPER was constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2006 and it has recommended for the setting up of NIPER like institutes at few other locations in India.

(b) The Committee has recommended that the concerned State Governments should provide 70 to 100 acres of land free of cost for this purpose. Presently Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is in the process of discussions with the concerned State Governments in respect of facilities and support to be provided by them. The setting up of NIPER would depend on keenness shown by the respective State Government also. At present discussions are going on with the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Bihar to set up such institutes at Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Hazipur respectively.

(c) After getting feed back from the concerned State Governments matter would be taken up further in regard to approaching Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and also amendment of existing Act on NIPER, etc. No final decision has been taken in this respect as yet.

Increase in Prices of Drugs

763. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pharmaceutical companies are reported to increase prices of drugs from 20 to 50 per cent unreasonably during the last one year;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof alongwith the names of such drugs;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the prices of all these drugs; and

(d) the outcome of the investigation carried out by the Government to ascertain the reasons for the increase in prices of drugs by the pharmaceutical companies?

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) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. 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 and 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.

The common reasons for rise in the prices of medicines are:—

- (a) Rise in the price of bulk drugs
- (b) Rise in the cost of production/import
- (c) Rise in the cost of transport, freight rates
- (d) Rise in the cost of utilities like fuel, power, diesel etc.

(e) For imported medicines, rise in the c.i.f. price and depreciation of the Rupee

(f) Changes in taxes and duties

US Government Concern at Downlinking Guidelines

764. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government had conveyed its concerns at the downlinking guidelines several times to the Indian Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Since the notification of Downlinking guidelines, issued on 11-11-2005, a number of foreign channels, companies as well as US Government have expressed keenness for discussion on the guidelines. As a consequence, the Ministry had framed certain clarifications on the doubts raised by them which were placed on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in in the first week of May, 2006. Attention was specifically drawn to the basic eligibility criteria under clause 1 of the guidelines which require, inter-alia, that the entity may apply for permission for downlinking a channel irrespective of its equity structure, foreign ownership or management control and that these guidelines do not jeopardize foreign investment in Indian Broadcast Media.

Recently, the Ministry has further clarified this through a detailed note on the issue of broadcast regulation including downlinking guidelines, content regulation etc. that these are not restrictions on US investment in Indian broadcast which is governed by the policy already laid down on FDI/FIL.

Newspaper Industry

765. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the major issues concerning the newspaper industry pending with the Government for redressal;

(b) the efforts made in resolving the issues so far; and

(c) the result achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Since the Government has resolved the major issues of newspaper industry regularly, there is no such issue pending redressal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pesticides Manufacturing Companies

766. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies are manufacturing such pesticides which are detrimental to agriculture as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated March 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified such pesticide companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) 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. The suage, manner of use and dosage alongwith precautions to be observed during use are duly prescribed on the label/leaflet of every pesticide package in Hindi, English and a regional language. Using a pesticide in the prescribed manner is not likely to cause any adverse effect either on the crop or the user.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Ban on Export of Pulses

767. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and extent of losses suffered by them on account of ban imposed on export of pulses;

(b) whether the Government has finalised any action plan to compensate the losses suffered by the farmers due to the said band; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Environmental Effects of Asbestos

768. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any epidemiological study on Asbestos related diseases has been conducted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of Asbestos manufacturing units in the country, State-wise?

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

[Translation]

Pollution due to Liquor Factory

769. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding Distilleries at different locations in the country, particularly from Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Some complaints have been received regarding non-compliance of environmental standards by certain distilleries including six distilleries from Uttar Pradesh namely; M/s. Jubilant Organosys Ltd., Gajraula, Simbhaoli Sugar mills, Simbhaoli, M/s. Philkhani Distillery Ltd., Philkhani, M/s. Daurala Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., (distillery unit), Daurala, M/s. Dhampur sugar mills, Dhampur and M/s. Riga Sugars, Bihar.

(b) The steps taken for improvement in environmental compliance in various distilleries include:—

- Reduction in the production capacity equivalent to treatment facility provided;
- Installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant to reduce filter material requirement for making bio-compost;
- Laying of High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) lining in compost yard;
- Installation of multi effect evaporator to reduce spent wash for its use in bio-compost;
- Monitoring for compliance and issuing necessary directions for non-complying units.

CAG Report on NLC and SAIL

770. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) in its latest report has indicated many irregularities in the working of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for non-completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C and AG) regularly conducts proprietary/performance/transaction audit of the various plants and units of the company. C and AG give their observations and comments arising out of the review to which the Management furnishes its comments/replies and wherever required remedial action is taken. The C and AG has raised certain Issues relating to the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in its Annual Reports 8, 10 and 12 of 2006. These issues do not particularly pertain to capital projects and relate to operations of the Company. Hence, the question of non-completion of any project in the context of these audit reports in respect of SAIL does not arise.

Information in respect of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Pension Fund Scheme under SAIL

771. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has any pension fund scheme in place;

(b) if so, the number of employers including subsidiaries of SAIL who contributed to the pension fund and the beneficiaries of the fund;

(c) whether any discrepancy, in providing pension benefits to those who retired before April, 1993 and those benefiting thereafter, has been found out in connivance with provident fund authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. A pension scheme called, SAIL Employees Superannuation Benefit Fund (SESBF) is in operation in SAIL. Employees of SAIL have been contributing to this fund @ 2% of their basic pay plus dearness allowance w.e.f. 01-01-1989.

(b) SAIL contributes to SESBF only @ Rs. 100 per annum for all its employees put together. SAIL employees are the beneficiaries of this Fund.

(c) The Provident Fund Authorities have no linkage with SESBF and, therefore, the question of connivance of PF authorities with SESBF does not arise.

However, it may be mentioned that under the aegis of Employees Provident Fund and Misc. (Provisions) Act 1952, Government of India had introduced Employees Family Pension Scheme 1971 (EFPS, 1971) w.e.f. 1-03-1971. The EFPS, 1971 provided for pension to the spouse in case death of the member while in service and withdrawal benefit in case of retirement. This scheme was replaced by Employees Pension Scheme (EPS, 1995) w.e.f. 16-11-1995 and the members of the EFPS, 1971 were compulsorily covered under EPS, 1995 w.e.f. 16-11-1995. The EFPS, 1971 members who ceased to be members of this scheme between 1-4-1993 to 15-11-1995 and are alive, had option to get pension under EPS, 1995 in case they opt for the same and deposit the withdrawal benefit alongwith interest.

The EFPS, 1971/EPS, 1995 are administered by the Office of the Employees PF Organisation under Ministry of Labour. The cut-off date of 1-4-1993 for giving pension of EFPS, 1971 members under EPS, 1995 who ceased to be members from 1-4-1993 has been fixed by Government of India and the question of any discrepancy does not arise.

EFPS, 1971/EPS, 1995 have no linkage with SESBF.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) does not arise.

Mandatory Environmental Clearance for Irrigation Projects

772. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN:

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

(a) the number of irrigation project proposals received and granted environmental clearance, project-wise and State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of project proposals still pending such clearance;

(c) whether it is mandatory to seek environmental clearance for those projects which involve forest land;

(d) if so, whether some irrigation projects have been executed or are under execution without securing such clearance;

(e) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) During last one year, 16 (sixteen) irrigation projects have been received. Out of which till date 15 (fifteen) projects were granted environmental clearances. List of projects is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No Sir. Only major irrigation projects whose cultural command area is more than 10,000 hectare require environmental clearance, irrespective of involvement of forest land.

(d) Information is being collected from State Governments and Union Territories.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement*List of Irrigation projects (State-wise) received during last one year*

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Date of Receipt	Date of Clearance
1	2	3	4

Cleared Projects:**Andhra Pradesh**

1.	Tadipudi Lift Irrigation Scheme in District East Godavari by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	16-08-2005	19-10-2005
2.	Puskara Lift Irrigation Scheme in District East Godavari by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	16-08-2005	19-10-2005
3.	Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Multipurpose Project in District West Godavari by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	10-10-2005	25-10-2005
4.	J. Chokka Rao Godavari Lift Irrigation Project in District Warangal by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	09-10-2005	06-12-2005
5.	Veligonda Project in District Prakasam by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	09-10-2006	31-03-2006
6.	Vamsadhara Project Phase-II of Stage-II in district Srikakulam by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	18-01-2006	21-03-2006
7.	Handri Niva Sujala Shravanti (HNSS) Project by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	15-02-2006	08-05-2006
8.	Sripadasagar Irrigation Project by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	10-02-2006	09-05-2006
9.	Mahatma Gandhi (Kalwakurty) Lift Irrigation Project by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	17-03-2006	09-05-2006
10.	Jawahar (Nettampadu) Lift Irrigation Project by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	17-03-2006	15-05-2006
11.	Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi Project (GNSSP) in District Kadapa and Chittoor by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	13-04-2006	21-06-2006
12.	Indira Sagar Lift Irrigation Project in District Khammam by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	15-05-2006	19-07-2006

1	2	3	4
Orissa			
13.	Brutang Irrigation Project in District Nayagarh by Department of Water Resources	22-12-2005	02-06-2006
Punjab			
14.	Canalization Sakki/Kiran Nallah Project from RD 1800 to 510000 in districts Amritsar and Gurdaspur by Department of Irrigation, Government of Punjab	28-07-2005	21-12-2005
Uttar Pradesh			
15.	Madya Ganga Canal Pariyojna Stage-II in districts Moradabad and J.P. Nagar by Department of Irrigation Uttar Pradesh	29-12-2005	08-05-2006
Pending Projects			
16.	Rajiv Sagar Lift Irrigation Project in District Khammam by Department of Irrigation and Command Area Development	28-05-2006	—

*[Translation]***Army for Wildlife Conservation**

773. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for the deployment of trained army personnel to check poaching and animal trafficking; 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) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, Central Assistance is provided to States for deployment of ex-army personnel, to complement the field staff towards protection of wild animals in tiger reserves.

*[English]***Growth of Film Industry**

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

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

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has put forward certain demands for the growth of Indian Film Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in increasing the growth of Film Industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has submitted a memorandum on film industry for the 11th Five Year Plan. The memorandum deals with various issues relating to Film Sector. It contains suggestions to mitigate video piracy, levy of uniform Entertainment Tax across all States, fiscal and tax benefits, review of the Cinematograph Act, incentives for setting up polytechnics, institutes and film schools, setting up of Export Promotion Council for films etc.

(c) Such proposals are evaluated on merit and taken

up with concerned Ministries/Organizations, as warranted. The endeavor is to facilitate the entertainment sector to achieve its potential and promote growth in exports, so that this sector is able to increase its contribution towards generating income and employment in the country.

(d) The Central Government has taken the following initiatives for facilitating the growth in this sector:

- Institutional financing is now available to the film industry.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in the film sector.
- Government has encouraged participation in global markets with a view to enhancing the visibility of the film industry abroad.
- Film weeks and festivals are held on reciprocal basis with various countries.
- Audiovisual co-production agreement has been signed with the Republic of Italy and Government of UK and similar proposals from other countries are being explored to expand avenues of finances and markets for the Indian film industry.
- The recommendations of the Committee for the Development of Entertainment Sector have been conveyed to all the State Governments.
- The National Film Development Corporation, a public sector unit under this Ministry provides financial assistance and other services to the film industry.

[Translation]

Telecast Rights to Foreign Companies

775. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the names of foreign companies which have been given approval for telecast rights in India at present;

(b) the terms and conditions imposed on these companies, separately;

(c) the names of companies out of these which are telecasting programmes in Indian languages, language-wise;

(d) the duration of telecast per day separately, channel-wise;

(e) whether any royalty has been fixed to be given by companies to the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (f) The policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels issued on 11-11-2005 and the guidelines for uplinking from India issued on 2-12-2005, inter-alia, require that the applicant company should be a company registered in India under the Indian Companies Act, 1956. Therefore, question of giving approval to foreign companies does not arise.

[English]

Import of Edible Oil

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

(a) the import of edible oils in the country during the last three years both in terms of quantity and value;

(b) the impact of these imports on the domestic production; and

(c) the recommendations of commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices on oilseed prices vis-a-vis import prices?

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) Domestic production estimates of oilseeds/edible oils and import of edible oils during the last three years have been as under:—

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

(Value in Rs. Crore)

Oil Year Nov-Oct.	Production of Oilseeds	Net domestic availability of edible oils from all domestic sources	Import of Edible Oils*	
			Quantity	Value
2002-2003	148.39	46.64	43.65	8779.64
2003-2004	251.86	71.40	52.90	11683.24
2004-2005	243.54	72.47	45.42	10755.65

*Financial Year.

(c) The Minimum Support/Procurement Prices of oilseeds recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for the year 2005-2006 has been as under:—

(Rs. in quintal)

Commodity	2005-06* (Recommended)
Rapeseed/Mustard	1700
Safflower	1550
Sunflower Seed	1500
Groundnut	1520
Soyabean (Black)	900
Soyabean (Yellow)	1010
Sesamum	1550
Nigerseed	1200
Copra (Milling)	3570
Copra (Ball)	3820

*Marketing Season.

The other recommendations made by CACP for the year 2005-2006 in this regard include:—

- (i) Government should review its import policy on edible oils and increase import duty on crude and refined palm oil/palmolein significantly so

as to keep the domestic prices of oilseeds well above the Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

- (ii) Government should take utmost care and examine all pros and cons while considering the agricultural commodities in the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and in bilateral and regional trade liberalization agreements.

[Translation]

Centres for Testing Gold

777. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up centres for testing the purity of gold in every district of the country by 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such centres proposed to be set up alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has accorded its approval to the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be accorded; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the reliability of Bureau of Indian Standards in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In order to ensure adequacy of assaying infrastructure particularly in uncovered areas prior to Hallmarking being made mandatory, a scheme for setting up of Gold Hallmarking/Assaying Centres in 35 identified districts in India has been approved by the Planning Commission for implementation during 2005-07 on pilot basis. Under this scheme, one time financial incentive of 15% of the cost of plant and equipment, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs will be provided to selected entrepreneurs.

(f) Since India is a major exporter of gold jewellery, necessary actions are being taken for accession to Convention on Control and Marking of Precious Metals Articles (**Vienna Convention, 1972**) for accreditation of Indian gold jewellery exports for better image and accessibility to various overseas jewellery markets.

Adequate supply of Commodities for PDS

778. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether adequate and regular supply of various commodities for distribution under the Public Distribution System is not being made to the Fair Price Shops in various States leading to the rise in prices of essential commodities.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed/taken to ensure adequate and timely supply of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes regular supply of foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarsegrains), under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to States/

Union Territories, @ 35 Kgs. per family per month for the entitled number of families under each category. The TPDS is being operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UTs. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation as parentitlement and storage/transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest Principal Distribution Centre of FCI in each State/UT, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT to identify the targeted beneficiaries, make payment and lift the foodgrains from the designated distribution centre of FCI and distribute it to the ration card holders through the network of Fair Price Shops in each State/UT.

(c) As far as Central Government is concerned, the planning and dispatch of the required number of rakes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) is made by the FCI every month for each consuming State/UT at an optimally feasible level, within the constraints of availability of rakes and other logistics in order to adequately cater to the requirements of each State/UT under the TPDS and with the aim of building up and maintaining the stock level equivalent to three month's average requirement (two month's in respect of North East Region). On receipt of report of shortage of foodgrains, the FCI is advised to prioritize the induction of rakes to such State/UT and whenever required, the Railway Board is also requested to take appropriate remedial action to augment the supply and induction of the rakes. State Governments have also been requested to ensure proper monitoring of foodgrains supply to Fair Price Shops and to take corrective action where-ever deficiencies are noted.

Crisis of Coal in SAIL

779. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is facing shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consumption of coal is constantly increasing in SAIL/Subsidiaries;

(d) if so, the quantity of coal consumed separately by each unit under SAIL during the last three years;

(e) whether SAIL is importing coal from other countries every year to meet its requirements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The consumption of coking coal and thermal coal at Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)'s Plants during the last three years is given below:—

Coking Coal

(Million tonnes)

Year	Bokaro Steel Plant	Durgapur Steel Plant	Raurkela Steel Plant	Bhilai Steel Plant	IISCO Steel Plant	Total
2003-04	4.01	1.90	1.88	3.60	1.15	12.54
2004-05	3.77	1.72	1.81	3.39	1.16	11.85
2005.06	4.40	1.85	1.84	3.90	1.15	13.14

Thermal Coal

(Million tonnes)

Year	Bokaro Steel Plant	Durgapur Steel Plant	Raurkela Steel Plant	Bhilai Steel Plant	IISCO Steel Plant	Total
2003-04	0.66	0.68	1.34	1.69	0.11	4.48
2004-05	0.74	0.90	1.43	1.69	0.17	4.93
2005-06	0.58	0.83	1.49	1.90	0.15	4.95

(e) and (f) SAIL is importing Hard and Soft Coking Coal from Australia, New Zealand, USA, China, Canada and Indonesia. The quantity of coking coal imported by

SAIL during the last three years is given below year-wise and country-wise:—

Country-wise break up of import of Coking Coal

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Year	Australia	New Zealand	USA	China	Canada	Indonesia	Total
2003-04	6.89	0.29	—	—	—	—	7.18
2004-05	7.12	0.25	0.75	0.06	0.05	—	8.23
2005.06	7.48	0.5	1.01	0.25	—	0.1	9.34

[English]

**Stranded Oil Ship In Nhava Sheva
Port In Mumbai**

780. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 2,385 tonnes of waste oil in 133 containers, containing polychlorinated biphenyls is lying in Mumbai's Nhava Sheva Port and another 209 containers arrived in 2000;

(b) if so, whether recently the Supreme Court had ordered the incineration of this massive toxic pile;

(c) if so, whether only about 40% of this lot has been disposed of; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to contain the fallout from this toxic waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) About 2,385 tonnes of waste oil in 133 containers arrived in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) during the year 2000 and another 209 containers arrived in the Port during 1992 to 2002.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 657 of 1995 had directed on 5th January, 2005 to destruct the waste oil from the 133 containers through incineration under the supervision of the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Court. In respect of the 209 containers, the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee has submitted details of the containers to the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking further directions in the matter.

(c) and (d) As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the process of dispatch of all the 133 containers containing waste oil to M/s. Mumbai Waste Management Ltd., Taloja for incineration was completed before 31-12-2005. So far 65% of the waste oil from the 133 containers has been incinerated at the Treatment, Storage

and Disposal Facility (TSDF) of M/s Mumbai Waste Management Ltd., Taloja. In respect of the 209 containers, the matter is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for further directions.

**Modernisation of Irrigation System In
Andhra Pradesh**

781. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to assist the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for modernization of irrigation system; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided therefor during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 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 Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years as per the guidelines of the programme. As per the latest guidelines of AIBP effective from 1-04-2005 provision is there for providing assistance for Modernization of projects to eligible States who meet the criteria provided in the guidelines for which the proposal has to be submitted by the State Governments. No such proposal has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for inclusion in Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) under AIBP during 2005-06.

The Government of India launched a programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies directly linked to Agriculture during 2004-05. The details of the assistance provided to States is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of District	No. of water bodies included	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Central Share (75%)	Culturable command area (in ha.)	Additional potential (in ha.)	Central Share released (Rs. in crore)		Total
								2004-05	2005-06	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mahabub Nagar	224	32.84	24.63	20650	6196	2.44	2.7	5.14
		Anantpur	37	13.77	10.3275	6322.3	2219.5	7.6625	7.6625	7.6625
2.	Chhattisgarh	Kabir Dham	10	2.236	1.677	1888	740.75	1.1058	1.1058	1.1058
3.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	17	6.5512	4.9134	5112	1829	2.654	2.654	2.654
		Banaskantha	25	7.6653	5.748975	5192	2289	3.1	3.1	3.1
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	13	1.0401	0.780075	1165	815.4	0.312	0.312	0.312
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	Kupwara	22	3.0588	2.2941	1174	1019	1.275	1.275	1.275
6.	Jharkhand	Saraikela	25	3.14	2.355	1283	1239	0.33	0.649	0.979
		Palamu	52	11.06	8.295	4605.7	4605.7	1.17	0.525	1.695
7.	Karnataka	Gulbarga	117	35.537	26.65275	21989	8863	4.42	10.13	14.55
		Bangalore Rural	182	38.068	28.551	153579.3	78072.7	1	6.95	7.95
8.	Kerala	Palakkad	10	1.3753	1.031475	544.7	177	0.6	0.6	0.6
		Pathanamthitta	13	1.404	1.053	589.89	178.32	0.526	0.526	0.526
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Tikarngarh	5	3.923	2.94225	2920	712	0.70	0.70	0.7

	Shivpuri	65	41.28	30.96	18302	8624	15.00	15	
10. Maharashtra	Beed	32	36.8828	27.6621	12596	8897	13.831	13.831	
11. Orissa	Ganjam	68	12.82	9.615	14207	6835	1.14	7.95	
	Gajapati	59	6.01	4.5075	9388	4701	0.55	3.74	
12. Rajasthan	Ajmer	4	4.489	3.36675	3301	558	2.25	2.25	
	Pali	1	2.45	1.8375	1461	308	1.5	1.5	
13. Tamil Nadu	Sivagangai	8	1.222	0.9165	702.42	153.23	0.458	0.458	
	Villupuram	38	9.372	7.029	4462.9	1178.15	3.5145	3.5145	
14. West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur	15	4.934	3.7005	1698	2028.6	0.74	1.305	
	South-24 Paraganas	74	18.664	15.998	6221.5	5874	0.21	1.41	
Total		1116	299.7925	224.8444	299354.7	148113.4	12	87.2078	99.2078

[Translation]

Production of Mustard

782. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of mustard is likely to exceed the target this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any arrangement to purchase mustard above the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to encourage the farmers to take to alternative crops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the 4th Advance Estimates, the production of rapeseed and mustard in 2005-06 is estimated at 78.87 lakh tonnes against the target of 71.30 lakh tonnes. A production target of 73.70 lakh tonnes has been fixed for 2006-07.

(c) and (d) During the Rabi-2006 season, 20.98 lakh tonnes of mustard seed was procured by the Government through NAFED on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 1715 per quintal.

(e) and (f) In order to provide flexibility to the States in promoting crops of their choice and to diversify to economically more viable oilseed crops, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States. Under

the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacterial, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc., to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds including rapeseed and mustard. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Installation of HPT/LPT/VLPT

783. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for installing HPT/LPT/VLPT in the country during the last Five Year Plan and the number of transmitters installed, State-wise; and

(b) the target fixed for the current Five Year Plan, State-wise and the efforts being made to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) State-wise number of transmitter (HPT/LPT/VLPT) targeted to be installed in various States/UTs during 9th Five Year Plan and the number of transmitters installed during the Plan period in respect of Doordarshan and All India Radio are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) State-wise number of transmitters envisaged to be installed in various States/UTs under 10th Five Year Plan and the number of transmitters installed so far in respect of Doordarshan and All India Radio are given in the enclosed statement-III and IV respectively.

Statement-I**Doordarshan**

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of transmitters envisaged to be installed under 9th Plan	No. of transmitter installed during 9th Plan period
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	27
3.	Assam	6	5
4.	Bihar	10	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	10
6.	Goa	1	1
7.	Gujarat	28	22
8.	Haryana	12	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	22	19
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	106	75
11.	Jharkhand	11	9
12.	Karnataka	30	22
13.	Kerala	11	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21	21
15.	Maharashtra	51	40
16.	Manipur	4	3
17.	Meghalaya	4	2
18.	Mizoram	4	3
19.	Nagaland	5	4
20.	Orissa	34	33
21.	Pondicherry	2	2

1	2	3	4
22.	Punjab	5	5
23.	Rajasthan	28	28
24.	Sikkim	4	2
25.	Tamil Nadu	27	22
26.	Tripura	7	6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	34	32
28.	Uttaranchal	24	19
29.	West Bengal	15	14
Total		587	487

Statement-II*All India Radio*

9th Plan Target and achievement (MW and FM Transmitter)

Sl.No.	State	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	3
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4.	Assam	4	4
5.	Bihar	1	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	2
7.	Delhi	2	2
8.	Goa	0	0
9.	Gujarat	3	3
10.	Haryana	2	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	11

1	2	3	4
13.	Jharkhand	1	1
14.	Karnataka	4	4
15.	Kerala	4	4
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5	5
17.	Maharashtra	2	2
18.	Meghalaya	4	4
19.	Mizoram	3	3
20.	Manipur	3	3
21.	Nagaland	3	3
22.	Orissa	3	3
23.	Punjab	0	0
24.	Rajasthan	4	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	5	5
26.	Tripura	1	1
27.	Union Territory	2	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	5	5
29.	Uttaranchal	1	1
30.	West Bengal	3	3
31.	Sikkim	1	1
Total		86	83

Statement-III**Doordarshan**

SI.No.	State/UT	No.of transmitters envisaged to be installed under 10th Plan	No. of transmitter installed so far (till 25-07-06)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19	2

1	2	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10	9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
4.	Assam	2	1
5.	Bihar	6	5
6.	Chhattisgarh	3	2
7.	Gujarat	7	6
8.	Haryana	6	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31
11.	Jharkhand	2	2
12.	Karnataka	9	9
13.	Kerala	4	4
14.	Lakshadweep	6	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—
16.	Maharashtra	13	13
17.	Manipur	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	2	2
19.	Mizoram	1	1
20.	Nagaland	1	1
21.	Orissa	1	1
22.	Punjab	1	—
23.	Rajasthan	5	4
24.	Sikkim	2	2
25.	Tamil Nadu	9	8
26.	Tripura	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3
28.	Uttaranchal	5	5
29.	West Bengal	2	1
Total		160	123

Statement-IV*All India Radio*

10th Plan Target and achievement (MW and FM Transmitter)

Sl. No.	State	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	3
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1
4.	Assam	6	
5.	Bihar	7	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	6	1
7.	Delhi	4	
8.	Goa	0	
9.	Gujarat	6	
10.	Haryana	3	1
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	4
13.	Jharkhand	4	
14.	Karnataka	4	3
15.	Kerala	3	
16.	Madhya Pradesh	4	2
17.	Maharashtra	10	2
18.	Meghalaya	2	1
19.	Mizoram	3	
20.	Manipur	2	
21.	Nagaland	6	1

1	2	3	4
22.	Orissa	7	
23.	Punjab	3	
24.	Rajasthan	11	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	5	1
26.	Tripura	4	
27.	Union Territory	3	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	9	3
29.	Uttaranchal	8	
30.	West Bengal	9	1
31.	Sikkim	1	
Total		154	30

(i) Out of 30, 15 have been commissioned or technically ready as interim setup.

(ii) In addition 3 out of 150 Low Power Transmitters at Yercaud (Tamil Nadu), Deogarh (Orissa) and Darjeeling (West Bengal), have also been commissioned.

Irregularities in Procurement of Mustard

784. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) was directed to buy mustard from the farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the other directive issued for the purpose;

(c) whether the said directions were violated in purchasing the mustard from the traders instead of farmers;

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

(e) the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard alongwith the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The Government of India fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of mustard seed Rs. 1700 per quintal for Rabi Crop season 2005. NAFED was appointed as Central nodal agency for implementation of Price Support Scheme to procure mustard seed stock as and when the prices of mustard seed rule below the MSP.

(c) and (d) Procurement of mustard under Price Support Scheme by NAFED is undertaken through the State Level Cooperative Marketing Societies/Oilseeds Growers Federation in each producing State. These agencies in turn, procure the stocks from the farmers at identified centers by ensuring that the stocks belong to farmers and also release payment to the farmers.

(e) Some references had been received alleging certain irregularities in the procurement of mustard seed during Rabi-2005. With reference to these complaints NAFED had withdrawn Gujcomasol in Banaskantha District and allocated the work to Banaskantha Union. Further, on the request of Government of Gujarat, NAFED appointed the Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation as an additional agency for procurement of mustard seed in the State.

[English]

Commodity Future Trading

785. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) the number of commodity exchanges currently operational in India and the details of the commodities, including essential commodities, traded therein;

(b) the number of traders operating in online/futures market;

(c) whether there is any proposal to permit Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)/Mutual Funds to invest in commodity futures;

(d) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding its impact on farming community;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to check any adverse affect on them;

(f) whether the relationship between future trading and price rise has also been assessed;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken to properly regulate future trading and entry of FIIs in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There are twenty four recognised commodity futures Exchanges, including three National Multi Commodity Exchanges, in India. At present, twenty-two Exchanges are operational. The details of the commodities traded, including essential commodities, in the Exchanges are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The average number of traders operating in online commodity futures market is about 7000.

(c) Ministry of Finance has been requested to initiate necessary action for amending SEBI Mutual Funds Regulations, 1995 and SEBI Foreign Institutional Investors Regulations, 1995 in order to permit Mutual Funds and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to participate in the commodity derivatives market. It is expected that the participation of Mutual Funds and FIIs would bring global standards, greater liquidity in the market, breadth of participation and institutional discipline in the commodity derivatives market.

(d) So far, no assessment has been made regarding the likely impact of participation of FIIs and Mutual Funds in the commodity futures market on the farming community.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) So far, no specific study has been made to assess the relationship between futures trading and rise in prices.

(h) The commodity futures trading is regulated under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), which is the Regulator established under the Act, is keeping a close watch on the functioning of the commodity Exchanges. FMC has prescribed various regulatory measures such as imposition of margin, limit on open position, limit on daily price variation etc. to ensure orderly functioning of the commodity futures market.

Statement

List of Recognised Exchanges alongwith the Commodities Traded therein

Sl.No.	Name and Place	Commodity
1	2	3
1.	India Pepper and Spice Trade Assn., Kochi (IPSTA)	1. Pepper (Both Domestic and Inter-National) 2. Rubber
2.	The Spices and Oilseeds Exchange Ltd. Sangli	1. Turmeric
3.	Vijai Beopar Chamber Ltd., Muzaffarnagar	1. Gur 2. Mustard Seed
4.	Rajdhani Oils and Oilseeds Exchange Ltd., Delhi	1. Gur 2. Mustard Seed, its Oil and Oil Cake
5.	Bhatinda Om and Oil Exchange Ltd., Bhatinda	1. Gur
6.	The Chamber of Commerce, Hapur	1. Gur 2. Mustard Seed
7.	The Meerut Agro Commodities Exchange Ltd., Meerut	1. Gur
8.	Central India Commercial Exchange, Gwalior	1. Gur 2. Mustard Seed
9.	The Bombay Commodity Exchange Ltd., Mumbai	1. Castor Seed 2. RBD Palmolein 3. Cotton Seed, its Oil and Oil Cake

1	2	3
		4. Groundnut, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		5. Rice Bran, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		6. Safflower Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		7. Sesamum Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
10. Rajkot Seeds, Oil and Bullion Merchants Assn., Rajkot		1. Castor Seed
		2. Groundnut, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		3. Cotton Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		4. Cotton (Kapas)
		5. (RBD) Palmolein
11. The Ahmedabad Commodity Exchange Ltd., Ahmedabad		1. Castor Seed
		2. Cotton Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
12. The East India Jute and Hessian Exchange Ltd., Kolkata		1. Raw Jute (TSD)
		2. Hessian (TSD and Futures)
		3. Sacking (TSD and Futures)
13. The East India Cotton Assn. Ltd., Mumbai		1. Cotton
14. National Board of Trade, Indore		1. Mustard Seed/Rape Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		2. Soy Bean Seed, Soy Oil, Soy Meal
		3. RBD Palmolein
		4. Crude Palmolein
		5. Crude Palm Oil
		6. CPO Refined
15. First Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Kochi		1. Coconut Oil, Copra and its Cake
16. E-Sugar India Ltd., Mumbai		1. Sugar
17. National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Ahmedabad*		1. Castor Seed, Its Oil and Castor Cake
		2. Rape Seed/Mustard Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake, and Rapeseed-42
		3. Groundnut Its Oil and Oil Cake

1	2	3
		4. Sunflower Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		5. Sesame Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		6. Copra/Coconut, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		7. Safflower Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		8. Cotton Seed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		9. Nickel
		10. Aluminium
		11. Soybean, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		12. Vanaspati
		13. RBD Palmolein
		14. Crude Palm Oil
		15. Sacking
		16. Sugar (S-30)
		17. Gur
		18. Rice bran oil
		19. Rubber and Rubber (T+2)
		20. Copper
		21. Zinc
		22. Lead
		23. Tin
		24. Linseed, Its Oil and Oil Cake
		25. Pepper Ungarbled and Prpper (T+2)
		26. Guar Seed
		27. Gram (Chana)
		28. Gold, Kilo Gold and Gold Mini
		29. Silver
		30. Wheat

1	2	3
		31. Rice
		32. Tur
		33. Urad
		34. Moong
		35. Masoor (Lentils)
		36. Cardmom
		37. Raw Jute
		38. Guar Gum
		39. Menthol
		40. Coffee (Arabica, Robusta)
18. Surendranagar Cotton Oil and Oilseeds Association Ltd., Surendranagar		1. Kapas
		2. Cotton
		3. Cotton Seed
19. E-Commodities Limited, Delhi		1. Sugar * (Trading is yet to commence)
20. Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Mumbai*		1. Castor Seed and Castor Seed-5T and Disa
		2. Gold, Mini Gold and HNI
		3. Silver, Mini Silver and HNI
		4. Rubber
		5. Pepper
		6. Kapas
		7. Kapas Khali
		8. Steel (Long and Flat and Gbvn)
		9. RBD Pamolein
		10. Crude Palm Oil
		11. Groundnut Oil (Expeller)
		12. Castor Oil (FSG)
		13. Soy Seed

1**2****3**

14. Soy Oil (Refined)
15. Soy meal
16. Guar Seed, Guar Seed BND
17. Guar Gum, Guar Gum BND
18. Tin
19. Nickel
20. Copper
21. Gram (Chana)
22. Urad
23. Green Moong
24. Tur
25. Burmese Chick Peas
26. Yellow Peas
27. Green Peas
28. Australian Peas
29. Rape Seed/Mustard Seed, JPR
30. Rape Seed/Mustard Seed oil
31. Cotton (Long, Short and Medium Staple)
32. Rice, Basmati Rice, Sarbati Rice
33. Wheat
34. Maize
35. Masur
36. Red Chillies
37. Gur
38. CPO
39. Linseed
40. Groundnut Kernel

1**2****3**

41. Rice Bran Oil
 42. Rice Bran Doc
 43. Sunflower Seed
 44. Sunflower oil Refined
 45. Cashew nut kernel
 46. Sugar (Small and Medium)
 47. Cotton Seed
 48. Cotton Seed Oil
 49. Cotton Seed cake
 50. Cardamum
 51. Raw Jute
 52. Raw bags (Hessian)
 53. Turmeric
 54. Jeera
 55. Seed Lac
 56. Menthol Oil
 57. Arecanut
 58. Crude Oil and Brent Crude Oil
 59. Sesame Seed
 60. Potato
 61. Copra
 62. Coconut oil cake
 63. Barley
 64. Aluminium
 65. Polymer (Polypropylene, Linear Low density, Polyethylene and High density Polyethylene)
 66. Tea
-

1	2	3
21. National Commodity and Derivative Exchange Ltd., Mumbai*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">67. Iron (sponge)68. Furnace Oil69. Coffee (Arabica and Robusta)70. Coconut Oil71. Cotton Yarn72. Jute (Sacking)73. Middle East Sour Oil1. Gold Pure, Kilo Sona and Gold Mini2. Silver Pure, Mega and Chandi3. Soya Bean4. Refined Soya Oil5. Soya Meal, Yellow Soya Meal (Export and Domestic)6. Rapeseed/Mustard Seed and its Oil7. Crud Palm Oil8. RBD Palmolein9. Cotton J-34 (MS) and S-06 (LS)10. Jute Sacking11. Rubber12. Pepper13. Chana14. Guar Seed15. Wheat and Wheat Std Mill16. Caster Seed17. Raw Jute18. Guar Gum19. Yellow Peas	

1	2	3
		20. Urad
		21. Sugar M and S and Kol
		22. Turmeric
		23. Rice-Grade A raw rice and parboiled rice, common rice and parboiled rice
		24. Maize (Yellow and red)
		25. Gur
		26. Raw Silk
		27. Coccons
		28. Jeera
		29. Chilli
		30. Cashew
		31. Steel (Mild)
		32. Cotton Seed Oil cake
		33. Sesam Seed (whitish)
		34. Coffee—Arabica and Robusta
		35. Tur—Lemon and Maharashtra lal
		36. Copper and Copper Cathode
		37. Mentho Oil
		38. Furnace Oil
		39. Brent Crude Oil
		40. Kapas
		41. Masoor
		42. Yellow/Red Maize
22. Haryana Commodities Ltd., Hissar		1. Mustard Seed
		2. Mustard Seed Oil
		3. Mustard Seed Cake

1	2	3
23. Bikaner Commodity Exchange Ltd., Bikaner		1. Rape seed/Mustard Seed, its Oil and Cake 2. Gram 3. Guar Seed 4. Guar Gum
24. Bullion Association, Jaipur		1. Mustard Seed 2. Mustard Seed Oil 3. Mustard Seed Cake

*(Nil trading from 2005-06 onwards)

[Translation]

Production of Jatropha

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme for intense campaign to grow Jatropha for bio-diesel;

(b) if so, whether any research programmes are also being conducted to provide good quality seeds of Jatropha; and

(c) if so, the details thereabout and the latest position of the progress made in that regard so far alongwith the projected works/research to be undertaken thereunder?

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) Based on the recommendations of the Committee for Development of Bio-fuels set up in the Planning Commission in 2001-2002, Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) was designated as Nodal Ministry for proposed National Bio-diesel Mission. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed Mission submitted by Ministry of Rural Development at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1286 crore was examined in Planning

Commission and 'in principle' approval has been accorded in December, 2005.

The proposed National Bio-diesel Mission is to be implemented in two phases i.e. Phase-I as Demonstration Project and Phase-II a Self Sustaining Expansion of Bio-diesel Programme. Under the demonstration phase, promotion of Jatropha curcas cultivation in forest and non-forest areas (2 lakh ha. non-forest land and 2 lakh ha. forest land) specially in wasteland is proposed to be carried out over a period of 5 years.

Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" through National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board for promotion of tree borne oilseeds including Jatropha during 10th Plan.

(b) and (c) A National Network on Jatropha involving 32 R and D institutions of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and State Agricultural Universities has been initiated by NOVOD Board during 2004-05 to address various researchable issues.

The R and D Programmes under the National Network on Jatropha are in progress. The details of research findings on various aspects of R and D programme on Jatropha are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

The details of research findings on various aspects of R and D programme on Jatropha

1. Survey and collection of superior planting material (seeds and cutting):

About 1758 superior planting material/seed source of Jatropha have been identified on the basis of phonological characteristics.

2. Progeny Trial of superior planting material:

The progeny trials of identified superior planting material area being conducted to evaluate the adaptability of accessions in particular locations for better growth and development.

3. Multi-locational trial at National/Zonal level:

About 513 seeds samples have been analyzed for oil content and 205 samples have been cryo-preserved in NBPGR.

4. Agri-silvicultural trial:

Agri-silvicultural trials are being conducted with inter-crops particularly with legumes and pulses. These trials have shown encouraging results of growth of inter-crops and Jatropha.

5. Hybridization in Jatropha curcas:

The advance line of Jatropha having high oil content, high yield, more drought tolerance character, resistance to insect-pest and diseases etc. have been identified in various states.

6. Tissue culture:

Partial success has been achieved to develop a commercially viable tissue culture protocol of Jatropha.

7. Seed viability

The seed viability of Jatropha has been reported upto one year and best time for sowing is from February to March.

[English]

AIR and Doordarshan Tower in Amritsar

787. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1000 feet high All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan Tower was sanctioned for Amritsar long ago for strengthening broadcasting and telecasting facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in construction of tower?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Non-availability of land has caused a delay in the construction of the 300 M high tower at Amritsar. The construction is currently underway. A 20 kW FM transmitter of AIR has been planned at the Doordarshan site at Amritsar and the antenna of the transmitter is proposed to be installed on the Doordarshan tower.

Soil Fertility in Drought Prone Areas

788. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent droughts in a region adversely affects the fertility of the soil, eventually affecting productivity;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve soil fertility in such regions;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a special scheme for the drought-prone area in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu in this regard; 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) In general, the occurrence of drought does not have significant effect on diminishing the soil fertility in short

run. However, frequent droughts in a region can have adverse effect on soil fertility by way of (i) reduced biomass production, (ii) fast decomposition of organic matter, (iii) poor bio-activity in the Rhizosphere and (iv) deterioration of soil structure and water holding capacity etc.

(b) The Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad and its net work of 25 All India Coordinated Research Project on Dry land Agriculture (AICRPDA) Centers provide technical support to the State Governments by way of training, exposure and visits on managing soil fertility during drought through various technologies in different agro-ecological regions.

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

Mini Navratna Status to RINL

789. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently conferred 'Mini Navratna Status' to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to grant captive mines so as to make RINL self-sufficient in availability of raw materials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government on 20-7-2006 has conferred the "Miniratna Category I PSE" status to Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), as it fulfilled the requirements of making profits for more than three years continuously, the pre tax profit being in excess of Rs. 30 crores and the company having a positive networth. RINL has also fulfilled the condition of having three non-official Directors and is not dependent on budgetary support or government guarantees and has not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans to the Government. RINL, therefore, has been allowed to exercise enhanced delegated financial and operational powers as per the guidelines laid down.

(c) and (d) Though presently RINL has not been granted captive mines, efforts are continuously being made for granting RINL captive mines of iron ore and coal so as to make it self sufficient in availability of raw materials.

National Agricultural Innovation Project

790. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a Rs. 1,189.99 crore National Agricultural Innovation Project, with 75% funding by World Bank, to boost the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details of the project, its objectives and *modus operandi*; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that benefits of the project reach 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) is designed to address the problems of productivity, profitability and quality enhancement of agricultural produce, raising the income of farmers and improving the livelihood of rural communities located in disadvantaged areas in the country. The overall objective of the National Agricultural Innovation Project is to facilitate the accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture in support of poverty alleviation and income generation.

The Project has four components, viz. (i) ICAR as the catalyzing agent for the management of change of the Indian National Agricultural Research System; (ii) Research on production to consumption systems; (iii) Research on sustainable rural livelihood security; and (iv) Basic and Strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural sciences. The different components of the Project would be implemented by a large network of Public

research institutions, Private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

The Project is approved from 1st July, 2006 and the completion period is six years. The total project cost is US \$ 250 million out of which the World Bank's share would be US \$ 200 million as credit and Government of India's share would be US \$ 50 million. In Indian Rupees, the project cost is equivalent to Rs. 1189.99 crore based on the prevailing exchange rate.

The Project would be implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Implementation of NAIP would also be highly participatory and decentralized one. A broad array of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) clients and stakeholders including other relevant Ministries/ Departments, NGOs, private sector, farmer organizations etc. are involved in its implementation in a consortium mode.

(c) Steps taken include involvement of farmers in project policy making, project formulation and monitoring bodies and mechanism, technology assessment for refinement and finally assessing the impact of benefits.

[Translation]

Labourers on Contract Basis

791. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the recommendations of the three member investment panel wherein it has recommended to employ the labourers on contract basis in the country;

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

(c) whether work done on contract basis is less than the work on regular basis in the country; and

(d) if so, the comparative position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 provides for abolition of contract labour system, wherever possible and practicable, in the light of certain criteria that have been laid down in the Act. It aims at regulating the service conditions of contract labour where abolition is not possible. An establishment is, therefore, free to employ contract labour in an activity, which has not been prohibited by the 'appropriate Government.'

(c) The wage rates, hours of work, holidays and other conditions of service of the contract labour are governed in accordance with the terms and conditions of licence issued to contractors under Rule 25 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971.

(d) No survey regarding the work done by contract labour vis-a-vis regular workmen has been conducted.

Setting Up of New TV Centres

792. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to set up some new TV Centres and also to increase the capacity of some existing TV Centres;

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

(c) the progress report of each TV Centre; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the progress report?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State-wise details in respect of the new TV centre projects and augmentation of the existing TV Centres are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Progress of the projects is generally satisfactory.

Statement**TV Centre Projects**

New TV Centres	Status
1. Studio, Rajouri	Technically ready.
2. Studio, Calicut	Technically ready.
3. Studio, Tirupati	Site taken over. Building plans finalised. Target date: 2008-09.
Augmentation of Existing TV Centres	
1. Studio, Gorakhpur (pmt set up)	Technical area of building completed. Departmental works taken up. Target date: 2006-07
2. Studio, Dehradun (pmt set up)	Land taken over. Building plan finalized. Preliminary estimate for building works under process of sanction. Target date: 2008-09.
3. Studio, Leh (pmt set up)	Work of building construction awarded. Target date: 2008-09.
4. Studio, Chandigarh (addl. Studio)	Building plan finalized. Preliminary estimate for building works under process of sanction. Target date : 2008-09.
5. Studio, Panaji (addl. studio)	Building plan finalized. Preliminary estimate for building works sanctioned. Target date: 2008-09.
6. Studio, Jammu (addl. studio)	Building plan finalized. Preliminary estimate for building sanctioned. Target date: 2008-09.
7. Studio, Srinagar (aug.)	Building plan finalized. Preliminary estimate for building construction sanctioned. Target date: 2008-09.
8. Studio, Portblair (aug.)	Scheme recently approved. Financial sanction issued. Building plan under preparation. Target date: 2008-09.

Mass Media for Agricultural Extension

793. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of support of mass media for agricultural extension is being implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of agricultural fairs and exhibitions organized during the last year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

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

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) does not organize agriculture fairs and exhibitions, state-wise. However, a list of the agricultural fairs and exhibitions organized, either on its own or jointly with another organization, by the Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I**Brief Note on the Central Sector Scheme, 'Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension'**

(1) The Central Sector Scheme "Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension" has been launched during the Xth Plan Period with a view to strengthen the agricultural extension services in the country by using existing infrastructure of Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Doordarshan Programmes:—

(2) Under the scheme, half an hour of programmes are being telecast by 180 High Power Transmitters/Low Power Transmitters of Doordarshan, five days a week, with five transmitters, on an average, sharing the same programme.

(3) 30 minutes of regional agricultural programmes

five days a week, back to back with Krishi Darshan programme of Doordarshan, through the eighteen Regional Kendras of Doordarshan are also being broadcast. These programmes are repeated during the next day through respective Regional Satellite Channels of Doordarshan.

(4) Further, a 30 min. national agricultural programme, 6 days a week, is being telecast on DD National Channel in the morning.

All India Radio Programmes:—

(5) The Kisanvani programmes from 96 rural area FM Stations of All India Radio are being broadcast for half an hour duration daily, 6 days a week, with each station broadcasting a separate programme.

(6) List of Regional/Narrowcasting DD Kendras and FM Kisan Vani Stations is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Narrowcasting Station		Name of the FM Kisan Vani Stations
		Programme Production Centres	Narrow-Casting Transmitters	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada (N)	Vijayawada, Machhilipatam, Nellore, Ongole, Kavali	Tirupati
		Hyderabad (N and RK)	Amalapuram, Bhimavaram, Kakinada,, Tuni, Rajahmundry (HPT), Bhimadolu	Warangal Anantpur Kothagudam Kurnool Markapuram Nizamabad
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			Itanagar
3.	Assam	Dibrugarh (N)	Tinsukia, Margheretia, Jorhat, Sonari, Nazira, Dibrugarh	Jorhat

1	2	3	4	5
		Guwahati (RK)		Dhubri Haflong Nagaon
4. Bihar		Muzaffarpur (N) Patna	Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Saharsa, Mujaffarpur	Purnea Sasaram
5. Chhattisgarh		Raipur (N and RK)	Bilaspur, Champa, Sakti, Kobra, Dungargarh, Raipur	Bilaspur
		Jagdalpur (N)	Jagadalpur (HPT), Dantewada, Narayanpur, Konta, Kanker	Raigarh
6. Gujarat		Rajkot (N)	Junagadh, Dhoraji, Mangrol, Veraval, Bantva, Rajkot (HPT)	Godhra Surat
		Ahmedabad (RK)		
7. Haryana		Hissar (N)	Hissar, Charakhi Dadri, Mandi Dabwali, Sirsa, Karnal, Yamunanagar	Hissar Kurukshetra
8. Himachal Pradesh		Shimla (RK)		Dharmashala Hamirpur Kullu Kassauli
9. Jammu and Kashmir		Jammu (N)	Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri	Kathua
		Srinagar (RK)		Rajouri Bhadarwaha Poonch Jammu
10. Jharkhand		Daltonganj (N)	Lohardaga, Gumla, Daltonganj	Daltongunj
		Ranchi (N and RK)	Deoghar, Chaibasa, Koderma, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Godda	Chaibasa Hazaribagh

1	2	3	4	5
11. Karnataka	Gulburga (N)	Bidar, Basavakalyan, Indi, Raichur (HPT), Bijapur, Stand-by: Bagalkot		Mangalore
	Bangalore (N and RK)	Bellary, Hospet, Sindhunur, Sandur, Mundargi		Mysore Bijapur Hassan Hospet Chitradurga Raichur Karwar Mercara
12. Kerala	Trissur (N)	Palakkat, Thrissur, Shornur, Manjeri, Kalpatta, Idukki		Cochin
	Thiruvanthapuram (RK)			Idukki (Devikulam) Cannanore
13. Madhya Pradesh	Indore (N)	Ujjain, Khargone, Ratlam, Khandwa, Barwani		Balaghat Betul Chhindwada Guna
	Gwalior (N)	Bhind, Bhandar, Datia, Kelaras		Khandwa
	Bhopal (RK)			Sagar Shehdol Shivpuri
				Ahmednagar
14. Maharashtra	Nagpur (N)	Akola, Amravati, Khamgon, Akot, Achalpur/Paratwada		Akola
	Pune (N)	Pune, Karad, Kolhapur, Sangli, Mangaon		Chandrapur
	Mumbai (RK)			

1	2	3	4	5
				Dhule
				Kolhapur
				Nanded
				Nasik
				Satara
				Yeotmal
				Beed
				Osmanabad
15. Manipur	Imphal (N)	Imphal, Churchandpur (HPT), Ukhrul		
16. Meghalaya	Shillong (N)	Shillong, Jowai, Cherrapunjee, Nongstoin		Jowai
17. Mizoram	Aizwal (N)	Aizwal, Lawngtlal, Lunglei		Lunglei
18. Nagaland				Mokokchung
19. Orissa	Sambalpur (N)	Sambalpur, Bargarh, Redhakhot, Kuchinda, Sundergarh		Puri
	Bhubneswar (RK)			Rourkela
	Bhawani Patna (N)	Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Nabrangpur, Khariar, Jeypore, Nuapara		Bolangir Berhampure
20. Punjab	Jalandhar (N and RK)	Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Pathankot, Ferozpur, Bhatinda (HPT), Fazilka		Patiala Bhatinda
21. Rajasthan	Jaipur (RK)			Jaisalmer Alwar Banswara Chhittorgarh Churu Jhalawar Mount Abu

1	2	3	4	5
				Nagaur
				Sawai Madhopur
22.	Sikkim	Gangtok (N)	Gangtok	
23.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai (N and RK)	Coimbatore, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Palani, Erode, Yercaud	Nagarcoil
24.	Tripura	Agartala (N)	Agartala, Tellamura, Kailashahar, Amarpur, Jolaibari	Kailashahar Belonia
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi (N)	Obra, Akbarpur, Sultanpur, Varanasi	—
		Mau (N)	Mau, Mohammadbad, Ballia, Sikanderpur, Deoria, Akbarpur, Dudhinagar	Aligarh
		Allahabad (N)	Banda, Raibareli, Fatehpur, Gauriganj, Lalganj (Raibareli)	Jhansi
		Lucknow (RK)		Faizabad
		Bareilly (N)	Bareilly, Rampur, Pilibhit, Puranpur	Bareilly
		Gorakhpur (N)	Athdama, Naugarh, Basti, Faizabad, Balrampur	Obra
26.	Uttanchal	Dehradun (N)	Mussoorie, Kashipur, Nainital, Kotdwar, Pauri, Haldwani	Mussoorie
27.	West Bengal	Jalpaigudi (N)	Kurseong, Balurghat, Malda, Alipurduar, Coochbehar	Asansole
		Kolkata (RK)		Murshidabad
		Shanti Niketan (N)	Shantiniketan (HPT), Asansol (HPT), Berhampur (HPT), Burdwan, Kaina, Raina	Shantiniketan
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair (N)	Port Blair, Car Nicobar	Port Blair
29.	Daman and Diu			Daman
30.	Pondicherry			Karaikal

(N=Narrowcasting Station; RK=Regional Kendra)

Statement-II

List of Exhibitions/Fairs Organized, Either on its Own or Jointly with Another Organization, by Directorate of Extension, DAC During 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of Exhibition/Fair	Dates
1.	Kisan Mela at Motihari (Bihar)	11-13th April, 2005
2.	Agricultural Exhibition organised by Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani (Maharashtra)	18-24th May, 2005
3.	Southern Region Agriculture Fair at Combatore (Tamil Nadu)	11-16th August, 2005
4.	Agriculture Pavilion in India International Trade Fair 2005, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi	14-27th November, 2005
5.	Kisan Mela at Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)	30th Jan. to 1st Feb., 2006
6.	Eastern Region Agriculture Fair, Nadia (West Bengal)	30th Jan.-2nd Feb., 2006
7.	Western Region Agriculture Fair, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)	14-17th Feb., 2006
8.	Krishi Expo 2006, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi	8-12th March, 2006
9.	Northern Region Agriculture Fair, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)	11-13th March, 2006
10.	North-East Agriculture Expo, 2006, Dimapur (Nagaland)	27-31st March, 2006

Research Work Under ICAR

794. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether research centres under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have conducted any research to increase the productivity and quality of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which the farmers have been 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) and (b) The Research Institutes/Directorates under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research alongwith the All India Coordinated Research Improvement Projects (Wheat and Rice) are engaged in research programmes to increase the productivity and quality of wheat and rice. These programmes include developing suitable high yielding varieties and hybrids for different production conditions. During the last three years, a number of varieties of wheat and rice have been developed for high yield and also for quality. Some of these specially for quality are: Rice (Pusa Sugandh 2, Pusa Sugandh 3, Pusa Sugandh 5, Suruchi (Hybrid), Pusa 1121, Sugandhmati, Vasumati, Yamini, Pant Sugandh Dhan 15, Pant Sugandh Dhan 17 and others,

For Wheat superior varieties have been identified for different wheat products like chapati: (C 306, Raj 3765, PBW 226, UP 262, NW 1014, LOK 1, Sujata HI 1500, HD

2833 etc.), Bread: (HD 2733, PBW 396, NI 5439 etc.), Pasta: (PDW 233, WH 896, HI 8498, MACS 2846 etc.).

Efforts have also been made to reduce cost of cultivation through resource conservation technologies, Zero tillage produces similar or higher wheat yield compared to conventional tillage at reduced cost. Bed planting is resource conservation technology which saves 20-30% water and around 25% seed and nitrogenous fertilizers.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is mandated to produce the breeder seed as per the indent of Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India. These indents have not only been fully met but in several cases higher quantity of breeder seed has been produced. During the period 2002 to 2004, a total of 34828.78 quintals of breeder seed of wheat was produced while in case of paddy 5855.79 quintals of breeder seed was produced. These breeder seeds in turn are meant to produce the foundation and certified seeds for use by farmers.

[English]

Second Phase of Sabrimala Project

795. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted by the Tiruvattamkur Devaswom Board seeking approval for the second phase of Sabrimala Master Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such proposal for diversion of forest land for Phase-II of Sabrimala Master Plan has been received from the State Government of Kerala in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) Does not arise.

Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka

796. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the likely time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in its 80th meeting held on 7th February, 2003 and found acceptable subject to certain observations. The Ministry of Environment and Forest cleared the project in May, 2005. The project has not been approved by the Planning Commission.

The Government of Karnataka has reported that the work of construction of dam including fixing of crest gates has been completed and canal works are at various stages of progress. Total expenditure incurred on project up to June 2006 is Rs. 626.1309 crore. The project is likely to be completed by 2009-10.

Pharma Companies

797. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow Pharma Companies data exclusivity in the manufacture of drugs;

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

(c) the repercussion for choosing this course in patenting medicines, pricing of drugs and research?

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) Matter regarding providing data protection to Pharma companies is being discussed by the Committee set up for the purpose. No decision has been taken so far.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part (a) above, does not arise.

Loss of Peas Crop in Himachal Pradesh

798. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has made a request to the Union Government for assistance regarding the loss of peas crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture has not received any specific proposal from Government of Himachal Pradesh seeking assistance for loss of Peas Crop. However, Drought Management Division of this Ministry has received, through Ministry of Home Affairs, a Memorandum from the State Government, seeking central assistance/relief to the tune of Rs. 190 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund in the wake of drought declared in respect of 20,118 villages in 12 districts of the State, which includes crop damage to Wheat, Barley, Pulses, Vegetables, Potato and Oilseeds.

(c) Government of India has constituted a Central Team to assess the crop damages and also the quantum of Central assistance required therefor. The report of the Central Team is expected shortly.

[Translation]

Purchase of Onion

799. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) regarding purchase of onions during the current year alongwith the actual quantum of onions purchased so far;

(b) whether delay in the purchase of onions caused due to delay in release of funds to NAFED by the Government has affected the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which assistance is likely to be granted to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No target has been fixed by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) for purchase of onion. During the current year 2006-07 NAFED has purchased a quantity of 6169 MT of onion valuing Rs. 229.389 lakhs upto 30-06-2006.

(b) to (d) There has been no delay in purchase of onion by NAFED and payment has been released to the farmers immediately.

Restructuring of Price Monitoring Cell

800. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the price monitoring cell failed to control the recent spurt in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to restructure the price monitoring cell in view of its failure to control the price rise;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be restructured?

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) and (e) Do not arise.

Mainnutrition due to Failure of PDS

801. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in deaths due to malnutrition on account of failure of Public Distribution System (PDS) in Maharashtra particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the reasons for the failure of PDS;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) 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) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that the PDS is functioning well in Maharashtra including in its tribal areas and there is no case of death due to malnutrition on account of failure of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Funds for Agricultural Extension Scheme

802. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has been providing funds to States for implementing Agricultural Extension Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any such scheme has been introduced in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the allocation of funds made for such Agricultural Extension Scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" aimed at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institution arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level to operationalize extension reforms was launched on 7th May, 2005 across the country. A total of 252 districts are to be covered under the scheme during 10th Plan.

(b) This scheme is under implementation in 11 districts of Rajasthan namely—Jaipur, Sikar, Alwar, Karauli, Tonk, Jhalawar, Sriganga Nagar, Jodhpur, Pali, Banswara and Bhilwara.

(c) The funds under the scheme are released to the States on the basis of State Extension Work Plan. The particulars of state-wise releases made during 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Release of funds under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme during 2005-06

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Release
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.00
2.	Bihar	176.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	125.00
4.	Goa	27.00
5.	Gujarat	116.00
6.	Haryana	123.00

1	2	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	122.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	104.00
9.	Jharkhand	163.00
10.	Karnataka	180.00
11.	Kerala	80.00
12.	Maharashtra	231.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	297.00
14.	Orissa	255.00
15.	Punjab	159.00
16.	Rajasthan	231.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	128.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	547.00
19.	Uttaranchal	149.00
20.	West Bengal	92.00
21.	Assam	160.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	73.00
23.	Manipur	59.00
24.	Nagaland	61.00
25.	Meghalaya	14.00
26.	Mizoram	49.50
27.	Tripura	22.00
28.	Sikkim	39.00
29.	Delhi	16.00
30.	Pondicherry	16.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35.00
32.	Lakshadweep	16.00
33.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	16.00

1	2	3
34.	Daman and Diu	16.00
Total		4120.50

Consumer Welfare Fund

803. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Consumer Welfare Fund" has been set up in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not setting up this kind of "Consumer Welfare Fund" in all the States, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government regarding proper utilization of Consumer Welfare Fund for the protection of the interest of consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Consumer Welfare Fund has been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Tripura.

(c) In the case of Tamil Nadu, State Consumer Welfare Fund has been set up and transfer of central share to the State Consumer Welfare Fund is in process. Regarding other States/UTs, no information has been received from them regarding crediting of their share to the fund.

(d) and (e) Model Guidelines on the pattern of Central Consumer Welfare Fund have been sent to the States/UTs to prepare their own guidelines.

Subsidy on Food/Irrigation

804. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money spent by the Government on Food subsidy and irrigation during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to invite PPP investment in agriculture; 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The quantum of food Subsidy released during the last three years is given as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)	
Year	Food subsidy Released
2003-04	25160.00
2004-05	25745.45
2005-06	23071.00

The irrigation subsidy compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) for the latest three years is given as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)	
Year	Imputed irrigation subsidy
2002-03	15012.00
2003-04	11142.00
2004-05	12990.00

(b) and (c) The details regarding major public private partnership investment in agriculture are given as under:—

Ministry of Agriculture has taken an initiative for setting up of state of art terminal market at eight important centers in the country under the public private partnership (PPP) model. Terminal markets are to operate on a Hub-and Spoke Format wherein the Terminal Market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centers (the spokes), conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. Under the PPP model, the private enterprise brings the capital and management, the State Government provides the regulatory clearance and the Central Government provide part of the equity capital in the project. The enterprise could be a consortium of entrepreneurs from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background. In the annual budget 2006-07, under the National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs. 150.00 crore has been earmarked for setting up of Terminal Markets in the country.

Under the scheme named 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' which aims at making extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable by way of new institution arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an agriculture technology management (ATMA) at district level, minimum 10% beneficiary oriented resources are to be utilized through the non-governmental sector which include private sector.

[Translation]

Decline in Number of Cow and Buffalo

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

(a) whether certain breeds of cattle are facing extinction and the number of Indian breeds of cows and buffaloes has declined;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Institute of Cattle Genetics has formulated any scheme for conservation of cattle;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the initiatives taken by the Government with participation of farmers to conserve the breeds of cattle under the scheme; and

(f) the names of breeds proposed to be covered under the 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) and (b) The Breed-wise livestock census was conducted for the first time in 2003. Therefore it is not possible to comments on changes in population of a particular indigenous breed of cattle and buffaloes. However, data on indigenous, crossbred cattle and buffalo population available from 1997 and 2003 livestock census showed overall decline in indigenous cattle and increase in crossbreds and buffalo population.

(c) to (f) No Sir. However, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has established a National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) at Karnal with the mandate to characterize and conserve animal genetic resources through Network and National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) in collaboration with State Agriculture Universities, State Departments of Animal Husbandry and NGOs. Various breeds of cattle taken up for conservation are given below:—

In-situ conservation	Tharparkar, Punganur
Ex-situ Conservation	Kangayam, Nagaori, Rathi, krishna, Valley, Ponwar, Kherigarh, Punganur.

[English]

Launching of Services Abroad by Music Channels

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

(a) whether music channels have been launched abroad by public and private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan have not launched any music channel abroad. Regarding the private sector, this Ministry does not maintain such details.

(b) Does not arise.

Procurement of Foodgrains

807. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the production and procurement of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year, item-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): Production and procurement of foodgrains during last three years and the current year are indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

A. Production of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Crop Year	Wheat	Rice	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2002-03	657.6	718.2	70.1	47.2	111.5	13.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2003-04	721.5	885.3	66.8	121.1	149.8	19.7
2004-05	686.4	831.3	72.4	79.3	141.8	24.3
2005-06*	694.8	910.4	79.7	76.6	150.9	23.0

*4th Advance Estimates as on 15-07-06.

B. Procurement of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

RMS	Wheat	KMS	Rice	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi
2003-04	158.01	2002-03	164.22	0.53	Neg.	0.06	Neg.
2004-05	167.95	2003-04	228.28	0.48	2.46	3.57	—
2005-06	147.87	2004-05	246.84	0.12	1.35	6.31	0.49
2006-07#	92.26	2005-06*	273.62	0.67	0.05	10.08	0.63

Neg: Below 1000 tonnes.

*Position as on 26-07-06.

#Position as on 25-07-06.

[Translation]

Gas based Fertilizer Plants

808. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert existing fertilizer plants into gas based plants in order to reduce the cost of production of fertilizers; and

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

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) Recognizing the cost effectiveness, environment friendliness and efficiency of natural gas (NG) over naphtha, fuel oil (FO) and low sulphur heavy stock (LSHS), the Government has already

announced a policy for conversion of existing non-gas based units to NG/liquefied natural gas (LNG). Naphtha based units in the vicinity of HBJ pipeline have already started taking steps for conversion to NG/LNG depending upon the availability of gas and pipeline connectivity and other infrastructure.

[English]

Food Subsidy for States

809. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released as food subsidy to various States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether all the States have fully utilised the amount received; and

(c) if not, the names of those States which failed to fully utilise the subsidy alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Food subsidy is released directly to the States Under Decentralised Procurement (DCP) Scheme on the basis of quantities of foodgrains (rice and

wheat) distributed by the State Governments under the scheme for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes on applicable rate of subsidy.

A Statement showing the amount of food subsidy released to various States under DCP scheme for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) does not arise.

Statement

Amount of food subsidy released to the States during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Chhattisgarh	89.94	628.87	550.40
Madhya Pradesh	66.74	118.75	219.71
Orissa	Nil	40.96	70.79
Tamil Nadu	45.82	27.21	221.40
Uttaranchal	80.43	92.73	78.08
Uttar Pradesh	975.62	1377.96	1821.27
West Bengal	27.41	179.97	191.21
Karnataka	Nil	Nil	10.07
Kerala	Nil	Nil	32.07

Agricultural Research with Neighbouring Countries

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

(a) whether India has joined hands in agricultural research with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to make short term and long term programmes on research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve agricultural operations in the country with their collaboration?

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) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed Memorandum of Agreement/Agreements with Sri Lanka Council of Agricultural Research Policy (CARP), Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh and Pakistan Agricultural Research

Council (PARC), Pakistan. Also, an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation with Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Nepal has been signed by Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) The programme of research cooperation is implemented through Work Plans which include exchange of germplasm, joint research projects, short-term/long-term trainings and exchange visits of scientists. ICAR has signed a Work Plan with CARP, Sri Lanka for 2006-07 on 26th January, 2006. ICAR has also signed a Work Plan with Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Nepal for 2006-2007 on 7-2-2006 under the umbrella MoU signed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(e) The knowledge gained about the technologies in specific areas through the exchange visits is utilized in research programmes for developing improved agricultural technologies and the received germplasm of crops with specific traits, is utilized in the Indian crop improvement programmes.

Value Addition for Agricultural Products

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

(a) the efforts being made to ensure higher income to farmers through value addition of their produce; and

(b) the extent to which the success has been/proposed to be made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government is emphasizing on diversification of agriculture sector towards more high value crops and crops with potential for value addition such as horticultural crops with a view to enhance the income of the farmers. To this end, with effect from 2005-06, a National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been launched in the country with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of horticulture. The NHM, inter alia, aims at capacity building for production and supply of adequate quality planting material, increased coverage of crops under improved/high yielding cultivation, strengthening of infrastructure facilities, building a strong

base to enhance efficiency in adoption of technologies etc. An amount of Rs. 1000.00 crore has been provided during 2006-07 under NHM.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) helps in providing better income to the farmers through higher unit value realization and creating employment opportunities in rural areas by encouraging value added exports of farm produce. To achieve this objective, it addresses various problems and resolves constraints at different stages of entire supply chain to ensure competitiveness in the international market.

Due to various initiatives of the Government, 97503 hectares of additional area have been brought under different horticultural crops. An area of 5858 hectare has been covered under high value crops like medicinal and aromatic plants and flowers. Other achievements under NHM include establishment of 304 markets, 9 processing units, establishment of 420 nurseries and 3055 community water tanks and adoption of drip irrigation in 2121 hectares in the country.

Task Force on Agriculture

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

(a) whether a new Task Force on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry has been formed recently;

(b) if so, the composition and its terms of reference;

(c) whether any meeting of the Task Force has since been held;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether deliberations on formulating the first ever National Policy for farmers have been initiated; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No new "Task Force on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry" as such has been recently constituted.

However, the Government had set up in February, 2004 'National Commission on Farmers' to examine various issues confronting Indian farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairying and fisheries for doubling of farmers income. The Commission was reconstituted in November 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The composition and the Terms of Reference assigned to it are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) The Commission has had several meetings since its establishment to deliberate on different issues confronting Indian agriculture and allied sectors. The Commission has so far submitted four Reports to the Government, the last of which contains Draft National Policy for Farmers. The Commission is in the process of wider consultations and the views emerging on the Draft Policy will be incorporated in the Fifth and final Report of the Commission.

Statement

Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

Resolution

New Delhi, the 18th November, 2004

F.No. 8-2/2003-Policy (ES)—In partial modification of this Ministry's Resolution No. 8-2/2003-Policy (ES) dated 10th February, 2004 regarding setting up of National Commission on Farmers, the Government of India have decided to reconstitute the Commission with the following Terms of Reference and Composition.

- Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security over time.
- Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country based on an agro-ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.

- Bring about synergy between technology and public policy and recommend measures for enhancing income and employment potential in rural areas through diversification, application of appropriate technology including IT for information on market, weather, credit facilities and e-commerce, training and market reforms.
- Suggest measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and recommend for this purpose; methods of technological upgrading of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries (inland and marine), agro-forestry and agro-processing and associated marketing infrastructure.
- Suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri-research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers including small and marginal triggering agricultural growth led economic progress, which can lead to opportunities for a healthy and productive life to rural families.
- Formulate special programmes for dryland farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers in hilly and coastal areas in order to link the livelihood security of the farming communities living in such areas with the ecological security of such regions. Review in this context, all ongoing Technology Missions like those relating to pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton, watershed etc. and recommend methods of promoting horizontal integration of vertically structured programmes. Also suggest credit-linked insurance schemes which can protect resource poor farm families from unbearable risks. Further, suggest methods of strengthening and streamlining the National Horticulture Development Board.
- Suggest measures for enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive through providing necessary facilities and application of frontier sciences and promote quality literacy for codex alimentarius standard,

sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures among farmers through reorienting and retooling extension machinery. Also suggest methods of providing adequate protection to farmers from imports when international prices fall sharply.

- Recommend measures for the credit, knowledge, skill, technological and marketing empowerment of women, taking into consideration the increasing feminization of agriculture and the proposed conferment of right to land ownership.
- Suggest methods of empowering male and female members of elected local bodies to discharge effectively their role in conserving and improving the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture like land, water, agrobiodiversity and the atmosphere with priority attention to irrigation water.
- Consider any other issue, which is relevant to the above or is specially referred to the Commission by Government.

Composition

2. The composition of the Reconstituted Commission will be as under:—

Chairman

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan (In the rank of Union Cabinet Minister)

Full-time Members

Dr. Ram Badan Singh} in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India

Shri Y.C. Nanda} in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India

Part-time Members

Dr. R.L. Pitale

Shri Jagdish Pradhan, Naupada

Ms. Chanda Nimbkar

Shri Atul Kumar Anjan

(These Members would be in the honorary capacity and would not draw any salary).

Member Secretary

Shri Atul Sinha In the rank of Secretary to
IAS (Retd.) Government of India

3. Prof. Swaminathan would work entirely in an honorary capacity and without any financial compensation. He would remain in Chennai but would visit Delhi (NCF Headquarters) for a week to ten days at a time to complete the work on hand and shall be reimbursed for his travel and accommodation expenses as per his entitlement.

4. The Commission will submit a medium term policy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security overtime within the next three months and will submit its recommendations on other terms of reference as soon as practicable and in any case on or before 13-10-2006. The Commission may submit interim report(s) on any of the terms of reference, it may deem fit or expected of it.

5. Other terms and conditions notified in the Resolution dated 10-2-2004 would remain unaltered.

6. The Government of Indian Trust that the State Governments/administrations of Union Territories will extend to the Commission their fullest cooperation and assistance.

K.D. Sinha, Jt. Secy.

Amendment of Environment Act

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from the Government of Gujarat alongwith resolutions of Gujarat Legislative Assembly and other State Governments to make amendment in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and related laws for use of loudspeakers without any restriction of time limit during the religious and cultural festivals; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble

Supreme Court in the matter of Writ Petition No. 72 of 1998 regarding noise pollution—implementation of laws for restricting use of loudspeaker and high volume producing system dated 18th July, 2005, some representations were received from State Governments including from the Government of Gujarat alongwith the Motion passed on 14th September, 2005 by Gujarat Legislature. Ministry had issued Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 on 14th February, 2000 with subsequent amendment on 11th October, 2002 empowering State Government(s) to permit use of loudspeaker or public address system during night hours (between 10.00 P.M. to 12.00 mid night) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasions of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year.

Looking at the diversity of cultures and religious in India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its subsequent order has observed that a limited power of exemption from the operation of the Rules granted by the Central Government in exercise of its statutory power cannot be held unreasonable and the power to grant exemption is conferred on the State Government. The Hon'ble Court, further, has observed that the State Governments should notify in advance the number and particulars of the days on which such exemptions would be operative.

Constitution of GoM to Review Water Projects

814. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALROA PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoMs) to review the Ministry's proposal to relax norms under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for speedier completion of water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any difference among the various Departments and Ministries to relax norms under AIBP;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to include

extension, renovation and modernization of minor irrigation projects in the plan;

(e) whether the comments of the State Governments have been sought therefor;

(f) if so, the views of the States in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to complete ongoing/sanctioned projects within the schedule time/ revised schedule time?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted on 14th July, 2006.

(c) The views of various departments and Ministries received are being presented to the Group of Ministers for consideration.

(d) Extension, Renovation and Modernization of minor irrigation projects have not been included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

(e) and (f) Views expressed in the meeting of the State Irrigation Ministers in November, 2005 and Secretaries of State Irrigation Departments in October, 2005 on relaxation of norms of AIBP have been taken into consideration for finalization of further relaxation of AIBP criteria.

(g) AIBP has been conceptualized to assist the State to complete ongoing irrigation projects at the earliest. The norms of AIBP are revised from time to time and further relaxation of norms would be considered by the GoM.

Ban on Export of Sugar

815. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of sugar made by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has banned export of sugar during the coming months;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the loss of foreign exchange likely to be incurred;

(d) the extent to which it would help to contain the prices;

(e) whether this ban is not applicable to preferential quota sugar export to European Union and United States; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Central Government does not undertake any export of sugar.

(b) to (d) The Government has prohibited export of sugar till the end of current financial year, that is, upto 31-03-2007, vide notification dated 4th July, 2006 as part of the steps taken to arrest increase in the prices of essential commodities. Since the quantity to be exported depends upon a number of factors like international demand, supply and price situation, it is difficult to estimate the loss of foreign exchange.

(e) and (f) The prohibition was not made applicable to preferential quota supply to EU and USA which is controlled by quantitative ceiling notified by the Government from time to time.

[*Translaion*]

Export of Iron Ore

816. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into an agreement with Japan and Korea for export of iron-ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the period and the quantum of iron-ore to be exported to these countries;

(c) whether there are sufficient deposits in the country to meet the export targets/obligation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. MMTC and NMDC have entered into long term agreements with Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea (POSCO) for export of iron ore.

(b) The long term agreements with JSMs and POSCO have been entered into for a period of five years effective from 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2011. The quantity finalised with Japan and Korea against the long term agreements is as follows:—

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Buyer	Range	
	From	To
JSMs	3.47	6.75
POSCO	0.80	1.60
Total	4.27	8.35

(Source: MMTC)

(c) and (d) India's total iron ore reserves as per United Nations Framework Classification (now adopted by Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur) in quantitative terms as on 1-4-2000 is as under:—

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Haematite	11,426
Magnetite	10,682
Total	22,108

(Source: Indian Mineral Yearbook, 2004 published by IBM, Nagpur)

As per National Steel Policy, a judicious balance would continue to be maintained between exports and domestic supply of iron ore. As investments are made into beneficiation, sintering and pelletization in India, export of iron ore is likely to decline.

*[English]***Modification for CRZ**

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

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to modify the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) as per the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee;

(b) if so, the recommendation accepted by the Government;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider the apprehension and discontent of the fishermen in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Drainage Development Schemes

818. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of Drainage Development Schemes in the NER identified for inclusion in the Master Plan prepared by the Brahmaputra Board;

(b) the names of schemes whose DPRs have been prepared;

(c) the status of each of the above schemes, as-on-date; and

(d) the time by which all the schemes are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) In the Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board for the rivers of the North Eastern Region, 34 Drainage congested areas have been identified, names of which are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The names of the eleven schemes in

respect of which the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been prepared by Brahmaputra Board, are Harang, Borbhag, East of Barpeta, Jakaichuk, Joysagar, Jengrai, Kailashahar, Singla, Amjur, Demow and Rudrasagar. Out of these, Brahmaputra Board has taken up execution of nine schemes, namely Harang, Borbhag, East of Barpeta, Jakaichuk, Joyasagar, Jengrai, Kailashahar, Singla, Amjur.

(d) The approved Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board are sent to the State Government for necessary action and implementation. However, Brahmaputra Board has taken up nine Drainage Development Schemes approved for X plan; out of these, the Harang Drainage Development scheme is likely to be completed within the X plan period by March, 2007 and projection of a time frame for completion of remaining eight schemes is not possible in view of closing of the X Plan period.

Statement*List of Identified Drainage Congested Areas in the Master Plans Prepared by Brahmaputra Board*

Sl. No.	Identified Drainage Congested Areas
1	2
1.	Harang
2.	Borbhag
3.	East of Barpeta
4.	Jakaichuk
5.	Joysagar
6.	Jengrai
7.	Kailashahar
8.	Singla
9.	Amjur
10.	Demow
11.	Rudrasagar

1	2
12.	Dharmanagar
13.	West of Barpeta
14.	Moradikrong
15.	Badri
16.	Sessa
17.	Sonai
18.	Konwarpur
19.	Larsing
20.	Larua-Jaamira-Sessa
21.	Punir
22.	Bherekibill
23.	Ghiladhari
24.	Gelabill
25.	Morapichalamukh
26.	Pakania
27.	Namdang
28.	Sukhsagar
29.	Sisapathar
30.	Tingrai
31.	Pola
32.	Ghagra
33.	Rongsai
34.	Deroi

**Offer for Supply of Wheat from
Uttar Pradesh**

819. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has offered to supply wheat to Food Corporation of India (FCI) at market price;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions for the supply;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether similar proposal has been received from other States also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that it has not sent any proposal regarding supply of wheat to Food Corporation of India (FCI) at market price.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Hallmark Certification

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

(a) whether the Hallmark Certification is proposed to be enforced for all Jewellery items throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the procedure for such certification process and licence fee etc.;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the consumers;

(d) whether this value addition is likely to boost the price of Gold in the market; and

(e) if so, the remedial action proposed/taken for pegging down the Gold Price?

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

(b) Hallmarking certification is proposed to be enforced on a mandatory basis in order to ensure that the gold jewellery items meet the declared purity and thereby provide the necessary protection to the consumer and also to make Indian gold jewellery competitive in the domestic as well as in the international markets.

The certification of Gold Jewellery through Hallmarking Scheme is done in accordance with IS 1417 which is in line with ISO 9202 and relevant scheme for certification.

The licence fee for Hallmarking of gold jewellery for three years is Rs. 25,000 in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, Rs. 20,000 in District Headquarters and Rs. 10,000 in other areas.

(c) Consumers get third party assurance about purity of the hallmarked gold jewellery.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Fishing Harbour at Jakhau

821. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive report on the escalation of cost of construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau and a revised estimate were sent to the Union Government for the development of the project in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Union Government in May 1993 accorded approval for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau at a cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakhs under the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme with 100 per cent 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 in February 2005 approached the Union Government for reconsideration of the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) with cost escalation from Rs. 1143.60 lakhs to Rs. 2455 lakhs. After scrutiny of the RCE proposal in the light of the provisions of 10th Plan Scheme, the Government of Gujarat has been requested in April 2005 to submit a comprehensive proposal addressing relevant Techno-Economic aspects. The Government of Gujarat had in May, 2005 forwarded cost estimated with further escalation of project cost to Rs. 5291 lakhs and not the comprehensive proposal as requested by the Government of India. The Government of Gujarat has reported in May 2006 that preparation of revised proposal as requested by Government of India is progressing in the State Government. The State has been requested to expedite submission of the Comprehensive proposal.

FM Radio Station In Kerala

822. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in implementation of FM Radio stations in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government has identified the areas where FM Radio stations are proposed to be set up in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal for setting up of FM stations at Manjerri and Malappuram; and

(e) if so, the time by which they are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The existing FM coverage in the State of Kerala is 41.57% by area and 45.85% by population (against the national average of 23.86% by area and 35.08% by population). Three FM transmitters are proposed to be set up during 10th Plan in Kerala at Konni (5 kW FM Tr.),

Trivandrum (10 kW FM Tr.) and Cochin (10 kW FM Tr.). Further, Letters of Intent have been issued to private companies to set up 13 FM Radio channels in Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram, Kozikode, Cochin and Thrissur.

(d) and (e) A 3 kW FM transmitter at Manjerry has been commissioned w.e.f. 28-01-2006 (single shift). However, there is no proposal in the 10th Plan to set up FM Station at Malappuram as it is covered by Manjerry FM Station. No private FM radio channel is planned to be established at Manjerry and Malappuram.

[Translation]

**Pomegranate Crop Affected In
Maharashtra**

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

(a) whether pomegranate crop has been adversely affected by drought in Maharashtra particularly in Solapur District;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide assistance to the affected 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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

**Certification of Films under
Cinematography Act, 1952**

824. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by Information and Broadcasting Secretary has submitted amended draft rules for certifications of films under Cinematography Act, 1952; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. No Committee has been set up to amend rules under Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is for the purpose of revising the programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(b) Does not arise.

Conservation of Fowls

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

(a) whether the rare pure Red Jungle Fowl (RJF) is facing threat of extinction;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to undertake or has undertaken any conservation plan to save its further extinction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) There are no reports of the Red Jungle Fowl facing threat of extinction. Red Jungle Fowl has been kept in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing full protection against hunting etc. The Government of India has established a Red Jungle Fowl breeding center in the National Zoological Park, New Delhi. Further, a decision for conservation of Red Jungle Fowls in their natural habitats was also taken during the third meeting of the National Board for Wildlife held on 19th June 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Minimum Wages

826. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

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

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring more parity in wages of unorganized labour;

(b) whether the minimum wages act modified recently has been implemented in letter and spirit; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to make the act effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in respect of their scheduled employments. Regional Committees have been constituted to deliberate, inter alia, on the issue of bringing about a parity in minimum wages. Besides, the Central Government has mooted the concept of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage which stands at Rs. 66 per day w.e.f. 01-02-2004. All the State Governments are persuaded to fix minimum wages at rates not below the level of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage.

(b) and (c) No amendment in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has taken place recently. However, the existing provisions of the Act take care of its effective implementation.

Production Cost of Iron Ore/Limestone

827. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production cost per tonne for iron ore and limestone produced by the different mines under Raw Material Division (RMD) of Steel Authority of Indian Limited (SAIL);

(b) whether there is a difference of production cost in mines under RMD of SAIL;

(c) if so, the reasons for this difference of production cost; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The cost of production

is commercially sensitive information and its disclosure may not be in the commercial interests of the organization. Steel companies of other countries as well as domestic companies, which are having mines do not usually disclose their cost of production.

(b) Yes Sir, the cost of production varies from mine to mine.

(c) There are various reasons for difference in inter-se cost of production in mines, some of the major reasons are:—

(i) Level of Operations,

(ii) Level of Mechanisation and Automation in the mines,

(iii) Quantity of product excavated vis-a-vis desired quality, as lower quality of ore requires further processing and beneficiation.

(iv) Location of excavation site to other allied units such as crushing plant, beneficiation unit and loading units etc.

(d) In the corporate plan of SAIL, and investment plan for development of new mine as well as for augmenting the production facilities from the existing mines has been drawn out at an estimated expenditure of approximately Rs. 2200 crores. This will help in improving the operating efficiency of mines.

[Translation]

Loss Due to Hailstorm and Heavy Rains

828. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loss of crops due to hailstorm and heavy rain State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of crop destroyed in the States particularly Rajasthan and Maharashtra, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to compensate 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) and (b) Madhya Pradesh reported damage to cropped area in 2.63 lakh hectares due to untimely rains and hailstorm in March, 2006 in 44 districts and Rajasthan reported crop loss in 36531.20 hectares of rabi crop due to hailstorm and heavy rains which occurred during February-March, 2006 in 17 districts of the State. Information relating to Maharashtra is being collected. In the recent past, no other State has reported any loss due to hailstorm.

(c) In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Central assistance in this regard, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC) and the HLC approved the following:

(i) Release of Rs. 87.56 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of the balance in Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State for the instant calamity; and

(ii) Release of 0.45 lakh MTs of foodgrains (0.25 lakh MTs of wheat + 0.20 lakh MTs of rice) under the special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for relief employment in the hailstorm affected districts. In case of non-availability of foodgrains (wheat) under SGRY, the HLC approved release of Rs. 10 crore in cash in lieu of the said quantity of foodgrains (wheat).

The assistance approved for Madhya Pradesh included assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% above.

No other State including Rajasthan and Maharashtra submitted any Memorandum seeking assistance from NCCF, etc. in the wake of hailstorm. However, as per the prevailing norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds for damage to crops due to natural calamities, assistance towards input subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers for crop loss of 50% and above @ Rs. 1000 per hectare for rainfed areas, Rs. 2500 per hectare for areas with assured irrigation and Rs. 4000 per hectare for perennial crops. Assistance for input subsidy

is also admissible at the above rates to farmers other than small and marginal farmers in case of severe calamity occurring for second consecutive year (or subsequent year) and subject to the condition that the subsidy will be payable at appropriate rate per hectare upto 2 hectares only, irrespective of the size of holding.

Compensation for damage to crops is admissible under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for crop losses suffered on account of natural calamities.

[English]

Cultivation of Pulses

829. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being implemented for increasing area for cultivation of pulses in the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the project for 2006-07 and the manner in which it is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) With a view to increasing area, production and productivity of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 major pulses growing States including the State of Karnataka. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/ phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow pulses. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are being organized through State

Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

The details of State-wise area coverage, production and productivity achievements under pulses during last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Government of India has made an allocation of Rs. 270 crore for 2006-07 for development of oilseeds,

pulses, oil palm and maize under ISOPOM. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States and other agencies like Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Seeds Corporation (NSC), State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) etc. to implement the crop developmental programmes. The allocated fund is to be spent on the programmes as per approved annual action plans of the States.

Statement

State-wise area coverage, production and yield achievements during last three years 2003-04 to 2005-06

State/UT	Area ('000 hectare)			Production ('000 tonnes)			Yield (Kg./Hectare)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Andhra Pradesh	2185.0	1803.8	1782	1239.0	1019.0	1377	567	565	773
Bihar	691.3	657.9	655	562.6	466.9	482	814	710	736
Chhattisgarh	955.1	932.2	944	580.7	367.8	452	608	395	479
Gujarat	832.6	710.2	807	622.4	479.3	580	748	675	719
Haryana	199.0	184.2	206	143.1	146.0	128	719	793	621
Karnataka	1874.3	2106.0	1922	569.2	792.0	869	304	376	452
Madhya Pradesh	4585.4	4519.7	4279	3488.0	3429.2	3230	761	759	755
Maharashtra	3446.1	3384.0	3390	1960.0	1664.0	1802	569	492	532
Orissa	714.8	642.5	724	272.7	249.6	297	382	388	410
Punjab	47.9	39.6	35	39.4	31.7	27	823	801	771
Rajasthan	3860.9	3571.1	3409	2278.4	1337.4	844	590	375	248
Tamil Nadu	537.0	599.3	705	200.8	245.6	278	374	410	394
Uttar Pradesh	2698.4	2803.7	2742	2400.3	2375.0	2206	890	847	805
West Bengal	251.9	225.7	272	211.7	167.1	204	840	740	750
Others	578.4	583.9	559	336.9	358.9	336	582.4	614.6	601
All India	23458.1	22763.0	22431	14905.2	13129.5	13112	635	577	585

*IVth Advance Estimates (Provisional)

Funds for Protection of Cranes

830. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one-third of the crane population of the country resides in the wetlands of Etawah and Mainpuri districts of the Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up for protection of cranes; and

(c) if so, the way in which this Committee proposes to utilize the funds allocated for protection of cranes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information available, up to 2500 to 3000 sarus crane population of the estimated 10,000 population in the country are reported from the wetlands of *Etawah* and *mainpuri* Districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A society named *Sarus Sanrakshan Samiti* (Sarus Protection Society) has been formed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for protection of cranes.

(c) *Sarus Sanrakshan Samiti* plans to utilize the funds for activities as per objectives laid down in the Memorandum of Association of the Samiti and as per the Rules laid down in the Memorandum of Association of the Samiti. These activities include studying the ecology of Sarus crane, their relationship with the wetlands, their threat status and preparation of an Action Plan with the involvement of multiple stakeholders including local communities.

Cut in Food Subsidy

831. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to effect a cut in food subsidy to carry forward the process of reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Diversification of Agro Products

832. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States for which the proposals for providing financial assistance for diversification of agro-products are under consideration of the Government as on date; and

(b) the present status of the proposals, 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) No proposal for providing financial assistance for diversification of agro-products are under consideration in the Ministry of Agriculture as on date no such proposal has been received from any State. However, the Government is advising the States to promote diversification from cereal centric cropping systems to high value and low water demanding crops especially oilseeds, pulses, medicinal and aromatic plants, horticulture, floriculture, etc. while keeping in view the national food security. Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under operation in major oilseeds and pulse growing States for the promotion of oilseeds and pulses. National Horticulture Mission has been launched in 2005-06 in different States to promote horticultural crops in the country.

[English]

PACT with ICRISAT for Dry Land

833. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed a three year research agreement with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for farm research in dry land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pact with the ICRISAT will benefit dry land farmers by improving productivity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an Agreement on 25-5-2006 for ICAR-ICRISAT Partnership research projects (2006-2008). The agreement covers a number of partnership projects. The broad thematic area of these projects are : Genetic resources conservation, evaluation and utilization, enhancing crop productivity and sustainability under both favourable and dry land stress environments, Improving system productivity and livelihood for fragile and dry environment including socio-economic and policy options, and Strengthening linkage between research and development including training.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ICAR-ICRISAT partnership projects aims for: Development, evaluation of new and diverse parental lines with build in resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses in sorghum, pearl millet and pigeonpea. Efforts will also be made for development of high yielding varieties of chickpea and groundnut with a special focus for drought tolerance disease/insect resistance traits. The exchange of breeding materials, germplasms and production of nucleus/breeder seed of improved legumes will also be taken up. For improving, the livelihood in the rain fed areas participatory approach in integrated watershed management will be taken up for increasing the productivity. The products and

the technology generated with these partnership projects will facilitate enhancing the production and productivity of dry land areas.

Captive Iron Ore Mines

834. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel plants in the country have captive iron ore mines;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot captive mines to private sector steel companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Steel Authority of Indian Ltd. (SAIL), a PSU under the Ministry of Steel, is operating nine iron ore mines in the States of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand. These mines meet the requirement of SAIL's steel plants located at Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro, Rourkela and Burnpur. The mines in Jharkhand and Orissa meet the requirement of SAIL's steel plants in eastern sector. The mines in Chhattisgarh meet the requirement of Bhilai Steel Plant. The details of these mines are as under:—

Sl.No.	States	Mines
1.	Chhattisgarh	Rajhara Group of Mines
		Dalli Group of Mines
2.	Jharkhand	Kiriburu
		Meghataburu
		Gua
3.	Orissa	Chiria (Manoharpur)
		Barsua
		Kalta
		Bolani

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), another steel making PSU under the Ministry of Steel does not have any captive iron ore mines.

The Ministry of Steel does not monitor data with regard to captive iron ore mines of private sector steel plants.

(c) and (d) Once a captive mine is allotted to a steel producing company for a fixed tenure, it cannot be allotted to another company for the duration of this tenure.

[Translation]

Production of Basmati Rice

835. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country are being encouraged to increase production of Basmati Rice in view of its increasing demand abroad; and

(b) if so, the efforts made/being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereals Development Programme in rice based cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture to increase rice production in the country including that of Basmati rice.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

836. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of deep sea fishing vessels available at present and proposed to be available during 2006-2007;

(b) the facilities provided to the fishermen involved in fishing in deep sea;

(c) whether the Government has given permission to any company for deep fishing from Indian sea;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made any study regarding the far-reaching consequences of deep fishing in Indian sea; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There are 129 deep-sea fishing vessels available at present. An additional 596 vessels can be permitted under different resource specific categories.

(b) Coast Guard is having its presence in the EEZ for rendering every assistance out at sea. Further the deep-sea fishing vessels are permitted to receive bunkers at mid sea and to make mid sea transshipment of catches. Further a specified percentage of trained foreign crew is allowed in the initial years.

(c) and (d) Government has given letter of indent/letter of permission to 25 Indian companies so far for fishing in Indian EEZ as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) Government has been revalidating the fishable potential of our seas through an expert committee. As per the latest assessment the fishable potential stands at 3.93 million tonnes as against the current production of 2.94 million tonnes (2004). It is estimated that the major portion of additional production has to come from deep-sea sector.

Statement

List of LOPs issued to Indian companies for fishing in Indian EEZ

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Company	Date of issue of LOP	Name of Vessel	Type and No.				Remarks
				MW/PT	TLL	PS	H and L Vessel	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	N.G. Marine (P) Ltd., Flat No. 11, 1st Floor, Classic Complex, Prakashraopeta, Visakhapatnam-530 020.	4-6-02	HAI FA No. 62 (HO FU MEI No. 6) CHANG LAI No. 16		2 TLL*			2 LOP surrendered in 1-12-05
2.	Fishman Sea Foods (P) Ltd., 6210, B-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070.	17-2-03	Ocean No. 1	1 MW/PT**				1 LOP surrendered in 27-9-04
3.	Monarch Marine (P) Ltd., C-111, Golf View Apartment, Saket, New Delhi-110 017.	17-1-03	SANTAN 225 SANTAN 226 SANTAN 235	3MW/PT**				3 LOPs surrendered on 19-11-03
4.	Vijeta Marine (P) Ltd., F-11, Classic Complex, Prakashraopeta, Visakhapatnam-530020	4-6-02	ANDA No. 747 HAIFA N. 21 CHAIN HANG No. 6 HSIEH CHAN No. 101		4TLL*			
5.	New Oriental Trawlers (P) Ltd., 1st Floor, 128, Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad-500 073.	31-7-02	Yuh Yow 101 Yuh Yow 127 Hwa Tsai 101		3TLL*			
6.	Fishman Marine (P) Ltd., 6210, B-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070.	17-1-03	Ixthus No. 7	1 MT/PT**				1 LOP surrendered on 27-09-04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Coastal Feed Products (P) Ltd., Door No. 15-1-37/3, Nowroji Road, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam-530 002.	4-6-02	HSING HUNG No. 6 HSING LUNG No. 31 TAI HSING No. 11 HSING LIEN No. 71		4TLL*			4 LOP surrendered on 21-12-05
8.	Prem Fin-cap (P) Ltd., J-1941, Chittaraanjan Park, New Delhi-110 019.	17-1-03	Bharti-1 Bharti-2 Bharti-3 Bharti-4	5 MW/PT**				
9.	Rishman Fisheries (P) Ltd., 6210, B-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070.	17-1-03	Golden Lake 808 Aurola 7 Blue Bird 509	3 MW/PT**				
10.	Priyansh Sea Foods (P) Ltd., Flat No. 11, 1st Floor, Classic Complex, Prakashraopeta, Visakhapatnam-530 020.	4-6-02	Kwang Harng Tai Fa Cheng		2 TLL*			2 LOP surrendered in Dec' 05
11.	Rishman Shipping Co. India (P) Ltd., 6210, B-9 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070	4-6-02	Tim No. 1 Hsing Yuan No. 202 Tai Ho Cheng No. 66 Chun Ying No. 636		4 TLL*			
12.	Siri Sea Foods (P) Ltd. 47-3-15, Dwarkanagar, Visakhapatnam-530 016.	31-7-03	Hung Jung No. 101 Hung HWA No. 202 Chien Chung No. 301 Chien Chung No. 307		4TLL*			
13.	Chandana Fisheries Pvt. Ltd. 15-1/37/3, Nowroji Road, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam-530 002.	14-10-03	MFV Jung Chun-1 Lain Jyi Chun No. 16		2 TLL			2 LOPs surrendered on 14-6-04

14. Akama Marines Ltd., Gr. Floor, Ocean Park, Aprtt., Beach Road, Maharani-peta Visakhapatnam-530 002.	5-12-03	Sahakij Kritsamut Bangbakong Sinhawokorn-1	5 TLL*
15. Aftable Fisheries Pvt. Ltd., P.O. Box No. 8016, Kantilal Mansion, V.M. Road, Ville Parle (W), Mumbai-400 058	11-12-03 16-3-04 27-8-04	India Star No. 1 India Star No. 2 India Star No. 3 Yeun Horng Sun Sheen (India Star No. 6) E. Pontico Neptune Lotus Apollo Pearl	7 TLL
16. Key Foods 7/411, Marakkadavu Cochin-682 002	15-9-04 24-11-04 26-7-04	E. Pontico Neptune Lotus Apollo Pearl Lu Ri Yu 1215 Lu Ri Yu 1216 Lu Ri Yu 1337 Lu Ri Yu 1338	3 TLL 4 MW/PT**
17. Avia Tuna Fishing Pvt. Ltd. 5th Floor, Sadarshan Building, 86, Chamiers Road, Chennai-600 018.	30-7-04	Dar Long Chand No. 2 Ching Chun Fa No. 168 Li Shang	3 TLL
18. Jeevan Sea Side India Pvt. Ltd. 9th Floor, Gee Gee Crystal, 91, Radhakrishanan Salai Mylapore, Chennai-600 004.	4-8-04	Chokedoungkhae-7/ Jeevan-1 Wanchaisamur-2/ Jeevan-II	2 Hook and Line
19. Atlanta Shipping Pvt. Ltd. D-147, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110 065.	10-8-04	MFT Anson MFT Anson 101 PFT Anson 601	3 TLL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Dove Marine Exports (P) Ltd. Plot No. 7, SBI Quarters, Sivajipalem, Pedawaltair, Visakhapatnam-530 017	17-9-04	Hung Chi No. 102 Hung Heng No. 121 Hung Shing No. 212 Hung Te No. 212		4 TLL			
21.	Lakshmi Prasuna Marine Ind. (P) Ltd. 47-3-15, 5th Lane, Dwarakanagar, Visakhapatnam-530 016	17-9-04	Hung Yu No. 202 Hung Chia No. 202 Hung Chin No. 212 Chien Chung No. 306		4 TLL			
22.	Skanda Marines Pvt. Ltd. 47/1, Sivaswamy Salai, 1st Street, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004	11-11-04	Win Far No. 161 Win Far No. 162 HWA Shan 212 HWA Chyang 232		4 TLL			Not willing to surrender Sessels and willing to operate them
23.	Crust Foods Pvt. Ltd. 15-1-37/2, Nowroji Road, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam-530 002.	24-11-04	Ying Ta Hsiang Ying Jui Hsiang Ying Jui Hsiang No. 3		3 TLL			3 LOP surrendered on 21-12-05
24.	Balaji Sea Foods Ltd., 15-1-37/2, Nowroji Road, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam-530 002.	24-11-04	Cheng Shing No. 6 Hai Shiang No. 18 Hai Shiang No. 63 Hai Shiang No. 81 Hai Shiang No. 89 Fu Sheng No. 92 Hai Shiang No. 96 Kuang Hsing No. 188 Kuang Shing No. 196 Hai Shiang No. 226		10 TLL			

25. Tisha Navigation Inc. 20-12-04 3 MW/PT

Door No. 39/2750-A1 'Lakshmy'
Ground Floor, Vishnu Vihar,
Warriom Road,
South Cochi-682 016

Gracija
Laguna
Zlatno More

(4 Cos surrendered LOPs) 20 71 2 2 10 LOPs
surrendered
5 MWPT+13 TLL

*TLL—Tuna Longliner

PS—Purse Seiner

**MW/PT—Mid-water/Pelagic Trawler

H and L—Hook and Line Vessel

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance for Mining

837. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with the Government for getting environmental clearance and renewal of lease for iron ore mining areas;

(b) the number of proposals out of it pertaining to public undertakings and foreign projects;

(c) whether in comparison to public undertakings, priority is given to foreign projects for granting environmental clearance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Eighty seven proposals relating to mining of iron ore are pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for grant of environmental clearance.

(b) Four proposals of Central/State Government public undertakings are pending for environmental clearance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Plan for Entry of Private Farm Produce Market

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

(a) whether the Government has evolved a plan for facilitating the entry of private farm produce markets to link the farmers directly with the consumer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agriculture sector needs well functioning markets to drive growth, employment and economic prosperity in rural areas of the country. Large investments are required for the development of post harvest and cold chain infrastructure nearer to the farmers' field. A major portion of this investment is expected from the private sector, for which an appropriate regulatory and policy environment is necessary. Alongside, enabling policies need to be put in place to encourage procurement of agricultural commodities directly from farmers' field and to establish effective linkage between the farm production and the retail chain and food processing industries. State Governments have accordingly been advised to promote competitive agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming programmes by amending the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Acts (APMC Act). The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a model law on agricultural marketing for guidance and adoption by the States.

All States have in general agreed to bring changes in the APMC Act accordingly. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Punjab, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have already amended their APMC Act and implemented the suggested reforms.

(c) The following steps have been taken to persuade the States to bring changes in the APMC Act on the lines of the Model Act:—

(i) National level meetings were organized with the State Governments at Delhi on 07-01-2004 and at Bangalore on 19-11-2004.

(ii) Follow up letter from Union Agriculture Minister sent to State Ministers In-charge of Agricultural Marketing for amending the APMC Act on 16th July, 2004 and again in February, 2005 and to the Chief Ministers on 25th May, 2005.

A new Central Sector Scheme to provide investment subsidy on market infrastructure development projects

implemented in November, 2004. Central assistance under the scheme is to be provided to those States that amend the APMC Act on the lines of the Model Act. An amount of Rs. 25 crore was also released to NABARD/NCDC to provide investment subsidy to eligible projects through banks in March, 2005.

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Report/Dr. Mashelkar
Report of Agriculture**

839. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN GINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committees headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. Mashelkar, set up in agriculture

Sector have submitted their report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations of both the Committees separately; and

(d) the implementation status of each of the recommendations?

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

(b) to (d) The details of the recommendations alongwith the implementation status of both the Committees separately are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Task Group on Revamping and Refocusing of National Agricultural Research

Dr. Swaminathan Committee

Recommendations in brief	Action taken
1	2
Setting up of National Board for Strategic Research in Agriculture (NBSRA).	Large Board with more than 25 members like NBSRA not found feasible. However, Government has approved a scheme "National Fund for Basic and Strategic Agricultural Research". an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.N.R. Rao has been constituted to approve projects under the National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research.
Set up National Participatory Research, Demonstration— and training centres in each of the major agro-eco-systems and design them on the lines of CSIR poly-clinic.	It has been decided that a lead institution (ICAR Institutes and SAU) in each agro-ecological zone will harness the technologies available with other sister departments. General training will be imparted by SAUs/KVKs.
Launch National Challenge Programme on Mission mode; climate change, coastal bio-shields, bio-fuels, new vaccine etc.	A network programme on impact of climate change on Indian Agriculture has been started. As far as vaccines are concerned, the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal was sanctioned Rs. 8.0 Crore in April, 2006 for developing a new vaccine for bird flu within 6-8

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—Develop code of conduct for private-public partnership

—Reserving 10% of budget for HRD and capacity building

—Authorizing Directors to approve foreign travels; engendering personnel policies

Integrated block grant, competitive grant and project funding strategy.

Setting up of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority

Setting up of New centres in areas like non farm employment, technological empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions to discharge their responsibilities.

Setting up of Central Quality Control Board for animal genomics, referral lab for quality assurance of animal semen, disease diagnostics and monitoring lab.

months. The HSADL, Bhopal has developed the vaccine within 4 months.

ICAR has already taken initiative for linkage with industry/private sector, extensive dialogue and interactions have been organised.

—Kept in focus while formulating XI Plan Proposal

—Powers already delegated to the Directors to sanction foreign deputations under approved projects with inbuilt financial provision.

—The service conditions of Women Scientists are regulated as per the Government of India rules.

—Competitive funding has been put in place under National Agricultural Innovation Project and National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research.

—Action has been started in consultation with Planning Commission to work out a strategy for project based funding. Meeting organised under the Chairmanship of Member (Science), Planning Commission.

Relates to Deptt. of Biotechnology.

Relates to Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

The issues like availability of superior germplasm, quality semen and embryos for the breed improvement programmes and low fertility rates in cattle and buffalo have already been addressed through implementation of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCCB).

—Action for establishment of Central Quality Control Board for Animal Genomics has been initiated by the Deptt. of AHD and Fy.

—As regards setting up of state level disease diagnostic monitoring laboratories, about 250 disease investigation laboratories in the state at district/regional/state level are already existing. Besides, each state has a state

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Revise the number of positions of DDGs and ADGs

Utilization of earnings through consultancies and sponsored research for strengthening research, education and Infrastructure.

Complete financial and administrative autonomy to PDs, NRCs Coordinated Projects enabling them to utilise sanctioned amount for the intended purpose.

—Set up National Virtual University at NAARM.

—Revising course modules by NAARM, Hyderabad.

—Senior level Courses in Capacity Building in Management.

epidemiological centre which gathers information on the disease status of the state and the information is sent to the Central Cell on monthly basis. In order to strengthen the state diagnostic laboratories there is a provision under Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Assistance to States for the Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)"—wherein grant in aid is provided on 75:25 basis.

—For providing referral services, 5 Regional disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDLs) have been set up—one each in Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and North Eastern Region, funded by the Government of India.

Rationalisation is an ongoing process. 7 posts of ADGs have already been redeployed from headquarters to the field.

—System already in place.

Considerable financial and administrative powers already delegated.

—Scope and mandate of NAARM enlarged to cover training and capacity building of Scientists working at various level in ICAR and SAUs.

—Summer and winter training courses are arranged to encourage ARS Scientists who participate in specialized training of short/long duration specific to the institutes.

—The curriculum of NAARM foundation course follows dynamic approach by incorporating emerging research management issues from time to time. Curriculum upgradation has been done on the basis of recommendations of many National level Committee appointed by the ICAR for the purpose and also on the basis of observations of the Research Advisory Committee on NAARM, Hyderabad.

—NAARM also organises interactive policy dialogue periodically in emerging areas relevant to its mandate and

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Increase investment in agricultural research

—Sensitizing Agricultural Research in the Emerging Global Trade Scenario.

—Set up a National Institute for enhancing competitiveness in Home and External trade.

—Impart trade, quality and patent literacy

—Indian Common Market, Digital gateway for trade in upcoming areas.

—Restoring original objectives and structure of ARS.

—Introducing genius awards, quick hire system

—Create 50 positions of National Professor and 100 Positions of National Fellows in areas of frontier science.

Developing global centre of excellence-Declaring IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE and CFTRI (under CSIR) as Institute of National importance like IIT and set up National Council for Global Leadership for policy oversight to these centres.

National Institute to be declared as Institutes of National Importance by an Act of Parliament.

Special ARS cadre for NE region

also bring out policy document on Training Policy, Project Based Budgeting, ICTs for Agricultural and Rural Development, Commercialization of Agricultural Technology etc.

—Collaborative programmes with prominent organisations like IGNOU, MANAGE and other such organisations have been initiated.

Research proposals in upcoming areas like seed, transgenics, micro-organisms approved. A National Agricultural Innovative project has been launched on 26-7-2006. A National fund for basic and strategic research has been set up to undertake research in emerging areas in all aspects of Agriculture.

(i) Draft IPR guidelines put on the website of the ICAR for comments...

Provision similar to 'Quick Hire Scheme' of CSIR already exists in the Agricultural Research Service Rules.

—National Professor Scheme recently rationalized.

Separating these Institutes from mainstream would have problems of coordination and interaction and would mean depletion of total scientific strength by 1247 Scientists (about 20%). Requisite administrative and financial powers already stand delegated to the Directors of these institutes.

—Creating isolated cadre in NEH region would distort the All India character of ARS.

1	2
<p>Re-orienting th KVKs as Krishi and Udyog Vigyan Kendras</p> <p>—Alternative modalities for integrating research and extension at State level</p> <p>—Set up a National Council of innovative farmers for continuous feed back/guidance.</p> <p>—Appointment of technically qualified farm science advisors in Indian Embassy.</p> <p>—Set up National S and T alliance for technological backstopping of the National Food for work and Rural Employment Guarantee Programme</p> <p>—Form S and T consortia for each of 150 districts under the National Food for work Programme.</p>	<p>—Aspects of agro based industries already covered in the mandate of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Changing their name will deflect their focus from agriculture.</p> <p>—Comes under the purview of development departments of the states.</p> <p>The award system implemented by the Council already recognizes the innovative farmers.</p> <p>—Pertains to Ministry of External Affairs.</p> <p>Relates to Ministry of Rural Development.</p>

Statement-II

Report of the ICAR Re-Organisation Committee

Dr. Mashelkar Committee

Recommendations in brief	Action taken
1	2
<p>—The composition of Governing Body be revised to have scientists from public systems, private sector or NGOs in the field of agricultural research. Invoke autonomous status in true sense and empower Governing Body with greater powers in matters of finance and human resources</p> <p>— Two eminent experts from private sector and at least one eminent scientist from relevant international organizations should be members of the Research Advisory Committee</p> <p>— The Staff Research Council may be renamed as Institute Research Committee (IRC).</p>	<p>In order to strengthen the Governing Body, suitable amendments have been made in the Rules and Bye-laws of ICAR Society to incorporate Secy., DBT and DG, CSIR as Member of the Governing Body. Suitable scientists from public systems, private sector or NGOs in the field of agriculture research can be nominated by the President, CAR within the framework of the existing provisions</p> <p>— Suitable amendments have been made in the Rules and Bye-laws of the ICAR Society to modify the composition of Research Advisory Committee.</p> <p>— Suitable amendments have been made in the Rules and Bye-laws of the ICAR Society to change the name of Staff Research Council.</p>

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— Extracts of the proceedings relating to different projects may be added to the annual performance appraisal report of the concerned scientists.

— The Directors of the institutes should report directly to the Director General.

— The existing posts of DDGs and ADGs may be abolished

— The following four functionaries will operate at the Hqrs: Director (Extn); Director (Edn); Director (Tech) and Director (Coordinated Programmes)

ICAR should develop a scheme on the lines of "CSIR jewels" Scheme. Under the scheme IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE and NAARM should be given greater freedom and flexibility. They may however continue to remain integral part of ICAR.

The Directors of all ICAR Institutes may be delegated full powers to the extent the provision in the Plan document subject to sanctioned annual budgetary ceiling.

The Director/Project Director (except those of National Research Centre) may be given the pay scale of Rs. 22400-24500 by following a scheme approved by the Government for CSIR and adopted in CSIR. The career advancement scheme of UGC may be done away with. ICAR may revert back to promotion policy as per ARS rules but modify it on the basis of experience in other publicly funded institutions.

Evolve a scheme for incentive to institutes for generating income from external sources.

— Necessary instructions have been issued to the institutes for compliance

— 7 posts of ADGs have already been redeployed and redesignated as Director of the ICAR Instts. Rationalization of organisational structure in an ongoing process.

No scheme called 'CSIR Jewel Scheme' is in operation in CSIR. Directors of IARI, NDRI, CIFE, IVRI and NAARM have been delegated with adequate administrative and financial powers.

Requisite administrative and financial powers have been delegated.

The principle of Flexible Complementing Scheme is being followed in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This is independent of vacancies and allow the Scientists to pursue research in the same institution even after getting the next scale irrespective of a vacancy.

—As per the existing system, the Instts are allowed to utilize 85% of the Revenue generated by them. Remaining 15% is refunded to ICAR Hqrs. for need based distribution/ utilisation at the time of deciding the Revised Estimates during the financial year. However the institutes which generate revenue more than their target during the year, are allowed to utilise 100% of the Revenue generated over and above the target fixed. This system has been working smoothly for many years.

—The scheme of Matching grant from Ministry of Finance is in existence since 1997.

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2

Entire research portfolio of the institutes should be projectised.

International collaborative projects may be encouraged to promote international benchmarking.

The project leader/principal investigator should have the full financial powers for procurement of items listed in the approved project document for which funds are available in the project budget during the year.

The number of National Professors and National Fellows should be enhanced.

The ASRB should continue to function on the lines of UPSC. Its independence should be guarded and respected by all concerned.

The External expert members should be nominated by the Chairman, ASRB from a panel of experts prepared and approved by the Research Advisory Committee of the concerned institute. In respect of posts at ICAR Headquarters the panel of experts may be prepared and approved by the DG, ICAR.

A system should be developed to enable and encourage two way mobility of scientists between ICAR, SAU, Private Sector and International Organisations.

A system for Quick Hire of Scientists on the lines of a similar system existing in CSIR may be evolved.

The scientific posts should be kept out of the purview of the existing instructions under which only one-third vacancies arising in a year can be filled up.

Alternative models for ICAR to pursue research on commercial lines

— Modifications of existing guidelines for delineating types of intellectual property, Policy on ownership, norms for pricing and licensing IP and exploitation of ICAR knowledge base by foreign clients.

— Development of Scientist entrepreneur scheme on the lines of similar scheme in CSIR.

Necessary instructions have been issued.

Necessary instructions have been issued.

Procurement guidelines are as per the new General Financial Rules issued by the Ministry of Finance, which came into effect in July, 2005.

National Professor Scheme already rationalized.

The ASRB has functioning independently ever since its inception and in the interest of quality of recruitment and assessment it would continue to function independently on the pattern of USPC. As per the revised composition of the Selection Committees, the Chairman, ASRB has full powers to nominate external experts.

The existing instructions already provide ample mobility of Scientists between ICAR, SAUs CSIR and other International Organisations.

Provision similar to Quick Hire in CSIR already exists in the ARS Rules.

No restriction is being faced by the ICAR in filling up all its Scientific posts.

ICAR—Industry Interface Meet organized. Draft guidelines on IPR have been prepared and put up on the ICAR website for comments.

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- Provision for engagement of consultants for business development.
- Provision to set up business and marketing entities by ICAR institutes.
- Provision for deputation of scientists to Industry.
- Designing a revenue sharing scheme for ICAR scientists engaged in research in partnership with industry.
- Develop farm and lab facilities to capitalize on the existing and emerging opportunities through development of seed/sapling/planting materials/finger lings in the mandated areas.
- Sector-wise ICAR-industry interface meeting should be held annually.
- Establishment of core shared facilities in partnership with appropriate private sector industry sources on the pattern of CSIR.

Denotification of Bamboo

840. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to denotify bamboo from the list of forest species under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the purposes it is likely to serve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir. The Government is not proposing to denotify bamboo from the list of forest species under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. [The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not deal with list of forest species. It deals only with permission for the transfer of forest land for non-forestry activities.] However, Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines for relaxing the felling and

transit regulation of trees grown on private land. This guideline is applicable to bamboo as well.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Private Sector in Checking Pollution

841. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the World Environment Day, Government had given a call to Corporates to play a greater role in 'Green Drive' in a whole range of issues from forestry to running affluent treatment plants and monitoring pollution; and

(b) if so, the response of different sectors of industry, like pesticides, dyes and chemicals, pharmaceuticals, distilleries, cement and mines and metals, to this directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) On the occasion of World Environment Day,

Government organized a Colloquium on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in which the representatives of the Government, and Industry participated. The Colloquium underlined the need for more active response by the corporate sector towards environmental protection.

(b) Recognizing the merit, cost-effectiveness and long-term sustainability of voluntary compliance and self-regulation, the Government had introduced Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) in March, 2003. The CREP covers 17 categories of highly polluting industries, and is being guided by 8 task forces in the implementation of the Charter. The interactive and consultative process sustained over this period has resulted in an acknowledged recognition of the fact on the part of industry that preventive pollution control measures are economically more viable as compared to the curative measures. There has been a mixed response from the industry. While industries like aluminium, cement and thermal power plants have adopted improved environmental practices, industries like pesticides, dyes and dye intermediates, distilleries, and pharmaceuticals have yet to give the desired response.

Indian Women on TV Serials

842. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in TV serials especially in mega serials Indian women are projected in an image quite contrary to well accepted and cherished images that has ben inspiring Indian culture and family set up;

(b) if so, whether women's organisations in the country have been strongly protesting against these serials projecting Indian women as querulous, scheming and unfaithful to their husbands; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to do away with such serials?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that so far as Doordarshn is concerned it takes care to ensure that the depiction of women in the serials telecast on its channels is wholesome and in conformity with societal norms and Indian cultural traditions. As regards serials on private TV channels, their treatment of issues is not subject to any control by the Government as long as they adhere to the Programme Code prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter alia prohibits carriage of any programme that is obscene or denigrates women.

(b) No specific complaint has been received from any women organization protesting against serials projecting Indian women contrary to well accepted social norms.

(c) Does not arise.

Raids on Provident Fund Office

843. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the action taken against the persons found guilty after conducting raids on the premises of Provident Fund Office during the last year;

(b) whether the Development Officers and the Officers of the branches were found involved therein;

(c) if so, the details of the action taken so far in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The details of the action taken against the officials found guilty on conducting of raids/traps by CBI/State Government Anti Corruption Bureau during the year 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Details of the raids/traps reported during the year 2005-2006*

Sl. No.	Region	Name of Official	Date of Trap	Reason	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	MH	Sh. Jogindra Prasad, LDC	04-05-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 1,500	The official is under suspension and the case is pending with the CBI.
2.	UP	Shri Ajay Kumar Srivastava, Asstt.	31-05-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 5,000	The official is under suspension. Prosecution sanction granted and the case is pending with the CBI.
3.	OR	Sh. Santosh Nayak, SSA	06-06-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 6,000	The official is under suspension. Prosecution sanction granted and the case is pending with the CBI.
4.	GJ	Sh. S.L. Srivastava PRFC-I	30-06-05	Raid conducted by ACB, CBI on disproportionate assets (Search and Seizure)	The matter is under investigation by CBI.
5.	UT	Sh. P.D. Sankhala, RPFC-I		Raid conducted by ACB, CBI on disproportionate assets (Search and Seizure)	The matter is under investigation by CBI.
6.	UT	Shri G.L. Verma, APFC			The official expired as such the case has been treated as closed.
7.	UT	Shri N.R. Singh, EO	30-06-05		The matter is under investigation by CBI. RC registered by the CBI.
8.	UT	Sh. P.L. Khampa, SS			Matter investigated by CBI, nothing found, treated as closed.
9.	UT	Sh. Avinash Kumar, UDC			Matter investigated by CBI, nothing found, treated as closed.
10.	AP	Shri S.N. Quadri, SSA	12-07-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 2,000	The official is under suspension and the case is pending with the CBI.
11.	TN	Shri R. Logaraj, EO	06-10-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 30,000	The official is under suspension. Prosecution sanction granted and the case is pending with the CBI.

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	MH	Sh. V.D. Mankar, APFC	21-10-05	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 1,00,000	The official is under suspension. Prosecution sanction granted and the case is pending with the CBI.
13.	HR	Sh. Subhash Chandra, EO		Arrested by State Police while accepting bribe of Rs. 10,000	The official is under suspension. Prosecution sanction granted and the case is pending with the State Vigilance Deptt.
14.	HR	Sh. Krishna Gopal Chugh, EO	02-01-06		
15.	RJ	Shri P.P. Naik, APFC	17-01-06	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 3,000	The official is under suspension. The matter is under investigation by CBI.
16.	GJ	Shri S.K. Pillai, EO	01-02-06	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 20,000	The official is under suspension. The matter is under investigation by CBI.
17.	HR	Shri Bhanvar Singh, UDC	03-02-06	Arrested by ACB, CBI while accepting bribe of Rs. 1,500	The official is under suspension. The matter is under investigation by CBI.
18.	OR	Shri R. Samal, RPFC-II	03-02-06	Raid conducted ACB, CBI (Search and Seizure of office files)	The matter is under investigation by CBI.
19.	OR	Shri R.K. Samal, EO			

**Rejuvenation of Sharda Sahayak and
Sharda Canal Irrigation System**

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

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to extend assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for rejuvenation and restoration of the Sharda Sahayak and Sharda Canal Irrigation System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received some proposals for irrigation schemes; and

(d) if so, the date on which the said proposals were received and the present status of those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A project namely Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project is under implementation with the World Bank Assistance. This

project also includes rehabilitation work of Jounpur Branch Sub-basin of Sharda Sahayak Pariyojana. Also, a proposal for improving irrigation intensity of Hardoi Branch Canal under Sharda Sahayak Pariyojana amounting to Rs. 105.30 crore has been sent by the State Government for central assistance.

(c) and (d) Proposals of five major irrigation schemes namely, (i) Improving Water Management on Existing Sarda Canal System—ERM (ii) Raising of Maja Dam—ERM (iii) Lining of Channel in Bundelkhand—ERM (iv) Increasing capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal—ERM and (v) Uttar Pradesh Water Restructuring Project, which were received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the period from March, 1992 to July, 2001, have been accepted by Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources with certain conditions.

Besides, proposals for six major and one medium irrigation schemes have been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for appraisal. The details of status of appraisal is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Major/ Medium	River/ Basin	District Benefitted	Date of Receipt	Benefits (Th. Ha)	Estt. Cost (Cr.)	Status as on 01-07-2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Kanhar Irrigation	Major	Sone/ Ganga	Mirzapur	6/99	33.12	341.45	Construction Machinery aspect has been accepted (7/99). The comments on Financial aspect (7/00), cost aspects (6/01), Irrigation Planning aspect (18/01) and on Inter State matters and economic aspect were sent to the state government in 08/2004.
2.	Kachnoda Dam	Major	Jamni/ Betwa	Lalitpur	11/2000	13.55	88.79	CWC has completed its examination.
3.	Madhya Ganga Nahar Pariyojana Stage-II	Major	Ganga	J.P. Nagar Moradabad	2/2005	225.43	1105	Barrage and Canal Design, Inter State matters, Irrigation Planning, Plant Planning, EIA, cost, hydrology, CSMRS, ground water aspect of CGWB, Financial and International angle aspect of MoWR and Cropping pattern of Ministry of Agriculture have been found acceptable. The project authority is to obtain clearance from IBWL/Supreme Court for dereservation of 19,278 ha. of forest land from Hastinapur Sanctuary.
4.	Arjun Sahayak Pariyojana	Major	Dhasan/ Yamuna	Hamirpur Mahoba	3/2005	61.016	264.56	Plant Planning, Barrage and Canal design, Inter state matter and Cropping pattern aspect of Ministry of Agriculture

have been found acceptable. The comments on Financial aspect of MoWR (6/05), Embankment (7/05), Irrigation Planning (8/05), Cost (9/05) and CSMRS (9/05) sent to the State Government.

5.	Jasrana Naveen Nahar Pariyojana	Major	Bhagrathi/ Ganga	Firojabad	9/2005	10.20	57.76	Plant Planning, Hydrology, Barrage and Canal Design, Cropping pattern aspect of Ministry of Agriculture, International angle and financial aspect of MoWR have been found acceptable. The comments on CSMRS (12/05), Inter State matters (8/06), ground water aspect of CGWB (6/06) and Irrigation planning (6/06) sent to the State Government.
6.	Budaun Irrigation Scheme	Major	Ramganga/ Ganga	Bareilly, Budaun	5/2006	32.104	252.50	The comments of CWC on inter state matters (06/06) aspect has been sent to the State Government.
7.	Bhaurrat Cum Utari Dam	Medium	Jamni/ Betwa	Lalitpur	9/2001	10.40	52.10	Further comments/observations were sent to state Government on 17-05-2002. Projects authorities has been advised to get concurrence from State Government of Madhya Pradesh on the inter state issue.

Selling of Spurious Seeds

845. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the selling of spurious seeds by traders in the country has come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of farmers and action taken against such traders?

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 have been reports of supply of spurious Bt. cotton seeds in some States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The Central Government as well as State Governments are taking all necessary measure to check sale of spurious Bt. cotton seeds. The Government of India has advised to all the Bt. cotton growing States to take necessary punitive action against the producers and vendors of spurious Bt. cotton seeds under the provisions of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Bt. cotton growing States have also been asked to create awareness among the farmers through awareness campaign about the potential risk associated with Bt. cotton seeds. Adequate financial assistance has been extended to all Bt. cotton growing States to purchase necessary Bt. gene detection kit. Labelling standard for Bt. cotton has been prescribed and gazettee notification to this effect has been issued under relevant provision of the Seeds Act, 1966. Besides, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as Referral Lab for detecting the presence of Bt. gene.

Department of Seed Certification, Tamil Nadu has established a laboratory in the Directorate of Seed Certification, Coimbatore to test cotton seeds to analyze whether it contains illegal Bt. gene. The Government of Punjab has also informed that they have issued strict instructions to all the field functionaries to check and stop

the sale of spurious seeds. They have also undertaken massive campaign for educating farmers on the issue.

The Government of Gujarat has also constituted special Flying Squad to prevent spreading of illegal Bt. cotton seeds. Press notes have been published in the newspapers by Government of Gujarat to create awareness among farmers regarding use of unauthorized Bt. cotton seeds. The State Government had constituted special squad which raided in the premises of seed producers, processing plants and packing units and ceased 272.53 quintals of spurious seeds of Bt. cotton and 49 persons were arrested under Section IPC-420. The stop sale notice were issued for detection of stocks of Bt. cotton hybrids NCS-145 in the State because of complaints about poor germination.

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has constituted a Task Force to conduct surprise visits to all the seed dealers as well as premises of seed producers/agencies for drawing the seed samples for quality analysis of Bt. cotton seeds. The Department has seized 1100 packets of fake Bt. cotton seeds and spurious Bt. cotton seeds suppliers have been arrested and a case filed against them.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there is no report about Bt. cotton seed in the state. The seed inspectors are equipped with Bt. detection kit and State has already taken steps to prevent illegal sale of spurious Bt. cotton.

[Translation]

Sand Mining in Madhya Pradesh

846. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of sand is being done from national wildlife sanctuary along the Chambal river in Madhya Pradesh which has been declared reserved area for alligators;

(b) whether illegal mining is endangering the lives of alligators;

(c) if so, the measures taken to save them;

(d) whether the Government propose any measure to stop the illegal sand mining from the reserved area;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of action taken against the persons found guilty of illegal mining of sand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary was established for the conservation of *Ghariyals*. Alligators are not found in India. As per the information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, there are reports of illegal sand mining in the Sanctuary area. Illegal sand mining does have an adverse impact on the *Ghariyals*.

(c) to (e) The State Government has been making all efforts to stop illegal sand mining within the sanctuary. Joint Action by the District Administration, Police and Forest personnel has been taken to control the illegal sand mining. Further, ex-army personnel have also been deployed alongwith the staff to control this activity.

(f) As informed by the State Government, 50 complaints have been lodged with the Police, out of which 25 cases are in the Court. From January 2004 to July 2006, 45 Tractors with trolleys, 2 trolleys, 7 trucks and 2 J.C.B. machines found involved in illegal mining were also seized.

[English]

Release of Water to Rajasthan

847. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sought the intervention of the Union Government to give the State its due share of water from Inter-State Water resources projects; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Government of Rajasthan has sought the intervention of the Union Government on the following;

(i) restoration of remaining share of 0.6 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of Ravi-Beas waters under 31-12-1981 agreement;

(ii) supply of 0.17 MAF of Ravi-Beas waters through Bhakra Main Line for Sidhmukh Nohar projects; and

(iii) signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Government of Haryana for undertaking works in Haryana territory in respect of two schemes for utilization of Rajasthan's share of Yamuna waters in Jhunjhunu, Churu and Bharatpur Districts.

(b) The issue of restoration 0.6 MAF of Ravi-Beas waters was discussed in inter-state meetings held in 1992 and 2002 and in the Northern Zonal Council meeting held in 2005. Letters have been written to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Punjab and Rajasthan in July, 2006 suggesting that notwithstanding the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 and the Presidential Reference thereon before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it would be desirable that the protracted issue is settled early at bilateral level. They have been requested to mutually discuss the issue, so that an amicable solution could emerge.

The issue of supply of 0.17 MAF of Ravi-Beas waters through Bhakra Main Line to Rajasthan is as per the award dated 15th January, 1982 of the Government of India given under the provisions of the 31-12-1981 agreement and is dependent on the supply of Ravi-Beas waters envisaged through the delivery systems. The issue was discussed in the meeting of the Bhakra Beas management Board held on 11-07-06 but has not been resolved.

The matter regarding the utilization of Yamuna Waters by Rajasthan was discussed in the meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board held on 06-08-04 where the representatives of Haryana indicated their disagreement to the utilisation of water by Rajasthan at Tajewala. It was also discussed in the meeting of the Upper Yamuna Review Committee held on 12-04-06 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Water Resources. As decided therein, an Empowered Committee comprising Secretaries of the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh has been constituted to have a fresh look at the issue of providing water to Rajasthan from Tajewala.

**The Standards of Weights and Measures
(Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977**

848. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 the manufactures/packagers are required to indicate the weight, contents and price of the packed goods on the label of the packs;

(b) if so, whether any complaints of the violation of the said rules have been received during last three years;

(c) if so, the number of such cases reported during the said period alongwith the number of firms against whom cases have been registered;

(d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for strict compliance of the Rules;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any amendments are proposed to be effected in the said Rules; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 provide that no person shall prepack any commodity for sale, delivery or distribution unless the package bears thereon or on a label securely affixed thereto, inter alia, the declaration in respect of the common or generic name of the commodity, net quantity by weight, measures or number and the retail sale price in the form 'Maximum Retail sale price.....inclusive of all taxes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The number of cases reported and number of firms against whom cases have been registered for the last 3 years is as follows:—

	No. of cases Reported	No. of firms against whom cases have been registered
2003-04	55959	3696
2004-05	53369	2851
2005-06	51375	2496

(d) and (e) Secretaries in charge of Legal Metrology of all States/UTs were advised in July 2005 to strictly enforce the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 with regard to declaration of information on packages and to prevent overcharging by retailers. Further the enforcement authorities were advised to follow proper procedure at the time of surprise checks/raids so that defaulters are not acquitted subsequently on technical grounds.

(f) and (g) The Government has recently amended the said Rules vide GSR 425 (E) dated 17-7-2006.

Development of New Varieties of Crops

849. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed some new varieties cash crop seeds recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where these new seeds have been/proposed to be used; and

(d) the results likely to be 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) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has developed a cotton genotype Pusa-2 (Pusa

GH 17-52-10). It is an early maturing strain which was evaluated in West Bengal (Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nimpith, Sunderbans) during 2004 and recorded seed cotton yield (1.5 t/ha). It has shown good fiber quality with 27-28 mm fiber length and 20 g/tex fiber strength.

(c) and (d) This genotype has been proposed for identification in the state of West Bengal. Further popularization of this genotype will depend on its release, notification as per procedure.

[Translation]

Closure of Edible Oil Units

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

(a) whether several edible oil production units face closure in view of unequal competition from cheaper duty free import of edible oil from Sri Lanka and some other countries; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed/taken to make these units viable to prevent closure and check unemployment among the workers of such units?

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 closure of several edible oil production units was/is on accounts of various factors, such as creation of production capacity not commensurate with availability of raw materials, obsolete technology, poor economies of scale, shift in consumer preference towards soft oils, competition from cheaper duty free imports of vanaspati, etc. from Sri Lanka and some other countries.

(b) Some of the steps proposed/taken to improve the health of vegetable oil industry include:—

- (i) Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on OGL.
- (ii) Import duty on certain vegetable oils of edible grade intended for manufacture of refined oil/vanaspati is levied at a concessional rate.

(iii) Import duty on certain crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept low as compared to refined oils to facilitate raw material availability.

(iv) In order 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%.

(v) Excise duty on refined edible oils/vanaspati/interesterified fat etc. has been withdrawn.

(vi) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, interesterified fat, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.

(vii) Duty free import of vanaspati from Nepal and duty free import of Vanaspati, bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka have been canalized through State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) respectively.

(viii) In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

(ix) Tariff Value is fixed from time to time for palm oil and its products and soybean oil.

[English]

Cotton Production

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

(a) whether the new hybrid variety cotton production in the country has touched an all time high during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for the next three years;

(c) whether the Agriculture University, Tamil Nadu has identified new hybrid variety of cotton;

(d) if so, the salient features of the new variety; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to further promote the production of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the 4th Advance Estimates released on 15th July, 2006 the cotton production in the country, which includes production from new hybrid variety, during the year 2005-06 stands at an all time high level of 195.72 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) against the target of 165.00 lakh bales. Targets are fixed annually and it is 185.00 lakh bales for the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Two cotton varieties viz., MCU 13 and KC 3 have been released recently by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

MCU 13 variety has average seed cotton yield of 1700 kg/ha and fibre length of 30.3 mm. It is suitable for winter irrigated tracts of Coimbatore. Erode, Dindugul, Theni, Dharmapuri, Salem, Namakkal, Cuddalore and Villupuram. KC3 has seed cotton yield potential of 1100 kg/ha and fibre length of 27 mm. It is suitable for rainfed tracts of Madurai, Dindugul, Theni Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Sivaganagai.

(e) For increasing production and productivity and improving the quality of cotton, Government of India launched technology mission on cotton in February. Some new components have been added/restructured to make the scheme more effective during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Under the revised scheme, the subsidy on the component like distribution of certified seeds and sprayers has been increased besides the rationalization of subsidy on other components. The emphasis has been given on involvement of farmers for learning by doing under FAO model of Farmers Field school approach to reduce the cost of production.

Agricultural Policies

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

(a) whether agriculture has to generate surpluses for financing economic growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the agricultural policies being taken up by the Government for generating surpluses for financing economic growth?

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) Agriculture being an important sector of the national economy has a major role to play alongwith the other sectors of the economy in generating surpluses for facilitating economic growth. In order to make the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic with the objective to increase production and productivity, the Government has taken several initiatives which include enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system; reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Agri-Technology Park

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

(a) whether the Government has proposed to set agri-technology parks in the country in collaboration with the State Governments and the private sector;

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

(c) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose?

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

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken an initiative for setting up of state of art terminal markets at eight important centers in the country under the public private partnership (PPP) model. The Terminal Markets are to operate on a Hub-and-Spoke Format wherein the Terminal Market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. The PPP model for the terminal market projects envisages that while the private enterprise brings the capital and management, the State Government provides the regulatory clearance and the Central Government, part of the equity capital for the project. The enterprise could be a consortium of entrepreneurs from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background. The proposal to set up Terminal Markets on PPP model was discussed with the State Governments and interested private enterprises at a national conference of State Ministers held on 20-2-06 at New Delhi. All the States have in general agreed to go ahead with the implementation of the projects. In the annual budget 2006-07, under the National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs. 150.00 crore has been earmarked for setting up of Terminal Markets in the country.

National Commodity Derivative Exchange

854. **SHRI P. MOHAN:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revived National Commodity and Derivative Exchange (NCDEX) Limited as an intermediary between the producers and consumer of Agro Products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the benefit likely to accrue therefrom?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government granted recognition to the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), Mumbai on 20th November, 2003, as a National Multi Commodity Exchange, to conduct online commodity futures trading. The Exchange started its operations on 15th December, 2003. The recognition has been granted on a permanent basis. Since then, the Exchange has been providing a state of the art, nationwide screen-based online platform for commodity futures trading. The facilities for trading provided by the Exchange can be availed of by the producers and consumers of agro-products also. The main benefits of futures trading are price discovery and its use as a tool for price risk management for various categories of persons such as farmers, manufactures, exporters, consumers etc.

[Translation]

Closure of Polluting Units

855. **SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:**

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

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

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court on December 13, 2000 had given any direction for closure of polluting industries in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of industrial units which complied as well as those not complied with the directions of court as on date;

(d) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any action against the industrial units not complying with the directions of the Court; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

*[English]***NAFED Agreement with SBI**

856. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has struck an agreement with State Bank of India (SBI) to promote agricultural occupation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas in which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As reported by NAFED, it has entered into an agreement with State Bank of India on 27th June, 2006. The terms of agreement propose to provide input financing under contract farming arrangements. The input financing is for production of seeds like; soyabean in Mharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Jute in Andhra Pradesh, Paddy in Assam and Goa, potato in Madhya Pradesh and various commodities in Utranchal. The agreement is valid for one year.

Introduction of Rural Pricing

857. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce dual pricing system for the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this system is likely to cope with the emerging challenges in agriculture sector; and

(d) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher

than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been formulated in the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

(c) and (d) The proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP has been formulated in order to meet the requirements of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes.

Pilferage of Steel from BSP

858. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts/pilferages of good quality steel worth crores of rupees from the Bokaro Steel Plant has been regularly going on; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total estimated loss suffered as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No Sir. No theft/pilferage of good quality steel from the Bokaro Steel Plant has come to light.

(b) In view of reply (a) above, question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Target for Production of Fruits**

859. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for the production of fruits in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment likely to be made in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target?

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

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India provided assistance to the State Governments/UTs under comprehensive Macro Management Scheme for development of Agriculture including Horticulture, which included schemes on fruits, up to the year 2004-05. The scheme provided flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes and fix targets as per their felt needs and requirements according to their Work Plans. After the launch of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during financial years 2005-06, the programme for horticulture in Macro Management Scheme subsumed with National Horticulture Mission. The National Horticulture Mission addresses the issues related to production and productivity of horticultural crops including fruits and provide assistance for improving production on horticultural crops.

In the North East and Himalayan States of the country, the Technology Mission for Integrated Developed on Horticulture in North East (TMNE), provides assistance for production of horticulture crops including fruits. The targets for production of fruits for Xth Five Year Plan in TMNE states is as under:—

	(lakhs (MT))
NE States	28.60
Jammu and Kashmir	10.00
Himachal Pradesh	05.60
Uttaranchal	06.70
Total	50.90

(c) The statements of total assistance provided to different States under these schemes during 2002-03 to 2005-06 and allocation of funds during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement-I, II, III and IV.

(d) To achieve the target set for Xth Plan, the Annual Action Plan of the States/UTs are approved in time and the funds are released to the State Horticulture Missions to implement the programmes. The progress is regularly monitored by Nodal Officers nominated by the Government and also by Executive Committee of National Horticulture Mission.

Statement-I

Statement Showing 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 and Kashmir	277.77	505.83	91.81

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Karnataka	537.23	1500.55	1555.55
10.	Kerala	674.32	1059.75	2046.95
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2000.00	444.44	600.00
12.	Chhattisgarh	1315.00	425.00	384.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00	3890.00	2265.00
14.	Orissa	497.00	805.55	890.00
15.	Punjab	3810.00	180.00	180.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	775.00	684.41
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1890.00	916.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	500.00	675.00
19.	Uttaranchal	0.00	250.00	24.00
20.	West Bengal	583.33	511.00	450.00
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	216.10	0.00	0.00
22.	Assam	575.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	1802.08	0.00	0.00
25.	Meghalaya	50.00	2.50	0.00
26.	Nagaland	340.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Sikkim	227.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	440.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.15	11.75	0.00
31.	Delhi	79.00	37.70	30.00
32.	Lakshadweep	72.50	49.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.00	35.00	35.00
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55.12	124.27	9.50
Total		17235.00	16412.94	13601.37

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State	Amount released in 2005-06	Proposed outlay 2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4420.96	The National Horticulture Mission is a demand driven scheme. The allocation/release of fund is made based on the Action Plan submitted by State Governments/UTs.
2.	Bihar	3100.00	
3.	Chhattisgarh	2367.83	
4.	Goa	315.20	
5.	Gujarat	3239.28	
6.	Haryana	1050.00	
7.	Jharkhand	3030.00	
8.	Karnataka	4455.17	
9.	Kerala	3533.98	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2839.77	
11.	Maharashtra	8260.28	
12.	Orissa	3611.91	
13.	Punjab	2868.82	
14.	Rajasthan	2259.57	
15.	Tamil Nadu	3891.67	
16.	Uttar Pradesh	5340.25	
17.	West Bengal	4035.31	

1	2	3	4
18.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		
19.	Daman and Diu		
20.	Delhi		
21.	Lakshdweep		
22.	Chandigarh		
23.	Andaman and Nicobar		
24.	Pondicherry		
Total		58620.00	
HQ/TSG/NHB		3830.00	
Cashew			
Spices			
NCPAH			
NHRDF		550.00	
IFFCO Foundation			
National Be Board			
National Seeds Corpn.			
Grand Total		63000	100000

Statement-III

State-wise/year-wise release of funds during Xth plan from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (TMNE Scheme)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Mini Mission-I					
1.	NE States including Sikkim	175.00	100.00	705.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	100.00	100.00	250.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	—	100.00	100.00	250.00
4.	Uttaranchal	—	100.00	154.00	250.00
B. Mini Mission-II					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1099.00	1220.00	1645.55	1300.00
2.	Assam	1092.15	1400.00	871.00	1300.00
3.	Manipur	685.00	638.00	1286.25	1500.00
4.	Meghalaya	775.60	850.00	1395.99	1700.00
5.	Mizoram	1099.73	1089.00	1801.10	1800.00
6.	Nagaland	979.00	1256.00	1467.30	1700.00
7.	Sikkim	855.00	1000.00	1150.00	1800.00
8.	Tripura	785.00	900.00	1111.30	1500.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	650.00	1233.00	1550.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	650.00	1300.00	1100.00
11.	Uttaranchal	—	564.72	975.00	1100.00
12.	Technical Support/SFAC Service charges and other Project based proposals	129.52	101.28	89.29	189.21
C. Mini Mission-III					
1.	NE states including Sikkim	1350.00	700.00	1480.49	500.00
2.	Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal		320.00	192.00	750.00
3.	Jammu and Kashmir (Reconstruction Plan)			178.50	—
D. Mini Mission-IV					
1.	NE states including Sikkim	75.00	.	.	.
2.	Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal	—	100.00	120.00	200.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Jammu and Kashmir (Reconstruction Plan)			321.50	—
Grand Total		9100.00	11839.00	17672.27	18739.21

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

Statement-IV

Allocation and Release of funds during 2006-07 (till 25-07-06)

(TMNE Scheme)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Mini Mission/state	NE states		J and K, HP, Uttaranchal		Total	
	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mini mission-I						
NE states	200.00	—			200.00	—
Jammu and Kashmir			100.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
Himachal Pradesh			100.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
Uttaranchal			100.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
Mini Mission-II						
Arunachal Pradesh	1400.00	210.00			1400.00	210.00
Assam	1400.00	210.00			1400.00	210.00
Manipur	1700.00	255.00			1700.00	255.00
Meghalaya	2000.00	300.00			2000.00	300.00
Mizoram	2000.00	1000.00			2000.00	1000.00
Nagaland	2000.00	300.00			2000.00	300.00
Sikkim	1800.00	270.00			1800.00	270.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	1400.00	560.00			1400.00	560.00
Jammu and Kashmir			3500.00	250.00	3500.00	225.00
Himachal Pradesh			4000.00	2000.00	4000.00	2000.00
Uttaranchal			4000.00	2000.00	4000.00	2000.00
Technical support/ SFAC Service charges and other project based proposals						
— NE States	100.00	16.50			100.00	16.50
— HS			40.00	7.00	40.00	7.00
Mini Mission-III						
NE states including Sikkim						
SFAC	500.00	200.00			500.00	200.00
NHB	500.00	200.00			500.00	200.00
Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal						
SFAC			200.00	100.00	200.00	100.00
—NHB			400.00	200.00	400.00	200.00
Mini Mission-IV						
NE states including Sikkim						
Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (SFAC)			400.00	200.00	400.00	200.00
Grand Total	15000.00	3521.00	12840.00+	4882.00	27840.00	8403.50**

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

+Proposal has been made for additional allocation of Rs. 7300 lakhs for the programmes under MM-II for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal states.

**41% against allocation of Rs. 20540.00 lakhs.

*[English]***Review of Food Policy**

860. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the current food policy in view of the lower than expected production and procurement of foodgrains including wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the liberal food policy has been held responsible for the shortage of foodgrains in the country; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being 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) to (d) As per the existing procurement policy the Government agencies (FCI and State Agencies) carry out Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in all areas of the country having marketable surplus of foodgrains. The farmer is free to sell his produce to the Government agencies at MSP or to the private traders, as is advantageous to him.

The existing policy of procurement of foodgrains under MSP operations has been beneficial to farmers and has enabled them to obtain a remunerative price for their produce. To ensure that there is adequate procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool to meet the buffer requirement and commitments under the TPDS and Welfare Schemes a proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP has been formulated in the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

*[Translation]***Indo- Bangla Agreement to Resolve Water Disputes**

861. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was signed/is likely to be signed between the Government of Bangladesh to resolve river water disputes;

(b) if so, whether any formula has been evolved to resolve the disputes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A Treaty was signed in December, 1996 between Government of India and Government of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga/ Ganges Waters at Farakka. There exists a Joint Rivers Commission headed by Ministers of Water Resources of both Countries where problems related to Water Resources sector are discussed bilaterally.

*[English]***Monitoring Committees of FCI**

862. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State level monitoring committees of Food Corporation of India are working under the Chairmanship and with the participation of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States are excluded from the constitution of such committees; and

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

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

(b) to (d) State Level Monitoring Committees in all the States/Union Territories of Food Corporation of India were set up as per decision taken in the year 2001. A Member of Parliament is appointed as the Chairman of these committees with a permanent tenure. Individual members on these Committees are appointed for a two year tenure. The Chairman of Committees for all States and Union Territories have been duly appointed while membership composition is changed as per the tenure of individual member. Membership of these Committees have been reconstituted for all the States and Union Territories except in Daman and Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Pondicherry and Sikkim. These Committees meet periodically.

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance to Power Projects

863. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for power projects of more than 500 Mega Watts capacity are pending with the Government for environmental clearance;

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

(c) whether the State Governments are demanding the right to sanction the power projects of more than 500 Mega Watts capacity which is presently vested with the Union Government;

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

(e) whether any demands have been made by the State Governments for assistance from Union Government for the power projects of 250 Mega Watts; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eight proposals relating to power projects of more than 500 Mega Watts (MW) capacity are pending with the Government for environmental clearance. Out of these, six proposals are for thermal power

projects and one each for nuclear power and hydro power projects. There are four projects pending from the State of Gujarat and one each from the States of Haryana, Orissa, Sikkim and Tripura,

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any such request.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Customs Duty on Steel Items

864. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel industry has requested the Union Government to increase the customs duty on seconds and defectives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Indian Steel Alliance in a letter to the Ministry of Steel has requested that in view of the recent surge in imports the duty on second and defective category of steel items should be restored back to 40%.

(c) The present customs duty on seconds and defectives steel is 20% and on prime alloy and non-alloy steel it is 7.5% and 5% respectively. At the present level of customs duty on seconds and defectives there is a sufficient duty differential of 15% in case of prime non-alloy steel and 12.5% in case of prime alloy/stainless steel. The Government feels that such a differential is appropriate to check large-scale imports of seconds and defectives. Moreover, there is significant domestic demand for seconds and defectives steel and any unreasonable duty barrier can have adverse impact on domestic availability and prices.

Wheat for Custom Milling

865. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have been permitted to continue the scheme of custom milling of Above Poverty Line wheat into flour for distribution under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such States;

(c) whether the allocation of wheat to Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (KSCSE) for custom milling has been stopped;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a fresh proposal from KSCSC for allocation of wheat for milling has been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has allowed the conversion of a portion of TPDS wheat into atta for distribution to ration cardholders through fair price shops in the N.E. and Hilly States and distribution of fortified atta in other States subject to certain terms and conditions vide guidelines issued on 21-12-2005. So far permission for implementing the scheme has been given to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal (Darjeeling District) and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (f) A scheme for custom milling of TPDS wheat into atta by States/UTs being implemented earlier was discontinued by the Government of India w.e.f. 11.12-1997 due to difficulties in monitoring the scheme. The State Government of Kerala has recently requested for continuation of the earlier scheme.

Increase in Cost of Cultivation

866. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of cultivation on account of seeds has gone up over the years;

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

(c) the major steps taken by the Government to help small and medium farmers on that account?

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 cost of cultivation on account of seeds ranges from Rs. 124.03 per hectare in respect of jowar crop in the State of Karnataka upto Rs. 2983.21 for groundnut crop in the State of Tamil Nadu during 2002-03. A Statement showing the state-wise and crop-wise per hectare seed cost during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03 is enclosed.

(c) To make available quality seeds in time at affordable price to all the farmers including small and medium, the Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme viz., 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds'. The important components of the scheme, *inter alia*, include subsidy for promotion of hybrid seeds, transport subsidy on movement of seeds, assistance for boosting seed production in the private sector, assistance for creation of infrastructure facilities in public sector and seed village scheme to encourage farmers to develop storage capacity of the farmer-produced/saved seed. Under various crop production programme schemes, subsumed under macro management, assistance in the form of subsidy and distribution of seed minikits are provided to the farmers. Similar type of assistance is also provided to the farmers under the Scheme 'Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize' and 'Technology Mission on Cotton'.

Statement**Seed cost per Hectare of Cultivation under various Crops****(Rs./Hectare)**

Name of	Name of	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	Crops	States				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wheat	Harayana	855.26	958.20	845.11	908.46	1011.45
	Punjab	789.39	740.02	643.37	726.56	781.10
	Uttar Pradesh	955.27	1155.73	952.57	974.03	1106.32
Paddy	Andhra Pradesh	634.52	819.39	804.19	798.47	765.87
	Haryana	567.47	595.26	406.52	397.58	340.01
	Punjab	467.06	529.63	512.69	557.25	554.39
	West Bengal	629.13	732.15	594.38	650.95	635.49
Jowar	Karnataka	112.23	155.04	144.14	145.90	124.03
	Maharashtra	235.55	329.87	300.53	305.39	333.42
Bajra	Gujarat	232.80	344.42	356.93	384.68	361.82
	Uttar Pradesh	164.14	211.28	271.32	326.18	273.80
Maize	Andhra Pradesh	734.20	584.32	741.49	693.74	830.54
	Madhya Pradesh	157.94	326.25	201.07	198.04	196.04
Gram	Madhya Pradesh	1208.63	1200.37	1491.05	1607.97	1319.63
	Uttar Pradesh	1344.69	N.A.	1526.68	1671.17	1633.04
Arhar	Maharashtra	389.93	326.86	401.30	343.91	485.17
	Uttar Pradesh	300.68	364.50	337.49	325.21	360.43
Soyabean	Madhya Pradesh	1281.18	1053.54	1103.88	1145.68	1356.71
	Maharashtra	1391.08	1196.73	1249.32	1378.21	1422.21
Ground Nut	Gujarat	2398.63	2379.80	2410.55	2557.36	2679.22
	Tamil Nadu	2254.63	2529.79	2692.49	2487.25	2983.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jute	Assam	316.65	492.36	389.57	413.50	333.60
	West Bengal	351.81	384.96	324.15	311.54	317.92
Cotton	Andhra Pradesh	N.A.	1364.97	1290.88	1476.28	1662.32
	Gujarat	621.47	1036.99	669.34	690.47	712.49
	Maharashtra	N.A.	1167.67	852.44	920.76	1090.46

N.A.—Not Available

[Translation]

**Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for
Repair of Canals and Pools**

867. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned Rs. 1900 crores for the repair of canals and pools in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the assistance is likely to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources is releasing funds for the development of irrigation projects including dams and canals under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). A sum of Rs. 168.0966 crore has been released under AIBP during the 2005-06 to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. Total funds released to the State of Madhya Pradesh upto 2005-06 is Rs. 2026.7706 crore.

For repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies in the State of Madhya Pradesh, the details of the projects approved are as under:—

Name of District	No. of water bodies included	Estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Culturable command area (in ha.)	Additional potential (in ha.)	Central share released (Rs. in crore)		
					2004-05	2005-06	Total
Shivpuri	65	41.28	18302	8624	—	15.00	15.00
Tikamgarh	5	3.923	2920	712	—	0.70	0.70

Ha—hectare

The Centre share is 75% of the estimate cost. No release has been made in the financial year 2006-07 to the state. The work is in progress in both the Districts.

[English]

Consumer Grievances Redressal Cell

868. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a consumer grievances redressal cell to resolve complaints of the consumer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and nature of complaints received during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the number of complaints out of them which were settled during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken for the disposal of the pending complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Consumer Grievances Redressal Cell (CGRC) was set up on 13-2-2002 in the Department of Consumer Affairs for redressal of the grievances of consumers.

(c) and (d) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) All the complaints received by CGRC are promptly forwarded to the Consumer Coordination Council or to the concerned manufacturers, companies etc. for redressal of the grievances of the consumers. As such, no complaints are pending at present for disposal.

New Re-structured Seed Village Scheme

869. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new re-structured seed village scheme to upgrade the quality of seeds has been introduced recently;

(b) if so, whether the financial assistance under this scheme is being provided directly to the farmers;

(c) if so, whether the financial assistance provided under the scheme has not been reaching to farmers; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Sir, The restructured Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed" has become operational from 2005-06. Assistance in the form of subsidy on seeds, storage bins and training is provided through implementing agencies. No reports have been received that the assistance does not reach farmers.

Village Grain Banks

870. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages where village grain banks have been set up so far, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been any delay in approval for the village grain banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken for its speedy approval;

(e) the fund allocated for these grain banks during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether the funds have not been fully utilised;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the measures proposed for its proper utilisation?

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 Village Grain Banks (VGB) scheme was initially being handled by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs who sanctioned 4858 VGBs, out of which 1482 grain banks have been set up so far as per state-wise details given in the enclosed statement-I. The Scheme was transferred to Department of Food and Public Distribution in November 2004, and sanction has been issued for setting up of 3962

VGBs so far in 2005-06 and 2006-07 as per details given in the enclosed statement-II.

(b) No, Sir. Consequent upon the transfer of the scheme to the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the scheme was revised and approved by the Central Government in February, 2006. Thereafter, 3282 Grain Banks were sanctioned in March, 2006 within the financial year ending 31-3-2006. For the year 2006-07, proposal for 680 Grain Banks were received and approved without delay.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

(e) and (f) For the revised scheme, a provision of Rs. 20.00 crores was provided for its implementation in 2005-06. Out of this amount, Rs. 19.76 crores was utilized for sanctioning of banks. During 2006-07, out of a total provision of Rs. 50.00 crores, an amount of Rs. 3.72 crores has been sanctioned so far.

(g) In view of utilization of funds, as in (e) and (f), question does not arise.

(h) States have been asked to expedite submission of their proposals, so that available funds are fully utilized. The revised scheme, provides for the monitoring and evaluation to ensure proper utilization of cash/foodgrains.

Statement-I

Statement showing number of grain banks sanctioned and established during the period from 1996-97 to 2003-04

Sl. No.	States	No. of Grain Banks sanctioned	No. of Grain Banks established
1.	Maharashtra	259	138
2.	Andhra Pradesh	905	85
3.	West Bengal	152	50
4.	Bihar	61	25
5.	Gujarat	237	113
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2461	449
7.	Orissa	662	530
8.	Tripura	78	61
9.	Rajasthan	33	25
10.	Tamil Nadu	2	2
11.	Kerala	8	5
Total		4858	1482

Statement-II

Village Grain Banks Scheme

Statement showing funds sanctioned for establishment of Grain Banks during 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	State	No. of Banks sanctioned	Total Financial Assistance Rs.
1	2	3	4
2005-06			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(March, 06) 1214	7,72,68,672
2.	Orissa	(March, 06) 240	1,52,75,520
3.	Chhattisgarh	(March, 06) 262	1,66,75,776

1	2	3	4
4.	Madhya Pradesh	(March, 06) 926	4,76,37,599
5.	Jharkhand	(March, 06) 583	3,71,06,784
6.	Tripura	(March, 06) 13	8,27,424
7.	Meghalaya	(March, 06) 44	28,00,512
Total		3282	19,75,92,287
2006-07			
1.	Uttar Pradesh	(May, 06) 500	2,57,59,800
2.	Assam	(May, 06) 100	63,64,800
3.	Sikkim	(July, 06) 80	50,91,840
Total		680	3,72,16,440

Building Construction Workers

871. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) whether an Act has been passed for building construction workers;

(b) if so, the names of the States that have notified the same so far;

(c) the response of other States thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government has appointed Arjun Seth Committee to look into the problems of unorganised workers including building construction workers;

(e) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted; and

(g) the time by which the building construction workers

are likely to be provided minimum wages and other facilities under the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, in order to regulate service conditions and to provide welfare measures etc. to workers engaged in construction activities, the Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Responsibilities for implementation of the Act lies with the Central and State/UT Governments in the establishments falling in the Central and State sphere respectively. The Act is being implemented in the State of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Delhi and Pondicherry. Government of Tamil Nadu have been implementing their own Act for the building construction workers. The remaining States/UT Governments have reported that State Rules under the Act, setting up of State Building and Other Construction Welfare Board and procedures for implementation of the Act are under finalisation.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir, the National Commission for Enterprise in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) constituted

under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta has submitted its report to the Government on the social security for the unorganised sector workers in May, 2006. The recommendations amongst others include a social security scheme for the unorganised workers, rates of contribution of workers/employers and the Central and the State Governments and the package of benefits including health insurance, maternity benefit, insurance to cover natural and accidental death, old age pension to Below Poverty Line (BPL) workers above the age of 60 years and Provident Fund for Above Poverty Line (APL) workers etc.

(g) Construction workers are entitled for minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 being implemented by the appropriate Governments. States/UTs which have not yet notified the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, as reported are at various stages of adoption and implementation of the Act. The building and other construction workers will be availing welfare measures after these State/UTs commence implementation of the Act.

Movement of Goods/Raw Material

872. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry are facing the problems of non-availability of wagons for inward as well as outward movement of goods and raw materials;

(b) if so, whether the problem has been brought to the notice of the Railway Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details and the reaction of the Railway Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The wagon supplies, in general, for inward and outward movement in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)'s steel plants has largely been adequate, barring occasional shortages. The wagon requirements of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are generally being fulfilled by more than 95% and no significant shortage of wagons is noticed. However,

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) and National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) are facing the shortage of Rakes in Bellary-Hospet area and Donamalai Sector respectively.

(b) and (c) KIOCL has raised the issue with Railway Board for reconsidering the decision routing the traffic via Castle Rock-Madgaon-Thokur and has requested South Western Railways to book at least 2 rakes per day via Hassan-Mangalore which would help in reduction in distance as well as freight.

NMDC has also brought the problem of short supply of Rakes in Donamalai Sector to the notice of Zonal Railway Authorities.

Besides these, the issue of supply of rakes to the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Steel has continuously been discussed with Ministry of Railways during the monthly meetings held in Cabinet Secretariat regarding infrastructure constraints.

Uniform Code for (A) Certificate Films

873. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the theatres where 'A' certificate films are screened strictly adhere to the discipline code;

(b) if so, the method the theatre employees adopt to strictly make it as adults only;

(c) whether 'A' certificate films are easily available in CDs and also on late night channel in TV defeating the very purpose of certification by Censor Board; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government is going to enforce uniform code of ethics in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Central Board of Film Certification certifies films on various formats including DVD/CD/video as per the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The public exhibition of films comes under the jurisdiction of State/Local Administration, who have to ensure that only films as certified by the

Board are exhibited and entry to the same is restricted only for the category/class of people as per category certification by the Board. As per the Rules under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, programmes suitable only for unrestricted public exhibition are to be carried by the cable service provider.

(d) Central Government has constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The Committee either suo moto or on receipt of a complaint, examines cases of violation of the Codes.

[Translation]

Ceiling on Storage of Foodgrains

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to withdraw the ceiling on storage of foodgrains including wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the assessment of the impact of the same on the farmers and the consumers has been made by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the profiteering by the foodgrains traders after the withdrawal of ceiling of storage limit?

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 has removed controls on trading of foodgrains (including wheat) viz. licensing, stock limits and inter-State movement restrictions vide a Central Order issued on 15-2-2002 with amendment dated 16-6-2003.

(c) to (e) The controls on trading of foodgrains have been removed to enable the farmers to get best prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability

of foodgrains in deficit areas. The Government has been constantly monitoring the prices of foodgrains and taking remedial action whenever prices have shown a rising trend. The fluctuation of wheat prices in the Futures Market have been also closely monitored and action taken whenever fluctuations due to speculative practices have been observed. To improve the availability of wheat, so as to meet the requirements of TPDS/OWS and buffer norms, a decision to import 3.5 million tons of wheat has been taken. Further, to improve the availability in the open market and keep in check the prices of wheat, decision has also been taken to permit import of wheat under OGL at 5% duty. It is further added that as per the Central Order issued in Feb. 2002, the State Governments still retain the powers to issue Control Orders for licensing, stock limits etc. for all essential commodities with the prior concurrence of the Central Government.

[Translation]

Review of Film Division

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

(a) the present role and objectives of Film Division.

(b) the annual budget of the Film Division and the fund spent during the last fiscal year; and

(c) the steps proposed to review the objectives of the Film Division?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Films Division is responsible for production and distribution of documentaries, animation, short and cartoon films required by the Government of India for public information, education, motivation and for instructional and cultural purposes. Films Division helps Cinema Exhibitors to fulfill a statutory obligation requiring exhibition of 'approved films' under the provisions contained in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and various State Laws. Films Division also gives a fillip to the growth of documentary film movement in India by getting films produced through independent producers, participating in National and International Film Festivals;

organizing the biennial Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF); a competitive Film Festival for documentary, short and animation films. Films Division has an archive of its films, over 8000 in number, which are available to cinema lovers and as a source of reference to all. It has started

digitalizing its archival films from celluloid to video format in order to preserve it for posterity.

(b) The details of annual budget of the Films Division and fund spent during the last fiscal year i.e. 2005-06 are as under:—

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Particulars	Sanctioned Budget Grant	Revised Estimate	Final Grant	Actual Expenditure
Plan	1247.00	0820.00	0385.65	0339.50
Non-Plan	2397.00	2384.00	2374.25	2312.96
Total	3644.00	3204.00	2759.90	2652.46

(c) The role of Films Division is relevant because its films reach the cine viewers in theatres and are through telecast on Doordarshan channels. The Ministry has taken a number of initiatives to make the Films Division contemporary and appealing to the modern audience. Films Division has launched online streaming of films through its website from 3-7-2003. Steps have been taken to set up a Museum of Moving Images (MOMI) in the Films Division Complex at Mumbai.

Sea Erosion In Kerala

876. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal belt of Kerala is severely affected by sea erosions every year causing immense loss to land and wealth of the inhabitants;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for sea erosion protection works pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir, as per the information provided by the Government of Kerala, a part of the coastal belt of Kerala gets severely affected by sea erosion every year.

(b) and (c) Proposals for works related to coastal protection have been received from Government of Kerala from time to time and Government of India has provided necessary assistance in this regard. Twelfth Finance Commission has awarded Rs. 175 crore for coastal zone management under State specific grant for the period 2005-2010 for construction of new sea wall and reformation of the already constructed sea wall. A proposal for external funding for National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) has also been forwarded to Asian Development Bank (ADB) by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) which, inter-alia, includes a component related to Kerala. ADB has approved administering technical assistance to the Government of India for technical study on "Integrated Coastal Management and Related Investment Development". Under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme, as approved by the Government of India in December 2005, a provision of Rs. 432.18 crore has been made for the period 2005-06 to 2008-09 for the Environment and Coastal Protection measure in the State.

[Translation]

Forest cover

877. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of Indian climate one-third

of Indian geographical area should be forest covered for environmental balance;

(b) if so, the national average and the percentage of forest cover in the different States of the country alongwith their total area of forest land; and

(c) the steps proposed/being taken by the Government to bring all the States at par with the projected 33% forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the National Forest Policy, 1988, a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

(b) The percentage of forest cover in different States and Union Territories of the country alongwith their total forest cover and the recorded forest area, as per State Forest Report (SFR), 2003, published by Forest survey of India is given in the enclosed statement. The National average of forest cover and recorded forest area are 20.64 per cent and 23.57 per cent respectively, of total geographical area of the country.

(c) The steps undertaken by the Government to increase the forest cover in the country are:—

- (i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.
- (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved working plans etc.
- (iii) Financial measures lie providing assistance to the State/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and externally aided projects for undertaking afforestation programme sand protection and conservation of forests.
- (iv) A network of protected areas has been established.
- (v) The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme is being implemented through two-tier mechanism—Forest Development Agencies at the Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Management Committee at the village level.
- (vi) The 12th Finance Commission has recommended for a grant of Rs. 1,000 crores for the period 2005-2010, to be given to the States and Union Territories in addition to what the States would be spending through their Forest Departments i.e. in addition to the normal expenditure of the Forest Department.

Statement

The total Forest Cover (in Km²) and percentage (of Geographical Area) of forest cover of States of India as per State of Forest Report, 2003 of FSI

(Area in Km²)

State/UT	Geographic Area	Forest Cover	Forest Cover as percentage of geographical Area	Recorded Forest Area	Recorded Forest Area as Percentage of Geographic Area

1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	68,019	81.22	51,540	61.55
Assam	78,438	27,826	35.48	27,018	34.45
Bihar	94,163	5,558	5.90	6,473	6.87
Chhattisgarh	135,191	55,998	41.92	59,772	44.21
Delhi	1,483	170	11.46	85	5.73
Goa	3,702	2,156	58.24	1,224	33.06
Gujarat	196,022	14,946	7.63	19,113	9.75
Haryana	44,212	1,517	3.43	1,558	3.52
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,353	25.78	37,033	66.52
Jammu and Kashmir	222,236	21,267	9.57	20,230	9.10
Jharkhand	79,714	22,716	28.50	23,605	29.61
Karnataka	191,791	36,449	19.00	43,084	22.46
Kerala	38,863	15,577	40.08	11,268	28.99
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	76,429	24.79	35,221	30.89
Maharashtra	307,713	46,865	15.23	61,939	20.13
Manipur	22,327	17,219	77.12	17,418	78.01
Meghalaya	22,429	16,839	75.08	9,496	42.34
Mizoram	21,081	18,430	87.42	16,717	79.30
Nagaland	16,579	13,609	82.09	8,629	52.05
Orissa	155,707	48,366	31.06	58,136	37.34
Punjab	50,362	1,580	3.14	3,084	6.12
Rajasthan	342,239	15,826	4.62	32,488	9.49
Sikkim	7,096	3,262	45.97	5,841	82.31
Tamil Nadu	130,058	22,643	17.41	22,877	17.59
Tripura	10,486	8,093	77.18	6,293	60.01
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	14,118	5.86	16,826	6.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttaranchal	53,483	24,465	45.74	34,662	64.81
West Bengal	88,752	12,343	13.91	11,879	13.38
Andaman and Nicobar	8,249	6,964	84.42	7,171	86.93
Chandigarh	114	15	13.16	34	29.82
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	225	45.82	204	41.55
Daman and Diu	112	8	7.45	1	0.89
Lakshdweep	32	23	71.88	0	0.00
Pondicherry	480	40	8.33	0	0.00
Total	3,287,263	678,333	20.64	7,74,740	23.57

Farmers Assistance/Counselling Centres

878. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the farmers assistance/counselling centres being run in the States at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres in States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the backward areas where such centres are proposed to be set up; and

(e) the time by which these centres are likely to be started?

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) In order to provide answers to the queries of farmers relating to agriculture and allied matters, the Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) have been operationalized in various locations as given in the enclosed statement. The KCCs are operating from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on toll free telephone No. 1551—on all seven days in a week.

(b) to (e) Entire country is covered at present from the existing KCCs.

Statement

Locations of Kisan Call Centres

Sl. No.	Kisan Call Centre Locations	States and UTs covered
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
2.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu
3.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal
4.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshdweep Islands
5.	Banglore	Karnataka
6.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
7.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3
8. Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab	
9. Jaipur	Rajasthan	
10. Indore	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	
11. Kolkata	West bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Tripura and Sikkim	
12. Guwahati	Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh	
13. Delhi	Delhi and Haryana	

[English]

Appointment of Members of CBFC

879. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether present members of Central Board of Film Certification have no relation with literature, art, culture and language;

(b) if so, the basis on which they have been empanelled;

(c) whether criteria on their appointment is likely to be revised; and

(d) if so, the details to regular meetings of the Board held so far during the last three years and the reasons for non-convening of regular meetings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No qualification has been prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for appointment as Member of the Board of Film Certification. The Board Members of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) are chosen from diverse streams such as social sciences, law, education, art, film, etc. and represent a cross-section of the society.

(c) The Cinematograph Act, 1952 is under Review.

(d) In 2003, one meeting was held; in 2004, two meetings were held in 2005, the Board has met once. In 2006, one meeting has already been held and another meeting is scheduled to be held on 31-07-2006. The regular meetings in the years 2003 to 2005 could not be held because either the charge to the post of Chairman was held temporarily or the Chairman of the Board was otherwise pre-occupied.

[Translation]

Assistance for Co-operative Sugar Mills

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

(a) whether the co-operative sugar mills are accruing losses despite the assistance provided by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number of such loss making co-operative sugar mills in the country;

(c) whether the Union Government exercises some control over the utilization of the Central assistance by these co-operative sugar mills;

(d) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the utilization of the said assistance during the last three years;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure proper utilization of the assistance?

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) Some cooperative sugar mills are accruing losses despite the assistance provided by the Union Government.

(b) As per available information on the basis of reporting cooperative sugar mills, for 2004-05, there are 102 number of cooperative sugar mills in the country which are making losses.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is already a system in place to monitor utilization of the financial assistance provided to the sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF). Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have been appointed as the Monitoring Agencies on behalf of the Government to oversee and monitor proper utilization of the loan and implementation of the project. Second instalment, and the balance loan, if any, is disbursed only on submission of utilization certificate towards proper utilization of the earlier instalment. The monitoring agencies submit utilisation certificates as per General Financial Rules after necessary checks like site inspection, verifying books of accounts of sugar factory, Chartered Accountant's report etc. In case any loan is diverted or not properly utilized as per SDF Rules, the loan is withdrawn and the mill is not to be disbursed further loans.

[English]

Recharging of Water Table

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

(a) the percentage of rain water being harvested, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to conserve and use more rain/flood water;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a national scheme for recharging surface water to increase the diminishing water table in the country; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Rain water is harvested through creating surface storages and recharge to ground water by various artificial recharge structures. The percentage of rainfall recharging ground water varies from State to State depending upon the local hydrogeological conditions. The rain water harvested in each State through artificial recharge structures cannot be quantified.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take

steps to conserve and use more rain/flood water. However, Union Government have also taken following steps in this regard:—

- (i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water.
- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation to regulate and control the development and management of ground water.
- (iii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.
- (iv) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.
- (v) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.
- (vi) With a view to bring rain water harvesting schemes closer to common people, films on rain water harvesting in urban areas and rural areas have been produced for wide publicity among masses. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organized throughout the country involving Central/State Governments/Non-Government Organizations/Voluntary Organizations/Resident Welfare Associations/Educational Institutions/ Industries and Individuals.

- (vii) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has also been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.
- (viii) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water runoff including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.
- (ix) An activity namely, "Demonstration of Rain Water Harvesting from Roof Tops and two toilets in Government Schools in rural area in various States through Community Based Organizations (CBOs)" was taken up during Fresh Water Year, 2003-04. Based on its success, more girls rural Government schools have been covered with roof top rain water harvesting projects during 2005-06.
- (x) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented in 13 identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs. 12 crores during the year 2006-07.
- (xi) A storage capacity of 213 BCM has been built up in various major and medium dams. In addition, rain water harvesting through small check dams is also being encouraged.

(c) and (d) Based on various studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to demarcate the areas where decline of ground water level is on continuous basis and identify areas feasible for recharge, a concept report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared. A total of 4.5 lakh

sq. km. area has been identified in the country which needs artificial recharge of ground water. It has been estimated that annually about 36 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of surplus monsoon runoff can be recharged to augment ground water.

A concept note on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting at an estimated cost of Rs. 1380 crores for implementation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has also been prepared. The concept note envisages construction of 22395 rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures through Panchayati Raj Institutions in 17 most backward districts in the country having high stage of ground water development, in a period of 5 years commencing from 2005-06. This concept note has been sent by the Ministry of Water Resources to the Ministry of Rural Development, who has circulated it to the concerned State Governments for implementation under the NREGS. Besides, Government has also constituted an 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council' with an objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stakeholders and its adoption.

Rehabilitation of Plantation Sector Worker

882. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea plantation sector in Kerala was on serious crisis and on lock out in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of about 25,000 workers who are suffering for the past five years;

(d) whether the State Government has requested for any package from the Union Government for the rehabilitation of the said workers; and

(e) 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Difference in Retail and Wholesale
Price of Essential Commodities**

883. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGÉ PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the per kilogram difference between existing wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued in relation to maximum permissible difference between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government monitors the prices, especially the retail prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Wholesale and retail prices are not comparable as retail prices include cost of distribution, packaging, retailer's margin etc. However, the wholesale prices of a few essential commodities and their retail prices in the metropolitan centres as reported by concerned State Governments are given in the table below:—

(as on 19-7-06)

Commodity	Delhi		Mumbai		Kolkata		Chennai	
	Wholesale (Rs./Qtl.)	Retail/ Kg	Wholesale (Rs./Qtl.)	Retail/ Kg	Wholesale (Rs./Qtl.)	Retail/ Kg	Wholesale (Rs./Qtl.)	Retail/ Kg
Rice	1165	14.00	1175	12.50	850	11.00	1150	13.00
Wheat	865	10.00	1225	14.00	NT	NT	1280	14.00
Tur Dal	2910	32.00	3050	33.00	2450	30.00	3100	34.00
Gram Dal	2705	30.50	3200	35.00	2800	32.00	3150	34.00
Mustard Oil	4542	49.00	5200	74.00	4400	50.00	NT	NT
Sugar	1975	21.00	1910	21.50	1970	22.00	1880	20.00

NT: Not Traded

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Prices of 14 essential commodities are monitored on a daily basis and prices at 18 centres across the country covering the major State Capitals.

[English]

Reduction in Prices of Fertilizers

884. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce the present prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken a final decision to implement the recommendations of Alagh Committee; and

(d) 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) There is no proposal at present to reduce the selling prices of fertilizers.

(c) and (d) Government is in the process of formulating a policy for urea units for Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme commencing w.e.f. 1-4-2006, keeping in view the recommendations of the Working Group headed by Dr. Y.K. Alagh.

Grants for Research

885. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union government has provided grants to various institutions/universities and non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) for promotion of research in multi-disciplinary aspects of environmental protection, conservation and management;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the said scheme;

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided to the NGOs during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the number of proposals received from the various institutions/universities and NGOs during the last three years; and

(e) the number of proposals cleared so far alongwith the financial assistance provided therefor?

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

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4525/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): On behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 273 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2006, under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4526/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, 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 Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, 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 4527/06]

12.01½ hrs.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) on Indian Parliamentary participation in the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Nadi, Fiji from 1-10 September, 2005.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I want to make one point regarding this item being laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that you would appreciate it. You are criticising it instead of appreciating it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, I am welcoming and appreciating this step. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, he only wants to make one point. ...*(Interruptions)* He will appreciate for the first time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, I welcome this gesture ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a gesture. This is a commitment. This is being done for the first time, but you are criticising it instead of appreciating it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, I am only saying that never before this has been done....*(Interruptions)* I am welcoming and appreciating this. It should not be a gesture alone, but it should be done on a regular basis, so that there is some transparency, and the Members are also informed about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, in future it would be done, and I am sure about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is the first time that this is being done, and we are trying to do something in it. Therefore,

I think that you should express appreciation for the staff of this Secretariat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Yes, Sir, I am welcoming it. But my point is that the report is pertaining to the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation, and its participation in Fiji in September 2005. We are asking the Ministries also to come out with their Reports within six months, that is, the next Session, so that necessary action, if any, could be taken promptly.

MR. SPEAKER: It should be done, and it will be done.

MD. SALIM: Sir, I am only submitting that it should not be submitted after a gap of one year and ten months. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you are wrong. It is not after one year and ten months, but it is only after one year.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether it is permissible, but I must compliment the Secretariat for the steps that have been taken in it. We are now filing Reports for every visit, which nobody thought of earlier.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is right, you cooperate.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Thirty-Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): I beg to present the Thirty-Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 'The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006'.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour*[English]*

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, as per directions issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, on 1st September, 2004.

The Seventh Report of the Committee concerns the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which were presented to the House on 14th December, 2005. I would like to mention that the Ministry had submitted to the Committee the Action Taken Report on this Report on 7th April, 2006.

The status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Seventh Report is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which has been circulated among the hon. Members. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this might be considered as read.

12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re: Apprehension of terrorist attacks on key Indian Installations as revealed by National Security Advisor*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to Matters of Urgent Public Importance after the Question Hour. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will give a chance to everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Mr. Malhotra wants to raise an issue first as he has some other important engagement. Therefore, I have allowed him to speak.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, it was mentioned in question hour that our National Security advisor publicly announced it three times on T.V.

[English]

He says that:

"There is information that one of our atomic installation is under threat. It is a Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) operation."

Thereafter, this question was asked from him. How serious is the threat to India's nuclear installations? He said: "Of course, it is a very serious threat." Further, he says that: "I maybe excommunicated after making this public."

[Translation]

So far as the atomic and nuclear installations are concerned, if these are under serious threat and National Security Advisor is saying so but the House knows nothing in this regard. We are listening on T.V. whatever he said in this regard. The session is going on and the matter is so serious and chilling and it is being talked about on T.V. Hon. Prime Minister is also Minister of Atomic Energy. Should he not take the House in confidence? Earlier he had said that Lashkar-e-Taiba has infiltrated into Air Force and it is quite dangerous. Now news is being broken that Lashkar-e-Taiba's Militants have been nabbed in the Army and they have been arrested. At the same time news was published in all newspapers that Big B, Shri Tendulkar and VIPs are on the target of Lashkar-e-Taiba. But the

[PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA]

House has no information in this regard. I would like to know whether the hon. Prime Minister would take the House in confidence as to how serious is the threat? When National Security Advisor is saying, then there must be a threat. If he is talking wrong, please tell him also but there is no question of misinformation. He is the Prime Minister's National Security Advisor, he cannot say it without his consent. It is a serious matter, it is not question of any party. The House has the right to know how serious is the threat?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please speak one by one.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, the Government may be asked to make a *suo motu* statement on this issue. ...(Interruptions) The entire country is looking at us ...(Interruptions) Sir, you should advice the Government to make a *suo motu* statement on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, yesterday 54 people were killed in Lebanon....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what is this going on in the House?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have appreciated the importance of the matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, I appreciate the importance of the matter. Therefore, I have allowed you to raise it. The Leader of the House is here, and senior Ministers from the Government are also present here. It is for them to respond. I cannot direct them to respond, and

you know about it very well as you have been in the House for long.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I will allow you to make your submission after the Leader of the Opposition makes his point as he wants to say something on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that ordinarily the time after the Question Hour is allowed for Members to express concern on an issue. But this is not just an expression of a concern. I think that the Government owes a duty to the House to respond to this point made by my colleague in the House. What exactly happened in this issue? I am asking this because this is not a small matter. These things have been going on for quite some time. We read in the name of the National Security Advisor certain reports, which distress us immensely, particularly, this matter relating to the nuclear installations. This matter is so serious that the Prime Minister himself should reply. Otherwise, the Defence Minister is present here, and he could also respond on this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Hon. Defence Minister wishes to respond.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member, and also the Leader of the Opposition for drawing the attention of the Government to this aspect.

Activities of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taeba (LeT) have been continuously and carefully monitored by our security and intelligence agencies. It has been evident for some time now that the scope of such terrorist activities is on the increase. The information that is available with the security agencies is that LeT module are planning to carry out some strikes against critical infrastructure items, military targets and religious places.

As regards items of critical infrastructure, reports indicate a possibility of a nuclear installation being considered. The Government has taken the information

very seriously. A series of special security measures have already been taken, and some are under consideration to prevent any such attempt from succeeding.

The House must appreciate that it is on the basis of advance intelligence that necessary steps are being taken to protect our vital installations and other high profile targets. I can assure the hon. Members that Government will take all possible steps to see that these attacks do not fructify.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, Jaisawal Saheb has said that there is no such threat.

[*English*]

He is a Minister in the Government, and he said that there was no threat at all. How is he saying that?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to make a comment. The hon. Leader of the House is here. I wish the Statement had been made here and not outside. I myself wanted to say that. However, the Government have responded, and I am sure that they will keep that in mind.

12.10 hrs.

(II) Re: Situation arising out of Israeli attacks on Lebanon

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, sixty persons were killed in Lebanon in the deadliest attack by Israel, and thirty-seven of the killed were children. When they were sleeping at night, the bombings took place. For the last 19 days, the attacks are continuing, and more than 800 Lebanese have already been killed, including the Indian citizens.

We have demanded that the Government of India should put pressure so that there is immediate ceasefire, but that is not happening. What is happening is that the Bush Administration is abetting Israel by preventing ceasefire. They are preventing any ceasefire being

declared. The Bush Administration is also encouraging Israel to carry on its blatant aggression by supplying lethal bombs and weapons.

We have demanded that there should be immediate ceasefire, and the Government of India should suspend purchase of weapons from Israel because the money that Israel is getting by supplying arms, by selling arms, is being utilised to attack Lebanon.

In this House, we condemned and we passed a Resolution when Iraq was attacked. After three days of stalling of the House, ultimately, the NDA Government agreed to bring a Resolution to condemn the attack on Iraq. We have seen that the Government of India made a statement condemning the brutal attack by Israel on Lebanon. We should express our concern, and this House should also adopt a Resolution by condemning the brutal attack.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister has already made a statement condemning the attack.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a small country, and twenty per cent of its population had to flee the country.
...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am speaking in your support.
...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Even though the world opinion is against it, the attack is still continuing. How can we remain silent?

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to raise the issue because of the seriousness of the matter. I have to allow some other hon. Members also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can this House remain silent? We should condemn and we should pass a Resolution condemning the brutal attack on Lebanon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has condemned it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is this House remaining silent when a small country is being attacked?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, this is the serious issue raised by Shri Acharia ji....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I believe, Shri Mohan Singh is supporting you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the submission by the hon. Member whom I have invited to speak.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you unnecessarily bothered about it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. That is not being recorded. I cannot go and shout at him. Nothing is being recorded. Why are you worried about it?

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Mohan Singh will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members do not want the proceedings to go on, I will adjourn the House. You have raised a very important matter, Mr. Acharia. Mr. Mohan Singh wants to support your contention I believe.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow others also to speak. There are other hon. Members to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak as I have also given a notice on this subject. Today whatever is happening in Lebanon should be condemned

*Not recorded.

in strongest terms. It is extremely unfortunate that civilian locations are being targeted for attack and innocent children, women and men are being killed. Many Indians have also been injured and few have been killed there in attacks. Their bodies have been brought to India. History testifies that America has always used Israel as a tool to maintain its dominance in the Middle East. No efforts have been made to establish peace in the region. Although our Prime Minister has given a statement here that peace should be established there, nevertheless, the Indian Government has not made any serious efforts, as it should have made, to bring about ceasefire in the region. The American Secretary of State had visited the region and gave platitudinous statements regarding ceasefire. Nothing has happened so far. Israel has said that it would carry on its attacks for 14 days. I feel that any country which advocates world peace should intervene in such matter and should make an effort to bring about a global consensus about stopping such attacks inside the boundaries of other nations. India has always followed this policy. I strongly condemn the Israeli attacks on civilian locations in Lebanon and request the Government of India to come out strongly in support of immediate ceasefire.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I have only one suggestion to make. The House must collectively express its anguish and condemnation over this and call upon the United Nations to ask Israel to stop the genocide in Lebanon. I do not know what the stand of my friends in the Opposition is. It is for them to spell it out....(Interruptions)

A national newspaper today has printed a picture on its front page that shows a man in anger and anguish carrying the dead body of a small child. It is nothing but genocide. Another version of Hitlerite genocide has started appearing in the world today. The second concern is, it is really a proxy war. It is a proxy war being fought by the super power of the world acting from behind Israel and using it as a stooge to discipline and to bring to order the whole of the Middle-East.

India is known for its independent views. We always stood by victims. We always condemned imperialism. We always stood for the UN charter. Let this House collectively say, 'Thus far and no further and Israel must stop this

aggression'. This is not war. This is aggression. This must be stopped. This genocide must stop.

We must support Lebanon. We must support the distressed humanity. We must speak against the genocide. It is up to the traditions of Indians democracy and Indian Parliament to speak in single voice against this aggression. The right of our Parliament must be asserted and we should tell the whole world that India is unambiguously for ending immediately the aggression and the genocide in Lebanon. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct, Shri Swain. I have called your Deputy Leaders and you are disturbing him.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is not the place. Go to the Central Hall or some *Akhara*, I do not know.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Somebody has to regulate the proceedings, whether you like it or not.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I called him. He wanted to speak. Because of the importance of the matter, even without prior notice, I am allowing him. This is not the way to cooperate. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I condemn the attacks on the civilian locations in Lebanon and the consequent death of children and women as also the injuries caused to our soldiers. I associate myself with the feelings expressed in the House. The entire House had supported the detailed statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister wherein he had said that the war in Lebanon should be stopped and that the

*Not recorded.

United Nations Peace force should be deployed there to bring about peace and ceasefire in the region. I condemn the attacks on children and on civilian locations.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, just hold your patience. This is very unfortunate. You are not allowing. I am trying to involve all sections of the House because of the importance of the matter. They are supporting you and you are disturbing. I hope the Government would respond or make some response. Just wait.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, I will also call you. I have got your name. Therefore, please allow me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, you speak.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I would like to say that I am also associating with other Members on this issue. This is nothing but mustering the muscle power by Israel against a weak and a small nation like Lebanon. This should be condemned by the Government of India. We have always stood for the democratic rights of the people and against any attack. Parliament always stood for it. This is our tradition. We expect the Government to respond. We should have a unanimous resolution condemning this action. In no way we should support this matter. Lebanon is a small country. Big countries are showing their muscle power and mustering their muscle power against a small country. Hence, we must oppose this act unitedly. We expect that Government that is should also respond and come forward with a unanimous resolution in this House and the Government shall take the lead in this regard.

[*Translation*]

MOHD. SALIM (Calcutta-North-East): I will not make any speech.

[*English*]

I have just four couplets, eight lines through which I express the feelings of most of the Members.

[Mohd. Salim]

[Translation]

"Yeh jo Israel ki Lebanon ko saugat hai, ye to ek dastur hai uska purani baat hai, Aaj phir meri nazar majhi main jakar kho gayi, phir Shatila-sabirah ki yaad taaza ho gayi,

Aa gaya Labanon main pahne hue jangi libas, kya philistine lahu se bujh na payi teri pyas,

Uff yeh julmo-jabar aur duniya ki yeh khamoshiyan, chowdhary jo aman ke bante the aakhir hai kahan".

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot follow as to what he is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: I am speaking in Urdu. Interpretation of Urdu is not available. I shall translate it. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Like other Members, we also condemn the attitude of the big power. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. It is a very bad habit. Kumari Banerjee, ignore them and please address me.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am supporting the cause of Lebanon....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt each other. It is a very serious matter.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Some people from Orissa also have lost their lives in the Lebanon attack by Israel. We think that Parliament should adopt a unanimous resolution to condemn the attitude because our country always played a useful role, whether it is an African war or African struggle or Vietnam struggle. India should lead as the leader of the non-Aligned Movement. This Movement has to be strengthened so that small powers get protection from India. I would like to ask the Indian Government to condemn and bring a resolution in the

House. We are one in this regard. I think, we must condemn the attitude of America.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I feel proud to be the Speaker of this House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan], Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the strong and powerful countries in the world keep on creating such problems for smaller countries and create danger for life and property by attacking civilian locations. The Prime Minister had also given a statement in this regard in the House. He has the complete support of the House in this respect. In earlier instances, India has always been at the forefront in the efforts of establishing peace in such strife-torn areas. But in the present instance India is not playing that role. I strongly condemn the happenings in Lebanon and would like to say that a resolution should be passed in the House so that peace could be established there. This House and the Government should make all efforts in this direction. With these words I conclude.

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI (Anantnag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that we are reacting so strongly to the situation because we ourselves have recently gone through the trauma of the bomb blasts in trains. Children and people die in such incidents, bodies are torn into pieces, children are orphaned. We call such incidents the handiwork of terrorists. When the attack on New York took place we condemned it and called it terrorism. We expressed solidarity with America. When America attacked Afghanistan it caused the death of not hundreds but many thousands of people. Children were killed, people were maimed, property was destroyed. The same carnage took place in Iraq. There its excuse was that Iraq had nuclear weapons. But later on America confessed that no such weapons were found in Iraq. Our country, a country of Gandhiji, just sees these things and says nothing. We pass resolutions and thereafter stand shoulder to shoulder with America. I would like to ask one thing that when any one attacks our country we call him terrorist and want to hang him. But when a country, be it Israel or America, makes an all out attack on another country leading to death of children and destruction of the targeted country, what should that country be called? [English] What is the

word for them and what do we do about it? *[Translation]* What can we do about it? *[English]* It is not going to be confined to America or Israel. *[Translation]* America and Israel will have to answer it. The groups that play havoc around the world are formed due to injustice being perpetrated the world over. Since our country is a democratic one and there is a huge population of minorities here, it seems, to me that it is our duty to rise and talk in this regard. Our relations with Israel are improving. It is good. But we should take notice of what is happening these days. *[English]* We should be seen as standing by the side of victims and not be seen as partners of the perpetrators of violence on innocent victims.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will call one by one. I cannot hear two hon. Members at the same time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): I associate my party with the issue raised by Hon'ble Basu Deb Acharia regarding the situation arising out of Israel's attack on Lebanon and the light thrown on it by the Members belonging to various parties. My party also agrees with it. *That is why the tone and tanner of the reaction of the Government to such a happening, is not befitting. Today, there is a need that Government of India should come forward to help the people of Lebanon on this issue and to stop the aggression on it immediately. We should come forward and if need be hold discussion with other countries and it should be condemned by bringing a resolution in the House.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. The Prime Minister has condemned it on behalf of the government. I also support this. Why do not we pass a unanimous resolution to condemn it? I want to assure you on behalf of my party and myself that we are of unanimous opinion on this issue. We condemn the attack being made on Lebanon. Some resolution should be passed by the Government in Parliament against Israel and it should be sent so that the world may know the entire issue.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, on

behalf of my Party, the DMK, I would say that we should show our deep concern for the Lebanese. As our friends have said here—I associate with them—being the largest democracy in the world, India cannot be a spectator on this issue. We have to take serious steps. Already the Government has condemned this issue, but it should be condemned by this House with the consent of all the Parties. We should take proper action against the brutal attacks of Israel.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House agrees on the issue that the attack on Lebanon is not an attack on just a country but on entire human race and humanity itself. The house is unanimous on the issue that a resolution should be passed. It is a matter worth consideration. It is always being discussed and it has been history that India has been known as a Vishwa Guru today it is a mute spectator. No monopoly of a country should go on like this to let it act whatever it likes to in the world. India is a country with a population of one hundred crores. If we determine and march on foot no one will dare to fight us. We should come forward and put across our point vehemently.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not be carried away by emotions.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: We are of unanimous opinion that we are not weaker than anyone and we will not allow anyone to perssurise us. Some people are putting immoral pressure on us.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Please bring the proceedings to me.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is highly objectionable. This should be deleted from the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): It should be expunged from the record....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not follow, I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Omar Abdullah.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: We condemn the attacks on Labanon...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I said that I will look into it because I could not follow it. I want to see what he spoke.

Let us not be carried away by emotions. This is a very serious matter. It cannot be done only by emotions. Let us not say something with emotions. We have to react in a dignified manner.

I have called Shri Omar Abdullah. Let us hear him.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (Srinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to rise, on behalf of my Party, the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the Israeli aggression and occupation of Lebanon.

My hon. friends on my right rose and asked whether we question the Israeli's right to exist. We do not; we believe that Israel has as much right to exist as Israel gives right to the Palestinians to exist, as Israel gives the right to the Lebanese to exist, as Israel gives the right to the others in the Middle East to exist. If Israel does not believe that Palestinians have the right to exist, then I do not believe that we should accord the same favour to the Israelis. What is right is right and what is fair is fair. There cannot be two standards for two countries.

One country allows the unprovoked aggression by its friends. When India was provoked and when India was attacked—when our Heights in Kargil were occupied—we were told that we should not cross the Line of Control.

And, yet in the case of Israel, when they see a provocation, when they see a right to react, the Americans turned a complete blind eye to their occupation. I have no doubt that Israelis feel that they were aggrieved when some of their soldiers were kidnapped by Hezbollah, but this act was performed by Hezbollah and not by the innocent people of Israel and most certainly not by the children of Lebanon. The children of Lebanon are not the criminals in all this.

I believe, if we stand by our principles of non-alignment, if we stand by our commitment that this Parliament does not belong to anybody but the people of India and does not express anything but the opinion of the people of India, then both sides of the Parliament, both the Opposition and the Government, should come together and draft a resolution. The Parliament should condemn in the strongest possible term this occupation and immediately call for the withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, a cease-fire and a negotiated settlement of this problem.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam): On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf I condemn the Israeli aggression of Lebanon. I have seen in the TV that innocent children are being killed. Ours is a sovereign country. We gave path to the non-aligned countries. We had passed a Resolution to condemn American attack on Iraq. On the same line, the Government, the Prime Minister made a statement on the floor of the House. But that is not at all sufficient. The Government should pass a Resolution in both the Houses of Parliament condemning the Israeli attack on Lebanon. We will support the Resolution. The Government should condemn it and bring a unanimous Resolution on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully agreed with what the Hon'ble members have stated here as to who is behind it. When the House was discussing the terrorist incidents occurred in Mumbai, then also I had raised the issue as to whether we could be able to eradicate the root of terrorism. They have hinted it today also whether it be the issue of Iraq, or of Saddam Hussain or a search for Bin Laden. Lebanon is being subjected to attacks these days. The same thing is behind

Israel on all these. On the one hand it is said that we would fight terrorism on the other we would kneel down before them and request them again and again to bring terrorism to an end. I want to say that we.....in the entire world.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think Indians surrender so easily. Let us not say that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN: Even while knowing as to who is behind it all, we seek help from it and it alone in this regard. Would we not expose it to the whole world as to who is behind Israel. On the one hand, we are out to bring terrorism to an end while on the other hand such attacks continue to go unabated which provide breeding ground for terrorism. Are we thinking seriously to put an end to all this? Having said this I conclude my speech. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Thank you very much. I am speaking on behalf of the MDMK headed by Shri Vaiko. I associate with the feelings of the Members, who have condemned the bombings by Israel on Lebanon. Innocent children of Lebanon and civilians are being killed by this atrocity of Israel. We should pass a unanimous Resolution condemning this attitude of Israel.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party Shivsena I condemn the attack on Lebanon by Israel because of which innocent women, children and Indian nationals have been killed and demand that the entire House may condemn it and prepare a resolution and send it to Israel to bring about ceasefire over there.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, this is not the first time that this House has expressed its sentiments condemning any barbaric attack on humanity. What is happening today in Lebanon is something which is reminding us of the Second World War and the Nazi attack.

It is no less than genocide. Children are being killed daily. This is the 20th day and in a civilized world we are sitting in Parliament as silent spectators. This cannot happen. The least can be said, the Government has condemned but there should be some operative part also. A signal must go that our country will not make purchases from a country which is committing this genocide. For smaller offences, international sanctions are being put but this country is being spared because the big brother is behind it. It is saying with audacity, 'give us 14 days more and we shall occupy more'.

Children were actually taking shelters and were in deep sleep in the basement. There is no condemnation of any sort from the big power. So, the least that can be said from all sections of the House that this House should condemn and demand immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of the occupying forces and also the Government should consider how to give a lesson to the occupying forces in that region.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I support this resolution brought in by Hon'ble Member Shri Basu Deb Achariya. The way America is spreading terrorism through its capitalism be it in Afghanistan, Iraq or in other parts of the world, the terrorists activities are increasing due to American Policies of separation and its impacts are apparently visible in India also. I demand that a resolution should be brought in to strongly condemn America for its terrorist activities, for extending support to terrorists and for supporting terrorist view point and activities of Israel as America abet and support terrorist activities in its own country and destroys them and compel them to purchase weapons from them. In order to sell its weapons America is spreading terrorist activities all over the world.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alibarduar): Sir, I on behalf of my party vehemently condemn the Israeli attack on Lebanon. It is an attack against the entire human race and even children are not being spared. The way all the Members of the entire House are condemning it in one voice I wish that besides condemnation it would be better to take initiatives to pass a resolution in the regard. I think we would be giving a befitting reply to a biggest challenge before the world.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the sense of anguishness and outrage expressed by hon. Members of this House on attack by Israeli military on the hapless, innocent children, women, old and infirm. A couple of days back, the hon. Prime Minister had made a detailed Statement on the floor of this House condemning the disproportionate military attack on the Lebanon and also extended the humanitarian support to the victims of Lebanon. Yesterday itself, as the House was not in Session, the Government could not express its views on the floor of the House but we issued a very strong condemnation on this act. India strongly condemns the continued, irresponsible and indiscriminate bombing of Lebanon by Israeli military, ignoring call for restraint.

Particularly dangerous is the bombing of this morning of a building in Qana which has resulted in deaths of dozens of innocent civilians mostly women, children and old people who had taken shelter there. India expressed its deep condolence to the Government and the people of Lebanon over this tragic incident. We also condemned the air strikes on UN peacekeeping troops deployed on the Israel-Lebanon border, which has resulted in two Indian soldiers getting wounded yesterday. It will be recalled that earlier an Indian soldier was also hurt and four UN peace keeping observers had been killed as a result of Israeli bombing. We demand that such targeting on the UN peace keeping force be stopped forth with. India is fully concerned over the escalation of the conflict and reiterate its call for immediate and unconditional ceasefire so that further loss of life and property can be prevented and humanitarian aid can reach the affected people of Lebanon. A ceasefire should be followed by negotiation leading to peaceful and comprehensive solution to the problems of this region and to take into account the legitimate interests and grievances of the parties concerned.

Sir, we also condemned the arrest of Palestinian Ministers and elected representatives and we did not see any rationale why the elected representatives should be arrested. Therefore, once again we reiterate that the conflict should immediately be stopped and attack on Lebanon should immediately be stopped.

The Members of the House have expressed their

desire to have a resolution. Sir, you are fully aware, there is a set procedure in which this type of resolution could be considered. We shall have to consider all the Parties including you. I would also have to convey the sense of the House to the Prime Minister. I can assure that the Government of India will take appropriate step at every stage and would do whatever is called for under this situation.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is your problem. I think you have got too much of a vocal speakers. So, allow him to speak also. Can we sit together at 1.15 p.m. today in my Committee Room?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, kindly give me some more time because I shall have to talk to the Prime Minister. Just now it is about to be 1.00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Let us sit in the afternoon at 4 o'clock.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, by 4 o'clock, we can sit. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As I said, one observation has been made. I feel proud to be the Speaker of this House.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. In the morning I have raised a point that an article under the heading "Letter Bomb" has been published in the latest issue of "India Today" and there is clear mention. I think perhaps our former Minister of External Affairs may have referred to some portion of this letter in his book. In this letter there is a clear indication that a very important person, who has direct access to the Prime Minister, used to get secret information from America or passing it to America. I would like to quote from the said letter—

[English]

"The senior person I talked to swore me to secrecy as he departed for secret meeting in Bangalore where the issue of nuclear testing will be put before the Prime Minister by a majority of his advisors who

favoured this step. He was very concerned that he might not win this battle. But he did not want me to share this information with any one at this time. He feared the consequences of a leak and hoped that that Prime Minister would decide to delay a decision something for which he has a well deserved reputation."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if one goes through this letter it is clear that the nuclear deal talks which were going on at that time could not be materialized due to pressure being exerted by an officer in the Prime Minister's office and that deal is going to be finalized now. This is serious matter and is related to a very important institution i.e. the Prime Minister's Office where moles were planted and we are going to do such in an agreement with that country which could be detrimental to the security of the country. It will not be fair to do so. America has been continuously conspiring in this regard and it appears to me that our government has been trapped in a conspiracy. Therefore, we repeatedly demand that utmost care should be taken in regard to the proposed nuclear deal and sense of the parliament should be taken before signing the said agreement. I think the content of the letter in question is related to security of the country. Therefore, a statement on this should come from the Prime Minister and there should also be a discussion on this issue here in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hansraj Ahir—Not Present.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards another important matter. We were just having a discussion on terrorism. A more heinous crime than this has been reported in a daily newspaper. A T.V. Channel has conducted a sting operation on the activities of a doctor. The sting operation reveals that the said doctor is involved in heinous activities and is denigrating the noble profession of a doctor. That doctor has amputated hands and arms of some beggars for money. It is amazing that

those beggars have got their arms and legs amputated to earn money. This T.V. Channel has shown the doctor taking money and explaining the other details as to how the hands and legs of beggars are got spoiled with the help of chemicals and later on a prescription is prepared that if his hand or leg is not amputated the entire body will get infected and he will die. Therefore, it is necessary to get the hand or leg of the person amputated. This modus operandi is adopted to get them disabled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I demand from the House that the doctor involved in such a heinous practice should be given the maximum punishment. In my view I would like to point out that the men, women or children whose hands or legs have been amputated has not been done at their will. In childhood we used to hear that some people run a racket and abduct the children of poor families and get their hands and legs amputated to force them to beg. The people running such racket should be arrested and stern action should be taken against those two doctors who are involved in this heinous act. I think there may be more doctors involved in such activities. Those doctors should be identified and action should be taken against them. As per the revelation made by the said T.V. Channel one doctor is involved in twenty to twenty five such cases. Action should be taken immediately to check such heinous acts. Through you, I request the House to think over it and decide as to what deterrent action should be taken against such doctors.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. I hope the Government would take the most deterrent action.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Minister of Energy towards slow pace of implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in 28,097 villages of 22 districts of Jharkhand and at the same time would like to inform him that Ministry of Energy of Jharkhand state vide its letter No. 98/sa.ko. dated 31-05-05 has assigned implementation of rural electrification scheme to Central P.S.U. Damodar Valley Corporation, NTPC, PGCIL and state electricity Board.

[Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey]

However, even after a lapse of one full year the implementation of the scheme has not begun. Above agencies are the central PSUs under Central Ministries. I, therefore, earnestly request the central Ministries to issue necessary guide-lines for early implementation of the scheme. I also demand that Central Government should take the initiative to ensure speedy implementation of this centrally sponsored public oriented scheme as the Jharkhand Government is not extending cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important issue. This is an year old scheme. Jharkhand Government is not cooperating....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you have made your point quite effectively.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government land is being encroached upon in Baspur district of Chattisgarh and in the entire country owing to which people are not able to go out for latrine in the open which kept them healthy but there is no public land available for this purpose.

I, through you, demand that the Government should give five hundred crores of rupees to each state for construction of latrines for those living below the poverty line.

Sir, a grant of 900-1500 per latrine has been given. While expenditure of Rs. 25000-30,000 is incurred on the construction of latrines for officers and other VIPs, how come a poor person can construct a latrine with Rs. 1200. A latrine is constructed with a sum of Rs. 3600.

I, through you, demand that the Central Government should provide funds at the rate of Rs. 3600 per latrine and Chattisgarh be allocated a sum of Rs. 500 crores under this head.

I, therefore, demand that the Central Government should take prompt action thereon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This matter is very important. It should be taken up.

SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL (Sangli): Sir, I am very pleased that I have been allotted some time to speak.

Sir, people are facing heavy flood in my constituency, Sangli. About 35,000 hectares of land are under water. The safety level of water should be around 40 feet but now, it has already crossed 50 feet meaning that the water level is ten feet above the safety level. About 50,000 people from Palus taluka, about 10,000 people from Walwa taluk and about 5000 people from Miraj taluka have already been shifted to safe places.

Sir, my constituency is close to Karnataka border and Krishna river flowing through Maharashtra is nearer to Satara and Sangli and passes through Kolhapur. The Almatti Dam is built in Karnataka. I would like to bring to your notice that we have never faced such type of floods since the last 30 to 40 years....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, this is his maiden intervention. It is our custom not to interrupt when a Member is speaking for the first time. I will call you at a suitable occasion and not now. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Sir, last year, we had requested the Government to release water from Almatti Dam but they had not released water thereby the water level has gone up. This year also, we are facing the same problem. I would request you to instruct the authorities concerned to release more water from the Dam so that the flood can be controlled and water level can come down.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you on your maiden performance. Please talk to Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh also on this matter.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (ELURU): Sir, sixteen Indians have died in Bahrain....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me introduce the Bill first, then I shall take it up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please wait for some time. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...

14.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): I beg to

*Not recorded.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 31-7-06.

move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1950".

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

14.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 10. I would request that the matters under Rule 377 might be laid on the Table of the House. It will be treated as part of the proceedings of today.

(I) **Re: Need to stop illegal cutting of trees in Dang forests of district Balsar, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI KISANBHAI V. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Environment towards illegal felling of trees in Dang forests of my parliamentary constituency Balsar.

Sir, Sabridham fair was held in Dang forests in recent past. Lakhs of devotees participated therein and stayed there for 15-20 days. On this very spot 'Pumpa' Sarovar was created. In run-up to these arrangements a road stretch of 120-125 K.M. on one side and 95-100 K.M. road stretch was constructed on the other side of the forest. As a result of which a large number of trees were felled in 10-12 range, thereby causing huge damage to the environment.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

**Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Kisanbhai V. Patel]

On the other hand, middlemen have damaged as many as 10-12 lakh of trees in this forest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you would like to request the Union Environment Minister to take appropriate action at the Central Government level to protect the Dang forest.

(ii) Need to release funds for development of Schools in Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council area of Darjeeling, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): The Government of India in its Budget 2006-07 has allocated a huge amount for the establishment and development of schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for helping the poor and especially the dropouts. In the Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council (DGHC) area of Darjeeling also fund was allotted @ Rs. 4.50 lacs each for 102 schools and Rs. 1.50 lacs for 32 schools. The total amount for the development and establishment of schools in the DGHC area under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan this year was nearly Rs. 7 crores. But I am constrained to state that this sanctioned amount for these 134 schools never reached the intended destinations but, the official execution report was completed in stipulated time. The truth came out when the Department concerned asked for utilization certificates from the said 134 schools individually. The headmasters of primary schools and members of the Committee were taken aback by the query of funds, which they never received. They started running from pillar to post trying to prove their innocence in the matter. FIR has been lodged against some persons and customary hunt for the culprit has started and as usual it will take its own course.

In the light of the above, all that I intend to emphasize is that the needy schools and their students should not, at any cost, be allowed to suffer due to fault of officials. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for HRD to kindly look into the matter, release fund for those 134 schools and also take stringent action against those corrupt officials who are responsible for embezzlement of this huge amount.

(iii) Need to provide financial support to onion growers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In India nearly

65% of the population is farming community. Nearly 70% of our farmers own less than 2 hectares of land and 48% of the farmers are below poverty line. India is wholly depending upon agriculture.

In Tamilnadu nearly 10,000 hectares of onion crops were raised by the farmers. They are spending huge amount of money on fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. But they are not able to get good yield and remunerative price for their produce. Farmers are getting loan either from cooperative institutions or private money lenders. Increasingly farming communities are losing their family members and driven to death by debts and crop failures.

In my Palani Constituency particularly in Dharapuram, Kangayam, Palani and Oddanchatram talukas the farmers main crop is onion. Since they were given spurious onion seeds, their crops were totally spoiled. After agitation by farmers, the seed vendors gave Rs. 2,000 as compensation to each farmer in Pongalur and Dharapuram talukas. Since the seeds were spurious, the farmers were able to reap very less production. Further, the traders are purchasing onion at Rs. 2 per kg. Maharashtra Government is giving Rs. 3 per kg. as support price to the farmers. Likewise, the Union of India has to take steps to protect onion growers by providing support price or otherwise the farmers will be forced to commit suicide.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take effective steps to protect the farming community particularly those who are cultivating onion.

(iv) Need to check erosion on the banks of river Bhagirathi in West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): The severe erosion along the banks of the rivers Padma, Ganga and Bhagirathi have been playing havoc since the last 2 decades. Hundreds of villages have been rendered into extinction, and now many more villages are awaiting the same fate. None the less Padma, Ganga erosion has drawn attention of the Union Government whereby funds were mobilized to put erosion in check along its banks. But the erosion on the bank of Bhagirathi has been left to the freak of nature. Where no anti-erosion work has been done to arrest the onslaught as a result of

which one after another village has disappeared from the map.

I urge upon the Government to include this erosion problem in the 11th Five Year Plan and the entire anti erosion job should be executed by the Farakka Barrage Project Authority.

(v) Need to Interconnect National Highways No. 21 and 22 from Aut to Luhri (Sainj) in Himachal Pradesh and declare it as a National Highway

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): I would like to draw the kind attention of this House that there are two main National Highways in my constituency. One is National Highway-21, which starts from Chandigarh to Leh via Mandi and Manali and another is National Highway-22, which starts from Ambala to Kaurik. These National Highway i.e. 21 & 22 go to Leh and Kaurik, which are on Pakistan and China borders respectively. Thus apart from catering to the need of local population and tourists, there are of strategic importance. The National Highway-21 has served a key role during Kargil war. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has constructed a road, which is about 100 kms from Aut to Luhri (Sainj) and connects National Highway-21 at Aut and National Highway-22 at Luhri (Sainj). The inter connection of these two National Highways will not only provide a corridor to the tourists and local population, but also shall be great strategic importance as it will reduce the distance between two stations by 300 kms.

May I request the Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways to declare this road as a National Highway and provide adequate financial assistance as well as machinery backup to accomplish the work and achieve the goal in a time bound manner.

(vi) Need to construct building of North-West Railway Zonal office at Jaipur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, a decision to construct a building of a North-Western Zonal office was taken in the past and since then the zonal office has been functioning at Jaipur railway station. Land for this new office has also been allocated but no concrete

progress has been made in this direction. Land for zonal office staff has also been made available.

I, therefore, demand that zonal office building as well as staff quarters be immediately constructed.

(vii) Need to divert the route of some North-East bound trains to link Orai, Jalon, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, trains pass by Urai Railway Station situated in my Parliamentary Constituency of Jalaun Garotha to Mumbai, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Bengalore and Indore. Still no train stops at Urai Railway Station falling between Howrah and Delhi despite the fact that thousands of passengers travel from Urai to Delhi. There is no direct train from Urai to Delhi and Howrah.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you demand that at least two-three north east bound trains commencing from Delhi should be routed through Jhansi-Kanpur-Allahabad so as to facilitate the passengers of my constituency to get a direct train to Delhi and Howrah.

(viii) Need to expedite the four laning of National Highway No. 215 from Padmapur to Barbil in Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The people of my Parliamentary Constituency Keonjhar are very much agitated due to the inordinate delay in the completion of four laning work of NH 215. The construction of this NH from Padampur to Barbil has not made any progress. Since the bridges and roads are in a very dilapidated condition the movement of vehicle has become very difficult. At times the vehicles are stranded for more than 24 hours on that stretch of this National Highway beyond Padampur and up to Gopalur causing a lot of inconvenience to the road users.

As such, I demand that the construction of all the small bridges should be completed expeditiously. The four laning work be completed as early as possible in order to smooth movement of traffic and removing congestion by alternative possible way at the earliest.

(ix) Need to check the spread of Chickungunya disease in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (Akola): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards fast spreading chickungunya fever in various districts of Maharashtra as a result of which many people have died and thousands of people are suffering from this fever. This fever has spread in various parts of the state and if necessary steps are not taken to check its spread, it could spread outside Maharashtra.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to immediately take steps to check the spread of this disease and a survey should be conducted in the state with regard to the spread of chickungunya fever in the state by a central team and wherever necessary, arrangements should immediately be made for its treatment and financial assistance should be provided immediately by the Central and the State Governments to the family of those who died of this fever.

(x) Need to rescind the order declaring Godavari and Panchavati Express trains as Super-Fast besides reviewing the hike in their fares

[English]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Malegaon): As Government has decided to run the Godavari and Panchavati express as a superfast w.e.f. 1 July, 2006 and also there is hike by Rs. 10 in fare charges. The travellers of this train are mostly poor student, weaker section workers and pass holders which is a burden on them due to hike in fare charges. I had also gone on a hunger strike with leaders of all the parties over this issue. The participation of the people was one of the major issue, even though the DRM has not taken the cognisance of this matter.

Sir, considering these issues through you, I urge the Government to cancel these disputable trains as a superfast and the increase in fair.

(xi) Need to ban the use of Endosulphan as a pesticide for aerial spraying in cashew plantation in Kasargod district, Kerala

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Endosulphan

has been identified scientifically as a pesticide with dangerous side effects and it has been debarred from use in almost all developed countries. It pollutes air, water and earth and causes Cancer, TB, physical deformities and genetic problems. This is being used even today as a pesticide for aerial spraying in cashew plantation in Kasargod district of Kerala. As a consequence 44 people have died and thousands are disabled and inching towards death. The entire village of 'Padre' is in the grip of its effects. Children are borne with deformities.

This is a very serious situation and immediate intervention of the Government is required. The use of Endosulphan or such deadly pesticide has to be banned from use. The next of kin of all those died should be adequately compensated and free medical facilities have to be provided to all those affected. Rehabilitation of those affected is necessary. A Central Scheme with the assistance of the State Government has to be drawn up immediately for this purpose.

(xii) Need to provide special economic package for the drought and flood affected farmers of Alappuzha district in Kerala

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Kuttanad of Alappuzha district of Kerala is well know as the 'Rice Bowl of Kerala'. Requirement of rice, which is the staple food of Kerala, is partly met by the Paddy cultivators in Kuttanad. There are two crops of paddy cultivation in Kuttanad. During the last 2-3 years, majority of the paddy fields were affected by drought, floods and also by saline water intrusion into the paddy fields and the farmers suffered a loss and were in debt trap. Also during the last season, procurement of paddy by State Civil Supplies Corporation was not adequate. Since the procurement prices given by FCI is very low when compared to the actual expenses incurred by the cultivators. This also added to the misery of the poor farmers. Many are withdrawing from agriculture since farming is a losing job. If this continues, it will affect our food security. Farmers are not committing suicide only because of their mental strength. Also it is not fair, that we would provide help only if they commit suicide.

So, I urge upon the Government to declare Vidharbha like package to Kuttanad and save farmers from debt trap and suicide.

(xiii) Need to construct an over bridge at Jagdishpur Railway Crossing in Distt. Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Sir there is heavy traffic on the National Highway which passes through Jaunpur, Varansi, Lucknow and Sultanpur. A long queue of vehicles could be seen at the Jagdishpur Railway crossing in Jaunpur district as the frequency of trains passing through the above crossing is in quick succession resulting in traffic jams daily there and thereby causing great inconvenience to the service class, traders, students and common public. Diesel and petrol worth crores of rupees is wasted every year there and at times accidents also take place there. The public there is demanding an over bridge at the Jagdishpur Railway crossing since long due to this very reason.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Railway minister, through this House, to kindly construct an over bridge at the Jagdishpur railway crossing in view of the difficulties faced by the common man there.

(xiv) Need to implement reservation policy as per the provisions of the Constitution

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, there has been a tradition to implement the provisions of reservation by distorting the basic structure of the constitution. Earlier, the UPA Government provided reservation to the backward classes in the higher education and technical education in a right manner. Now as per the reports published in the newspapers recently the attempts are being made to change the format of the reservation announced by the UPA Government to appease the anti-reservationists. We therefore, demand from the Government to immediately announce the rules of reservation in its original form so that the aim of the reservation is fulfilled.

(xv) Need to protect interests of workers engaged in textile industry

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, the Indian textile industry is the second largest provider of

employment next to agriculture and as such, the Government is duty bound to look after the welfare of the workers. Due to globalisation and liberalization, textile magnates are going for over-competition and exploitation of labour force and violation of labour laws to face the fierce competition.

Chapter V (E) of the Industrial Disputes Act is the most important vital part of the Act and only through these provisions, job security of millions of workers is guaranteed. Diluting this provision will only encourage the employers to exploit the workers and throw away them out of employment. Moreover, labour in the Indian scenario is cheap and skilled. Therefore, the labour cost would be low for a garment or textile item in India a compared to other countries.

Similarly, the suggestion to amend section 2(n) of the Industrial Disputes Act with regard to strike, is highly objectionable. Longer notice period will be beneficial only to employer as he will be having ample time to wind up his business and to adopt unfair labour practice. Textile Industry should be treated as a public utility service. Similarly, the suggestion to extend the working hours from 8 to 12 hours is unfair and unjustified. It is against ILO norms observed all over the world and India is a signatory to it. It is inhuman and against natural justice.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government, especially Hon'ble Labour Minister and the Hon'ble Textile Minister that the workers of textile sector should be protected and no changes should be made in the labour laws detrimental to the interests of working force.

(xvi) Need to lay railway line upto Sahajanwa, Mehndaval, Basi, Dumriaganj, Utraula and Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumriaganj): Sir, a survey was conducted to lay rail line in Sahajanwa, Mehndaval, Basi, Dumriaganj, Utraula and Balrampur falling under the Dumriaganj, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir and Balrampur Parliamentary constituencies. My former local Hon. Members of Parliament and I myself have been writing letters to the Ministry of Railways repeatedly but so far the above work has not been done. People have to

[Mohd. Mukeem]

undertake railway journey upto 80 km from the above places which is very tortuous and time consuming.

It will be pertinent to mention here that if these cities are linked with the rail line, that would not only lead to increase in the Railway's revenue but would also result in social and economic development of these cities besides creating more avenues of employment.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately conduct a survey for laying rail line in Sahajanwa, Mehndaval, Basi, Dumriaganj, Utrala and Balrampur so that all-round development of my constituencies could take place.

(xvii) Need to collect taxes from private company operating dams in Khed, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (Khed): There are 21 dams in my constituency i.e. Khed, Maharashtra. Some of them are 100 years old and were built during British rule. Out of the 21 dams, there are 6 private dams operated by Tata Company Limited. But no tax is being paid by the private Company for the dams. The dams have been constructed on agricultural land and they are used for non-agricultural purposes and they ought to pay tax to the State Government. Moreover, the State Government is not collecting taxes from the company. The Government is losing the revenue. Therefore, I demand that the matter may be taken up with the State Government and suitable directions issued to them to collect taxes.

(xviii) Need to provide employment to the persons whose lands were acquired for setting up of Rourkela Steel Plant

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Displaced people of Rourkela Steel Plant have been demanding for employment since quite some time and have put forth their grievances through various forums. The Union Minister of Steel had indicated in the Parliament on 21-12-2004 that it is the duty of the State Government to identify the eligible persons who can be given employment and the Rourkela Steel Plant would act accordingly. During the year 1992-1993 a joint verification has done by the

district authorities of Sundargarh and Rourkela Steel Plant authorities had identified 1098 persons eligible for employment. So far no employment has been given to any of the identified families. The Revenue Department of the Orissa State Government has been consistently pursuing the matter with the Rourkela Steel Plant authorities but the Steel Plant authorities have not taken any positive steps in this direction. This has given rise to serious discontentment in that region.

I would urge upon the Government to intervene and take immediate steps in directing the Steel Plant authorities to initiate the process of recruitment to the displaced families as per the joint list prepared so that the feelings of the people can be assuaged. Further, the land used for railway lines in Steel Plant area were acquired as a composite package for the Steel Plant. The displaced persons are also demanding similar rehabilitation measures for the land acquired for the Steel Plant but used for Railway line.

I would urge upon the Government to give it due consideration.

(xix) Need to establish the proposed plant of Hindustan Paper Corporation in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, in the April-June, 2006 issue of the In Paper International Magazine, it is reported that Hindustan Paper is going to establish a green wood paper plant in Uttar Pradesh with a capacity of 3 lakh tonne per year at an estimated cost of rupees 24,000 crore. In this regard, the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries on 27 July, 2006 placed a copy of the agreement between Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. and the Department of Heavy Industries for the year 2006-07 on the Table of the House. Huge volumes of wood or alternatively, bagasse are required as raw material for the project. For this we will have to fell trees which is hazardous to environment or we will have to import pulp from abroad on which we will have incur huge amounts of foreign exchange. Consumption of water is also indicated as 125 kilolitre per tonne. World's biggest bagasse based paper mill TNPL is successfully functioning in Tamil Nadu. There are approximately 30 sugar mills in the neighbouring areas in

addition to 10 in my constituency Bijnor. Water is also available in abundance. Raw material in the form of bagasse is also available approximately 20 lakh tonne per year. My constituency is located on Jammutavi-Howrah main line. There is a lot of unemployment in the area. Therefore, I put forth my demand before the government to establish the said industry in my Parliamentary constituency Bijnor.

(xx) Need to Investigate Irregularities in the Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Kushnagar, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV (Padrauna): Sir, irregularities are being committed in Centrally sponsored schemes in Uttar Pradesh especially in Kushinagar district. Same is the case with horticulture mission. There is a provision to provide subsidy for fertilizers and seeds directly to the farmers through cheques under the said scheme but the District Horticulture Officer, Kushinagar working as nodal officer for the scheme has not done so. He has not given any subsidy to the farmers under the scheme.

Therefore, I would like to request the government to get the matter investigated by an independent agency.

14.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS.....*Contd.*

(II) Re: Death of Indians in a fire accident occurred in a labour camp in Manama city, Bahrain on 30-07-2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri E. Ahmed, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs wants to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that many of the hon. Members have raised a very important issue, viz, what happened in Bahrain, I would like to make a statement for the information of the hon. Members.

In a tragic accident caused by fire in a labour camp in Manama city, Bahrain, 16 Indian nationals have reportedly lost their lives. Eleven Indian nationals were injured and were admitted to hospital. The fire is said to have broken out between 0200 hours and 0300 hours on 30th July due to electric short circuit. The Bahrain Police is investigating the exact cause. One hundred and sixty-eight workers in the labour camp, all Indians, have been shifted to a temporary accommodation. The workers who were injured in the fire have been discharged from the hospital.

The Embassy in Bahrain on learning of the tragedy immediately took action to provide relief and medical assistance to the affected workers. It set up an emergency response and its contact details are available at the Embassy website and have been provided to the media. This includes both contact numbers at the Embassy during working hours and after work and at the Salmaniya Medical Camp where the injured were being treated.

His Highness, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the hon. Prime Minister of Bahrain, visited the site of the accident at 1100 hours yesterday with the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Municipality Affairs and the Head of the Public Security. The Indian Ambassador was present. The Prime Minister of Bahrain was deeply concerned that 16 precious Indian lives have been lost in the fire. He assured that the Bahraini authorities would fully investigate the case. While condoling the death of the 16 workers, the hon. Prime Minister of Bahrain assured that the injured and the families of the victims will be taken care of and the necessary action would be taken to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

The Bahraini Cabinet expressed deep regret over the fire accident killing Indian labourers and extended condolences to the victims' families and the Government of India. The Bahrain Prime Minister has ordered the formation of a Committee to investigate into the incident to make sure that such lodgings were in conformity with housing safety and health criteria. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs of the Government of Bahrain and a Minister of Agriculture with the representatives from the Interior, Labour and Health Ministries.

The Embassy is getting in touch with the Ministry of

[Shril E. Ahamed]

Overseas Indian Affairs, Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Protector of Emigrants in Chennai to provide them the details of the Indian nationals who hailed from Tamil Nadu and who were killed in the tragedy. The Embassy has also contacted the relatives of the deceased who have desired that the bodies be sent to Chennai. The Embassy is making arrangements to try and send the mortal remains by Gulf Air to Chennai on Monday, viz. today, the 31st July to reach Chennai on Tuesday, viz. tomorrow, 1st of August. The firm details will be sent to all concerned as soon as formalities regarding the dispatch of bodies have been completed.

14.10 hrs.

PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF
DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT
BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 11.

Hon. Members, before the House takes up the next item, that is, reconsideration of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, I have a small observation to make.

As the hon. Members are aware, hon. President, while returning this Bill, has desired the Parliament to reconsider the Bill:

- (a) in the context of the settled interpretation of the expression Office of Profit in Article 102 of the Constitution, and
- (b) the underlying Constitutional principles therein.

Hon. President has also desired that while reconsidering, among other things, the following may be specifically addressed:-

- (i) the evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all the States and the Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner,

- (ii) the implication of including for exemption of the names of offices the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a Member and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the competent authority, and
- (iii) soundness and propriety of law in making the applicability of the amendment retrospectively.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Members to focus on the issues referred to in the President's message and avoid raising extraneous matters while participating in the debate.

The time that has been allotted by the Business Advisory Committee four hours.

The hon. Minister may now move the Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil):
Sir, I have already given a notice in this behalf.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Hon. Members, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has raised three objections—that under Rules 144 and 145, the Bill as passed again by Rajya Sabha together with the President's message has not been laid on the Table by any Minister; as per article 111 of the Constitution, reconsideration includes a detailed discussion on the Bill; and under Rule 112, the Bill shall be removed from the Register of Bills.

The Bill, as passed again by Rajya Sabha together with the President's message has been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28th July, 2006 by the Secretary-General. The Rules do not require the Bill and the President's message to be laid by the Minister-in-Charge of the Bill. Secondly, the Bill is to be discussed in detail in the light of the President's message and all the procedures in the Rules are being followed in reconsideration and passing of the Bill.

As regards Rule 112 regarding removal of the Bill from the Register of Bills, the present Rule does not apply in the instant case.

Now, the hon. Minister may move the Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, they have not acceded to the request of the hon. President.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot challenge the Chair. I have given the ruling.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, as passed again by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 was again passed in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2006.
...(Interruptions) Hon. President has raised general points for consideration of Parliament, namely, firstly, to evolve a generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and the Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given a notice. I have a right to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given my ruling. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What happened to my notice? I cannot yield....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)..."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Sir, at least listen what I am saying....(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given time to the Minister, not to you, so you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You given your notice, I will give you time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now except the speech of the hon. Minister?

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the Bill has not been circulated. How can we discuss the Bill if we do not have a copy with us?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, you just listen to me. Whatever they are saying is not true....(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, the Hon. Minister is reading for the sake of reading only, we are not able to hear him. Nothing is clear....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will be able to hear him only when you maintain silence.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the House is not in order. How can we listen to the Minister?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Varkala Radhakrishnan, you are a very senior Member. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): Sir, why is the House kept in the dark?...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given my ruling, now you people may sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, how will it work if you do not listen to us. How the center can control the affairs which are under the States?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we do not have a copy of the Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am again requesting you, please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I call upon Shri Anant Kurnar to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, what are we to consider in this? We have not heard anything.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MEJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: How will it do, this is not fair. What will we consider when we have not heard anything?...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): You have called the name of Shri Anant Kumar, only he should speak....(Interruptions) Why are they creating problem?(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): This does not mean that we do not have any right to speak.(Interruptions) Sir, their own supporters are creating problem, we are not creating any problem....(Interruptions) We do not want to create a problem....(Interruptions) We have not heard it clearly. We are asking the hon. Minister to read it clearly and loudly please....(Interruptions) We

do not know what the hon. Minister has stated.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you want, you can read it out again.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: You please ask them to listen silently. If this is the condition in such an elite House that they do not want to listen then I cannot help it.(Interruptions)

[English]

It is not my job to discipline them. It is the job of the Chair....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can read it out again if you want.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I can read it a number of times if they want to listen. You please ask them to(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, I have no difficulty in reading it again. But let them listen to me patiently....(Interruptions) Sir, since you have asked me to read it again, I am reading it again with your permission.

Sir, the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 was again passed in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2006. Hon. President has raised general points for consideration of Parliament, namely, firstly, to evolve a generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner. Secondly, the implications of including for exemption the names of office the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a Member and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the competent authority. Thirdly, soundness and propriety

of law in making applicability of the amendment retrospectively. These noble points were discussed in the Rajya Sabha while considering the aforesaid Bill.

May I draw attention of hon. Members that article 102(1)(a) of the Constitution enables and empowers Parliament to declare an office of profit, the holder of which will not be disqualified under article 102(1)(a) of the Constitution. In terms of the constitutional provisions the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 specified certain offices, such as, Office of Leader of Opposition, Office of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Office of Chairperson, National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Office of Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and the Office of Chairperson, National Commission for Women.

In 1998, Office of Leader of Recognised Party and Recognized Group was declared an office not to disqualify its holder. In the year 2000, the Deputy Leader of the Recognised Party and Recognised Group in either House of Parliament was added.

Sir, now I come to the issue as to how to define the expression: "holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State". Hon. Members may be aware that the expression "office of profit" occurs in the various provisions of the Constitution, namely, in article 18 (4), article 58 (2), article 59 (2), article 66 (4), article 102 (1), article 158 (2) and article 191 (1). The expression "office of profit" has nowhere been defined precisely. Its scope has to be gathered from the pronouncements made from time to time by the Supreme Court and of the High Courts as to what constitutes the "office of profit" and "under the Government". The Courts are of the view that a practical view, not pedantic baskets of tests must guide the Courts to arrive at an appropriate conclusion whether the concerned office is an office of profit.

As there are no clear guidelines available for finding beforehand whether holding any office will lead to disqualification, an attempt was made by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 to reverse the basis of disqualification by providing that only those offices which are specified by law made by Parliament will disqualify the holder. The provision sought to be made by the

Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 through a negative list had the advantage of clarity and certainty because it is possible to know beforehand what offices will disqualify the holder. However, since the amendments proposed by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 were omitted by the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978 the *status quo* as to what constitutes the office of profit under the Government continues. Now comes the proposal to evolve a generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner. The task is challenging and daunting. It requires fine balance between the relationship of Centre and States in case a generic and comprehensive criteria is to be evolved across the States. The views of all political parties would definitely facilitate a lasting solution to the issue of as to what constitutes an office of profit under the Government.

Hon. Members of the Rajya Sabha have carefully considered the message of the hon. President and the provision of the Bill, and passed the Bill again. I commend the Bill for the consideration of this august House.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They have not come out with any amendment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. At the outset, I rise to oppose the Bill that has been commended by the hon. Law Minister. It is because all of us know the hon. Rashtrapatiiji has sent a message on May 31 for the reconsideration of the Bill on the principle of Justice, equity and transparency. Last time, while giving a reply to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, when Advaniiji made some points, hon. Bhardwajji said:

"I have heard some statements from the Leader of the Opposition. I hold him in very high esteem. We thought that let us not tinker with the Constitutional spirit. He himself, perhaps, wanted it that we should not tinker with it."

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Here, it is a classic case that the Government of India lead by UPA is not only tinkering with the Constitutional spirit of article 102 (1) (a), and article 191 (1) (a), it is also passing the Bill in undue haste.

On 31st May, Rashtrapatiji has sent a message, and today is the 31st July. With UPA's majority here, the Government wants to bulldoze and pass this Bill showing scant respect to the advice given by Rashtrapatiji.

I am a member of the Joint Committee on Office of Profit. The hon. Law Minister in the other House, while replying to the debate, has said:

"After this Bill is passed, the Government will be ready to constitute a Committee of both the House to go threadbare into the problem and come out with a solution".

Why is he putting the cart before the horse? In 1954, under the chairmanship of Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, there was a Joint Committee of the Parliament, which had recommended for a comprehensive Bill on the Office of Profit, which came into effect in 1959. One of the recommendations of that Committee was to set up a Standing Committee of both the Houses to undertake a continuous scrutiny of offices of profit. Accordingly, a Joint Committee on Office of Profit was set up for the first time in August 1959. Later, Sir, after each Lok Sabha is constituted subsequent to the General Election, a request is made to the Minister of Law and Justice to initiate action to move a motion in the Lok Sabha for the constitution of the Joint Committee on Office of Profit. There is already a Joint Committee on Office of Profit with 10 Members of Lok Sabha and five Members of Rajya Sabha on it. My direct questions to the hon. Law Ministers are these. When there is already a Committee, why were these 55 various Offices of Profit not referred to it? Why did you not refer Shrimati Jaya Bachchan's case to it? Why did you not refer Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's case to it? Why are you taking Parliament and the Joint Committee on Office of Profit for a ride? Why is the hurry?

You are not having any respect or any consideration to the Constitution and to the advice given by the hon. President. I was talking to the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Office of Profit. I spoke to the Secretary.

They said that right from 1959, every Bill or every recommendation came to the Joint Committee on Office of Profit except this Bill. Therefore, Mr. Law Minister, on the question of probity, you have already bungled, and on the question of maintaining the constitutional spirit, you have already given a go-by to the Constitutional spirit.

I was going through your reply. I think, it is a classic case of double talk-glib talk. For your consideration, I will read this. It says:

"We are the Ministers acting on the allocation of business of the hon. President. So, there should be no apprehensions in anybody's mind that there is any desire to do anything contrary to the wishes of the President."

Then, what is this Bill? What is the consideration shown to the hon. President advice?

The Presidents has very clearly said:

"We should come out with evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria. We also need to apply this criterion, which is just fair and reasonable across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner. The implication of including, for exemption, the names of offices, the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a Member, and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the Competent Authority..."

Then, Mr. Law Minister, how can you say that you are not acting to the contrary of the wishes of the President of India? Mr. Minister, you have continued in your speech, and said:

"I am very keen that we should discuss debate and find out the solution because the hon. President has been pleased, perhaps, to raise several issues. Basically, they relate to three or four points. The first issue is probity in public life, and what I have been able to locate from the point of emphasis is probity in public life of old ethical values, avoidance of conflict of interest."

About the very inclusion of 55 offices, from Shanti Niketan, Shri Niketan, to India Gandhi National Centre of Art, to National Advisory Council, to Haldia Development

Authority, to West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, is it not conflict of interest? What was the reason the Constituent Assembly, the founding fathers of our Constitution came out with article 102 (1)(a)? The basic reason, not only in India, even in the Constitutional Law of UK, in USA, in Canada, is separation of powers. We have got a Judiciary; we have got a Legislature; we have got an Executive. And, those who adorn places in the Legislature, should not be at the mercy of the Executive, they should not be influenced by the Executive; and they should not be under the cloud of the influence of the Executive. Therefore, we should not be accepting any office of profit.

But throwing all these things into winds, you are going ahead with this Amendment Bill. You have said in your answer, hon. Mr. Law Minister, and I quote:

"The President has not suggested any amendment to this Bill."

But the very fact that the hon. Rashtrapati-ji had sent back the Bill with specific points, is to amend, is to reconsider. Sometime, I feel...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: I am sorry, you should be, at least aware that amendment and reconsideration in the House are two different issues...*(Interruptions)*...You must understand if he suggested amendment...*(Interruptions)* I am answering...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We were expecting a copy of the Draft Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: Sir, you have read just now before the House, what the hon. President wants. I would request my hon. friends on the other side to apply their mind to your observations....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, whenever the hon. Rashtrapati-ji sends the Bill for reconsideration, which he has done only two times....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No running commentary, please.

*Not recorded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): This is the first time that the President has invoked article 111. That was under article 74.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I stand corrected. Whenever the President has sent it back, that is for reconsideration. And, have we reconsidered? Have we given any consideration to his viewpoints? One month has lapsed....*(Interruptions)* Have you applied your mind?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They do not have mind....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sometimes, I feel that the UPA Government suffers from Constitutional illiteracy.

It is a glib talk. Mr. Law Minister, you went on to say that the President is the father figure in the Constitution and we are always very keen to have guidance from him. We always like to give the highest consideration to the suggestion made by him, high office. These are the three things you have said. You have said, he is the father figure. Secondly, you have said that you are very keen to have guidance from him. We always like to give the highest consideration to the suggestion made by his high office. These are the suggestions made by his high office. What is the highest consideration you have given? The highest consideration you have given is bringing the Bill as it was passed two months back. Is this the highest consideration?

Therefore, my earnest request, through you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is that the Law Minister of the country should not mislead the country. He should not mislead both the Houses of Parliament. He should be true to his speech. He should not indulge in glib talk. I am really surprised by his talk.

Then we raised the question of National Advisory Council's post held by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. I filed a petition before the Rashtrapati-ji for disqualification of her membership. Regarding that, what have you said? You said: "Let us have respect for each other. If a leader of a very big Party is appointed to a position which is to advise some NGOs what is wrong in it?" Do you think that the Government of India is an NGO? Mr. Bhardwaj, this is your speech. "Which is to advise some NGOs, what is wrong in it?" I do not think the Government of India is an NGO....*(Interruptions)* "There are 15 eminent NGOs

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

working under the National Advisory Council giving a lot of inputs to the Legislation." This practice was not in vogue till this NAC was appointed. "Times have changed. NGOs have a greater role." I do not think this is an NGO. The Government of India is not an NGO....(Interruptions)

I will definitely come to that point.

On 23rd March, 2006, as the General Secretary of the Party, I, on behalf of the Bhartiya Janata Party, filed a petition before the Rashtrapathiji for disqualifying Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. But suddenly, events happened. She resigned. She wanted to become an icon of pseudo sacrifice....(Interruptions) Then she contested the election.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): I strongly protest against the use of this word. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am continuing. Please listen to me. Then she resigned. She got elected to the House of Lok Sabha. But my basic question is this. Why did the UPA Government and the hon. Law Minister include NAC in the exemption list from disqualification? It is because, still I remember that when I filed the petition, that day the Congress Party gave a statement that NAC is not an office of profit. You yourself said that NAC is not an office of profit. It was all over the media. Why are you dilly-dallying? Why are you adding it again into the exemption list? Is it to save whom? Or is it to appoint whom? What happened to the pseudo sacrifice of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I want to point out one thing. They are totally obsessed by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. There is so much of obsession. You are so much obsessed. Please come to the point.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: She is the hon. Member of the House.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The whole Party is obsessed with her.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I read out the order. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, we are not obsessed with anybody. We are obsessed with only the Constitution of India, the principles of the Constitution of India, and not with the unprincipled, unconstitutional opportunistic politics of the Congress Party....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, on May 31, 2004 when the UPA came to power, they came out with an order regarding the constitution of the National Advisory Council to monitor the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government....(Interruptions) I will read both together so that we will understand better.

Bhardwajji, this says: "Let us have respect for each other. If the leader of a very big Party is appointed to a position which is to advise some NGOs, what is wrong in it?" I will read the order now. It says: "The National Advisory Council would be headed by a chairperson". You did not say 'a chairman or a chairperson' because you had already decided who should be the chairperson. It says: "The NAC would be headed by a chairperson with the rank and status of a Union Cabinet Minister and shall consist of such number of members not exceeding 20 as may be nominated by the Prime Minister in consultation with the chairperson".

Do you allow such facility and such scope for other Committees and Boards? I do not think so because you are allowing this special facility for the 'Super Prime Minister'....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SHIRMESH: Sir, what is meant by 'super Prime Minister'?

[English]

What is meant by 'super Prime Minister?' It is not correct....(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The functions of the National Advisory Council would be as follows:

"To monitor the progress of the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme, to provide inputs for the formulation of the policy by the Government and to provide support to the Government in its legislative business."

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under which rule?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it is under Rule 132. The rule says:

"The debate on such a motion shall be confined to consideration of matters referred to in the message of the President or to any suggestion relevant to the subject matter of the amendments recommended by the President."

The hon. Member is going outside the purview of this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It does not apply here.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: His statements should be barred and stopped. The debate has to be confined to the matters referred by the President to this House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This rule does not apply to them.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I want to repeat.

"The functions of the National Advisory Council would be as follows:

"To monitor the progress of the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme."

If Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is monitoring the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme,

*Not recorded.

I do not understand what Manmohan Singhji will be doing. *...(Interruptions)* Obviously, he does not have any time for that. *...(Interruptions)* It further says:

"to provide inputs for the formulation of the policy by the Government and to provide support to the Government in its legislative business."

It also says:

"The Council would be provided adequate and appropriate office space by the Central Government. All expenditure incurred in connection with the functioning of the Council would be met by the Central Government and provided through the PMO. The expenditure incurred for the functioning of the Council would be met by the Central Government."

Then, is it an NGO or an office of profit? *...(Interruptions)* I also want to refer, as a lay person, to various judicial decisions....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please allow me for a minute.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am not yielding. *...(Interruptions)* In 2001 the Supreme Court upheld..

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The hon. Member was a member of the Joint Select Committee which examined the Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will you please tell me what exactly is the office of profit? Did you go through that question applicable throughout India? Nowhere it is mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not allowed. Please sit down.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I will try to answer that question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Nowhere it is mentioned about the office of profit. Government need not go into the question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you have to first get permission from the Chair to speak

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, for the benefit of hon. Law Minister of India, I would like to tell that in 2001, the Supreme Court upheld disqualification of JMM leader Shibu Soren for holding office of profit as Chairman of the Interim Jharkhand Autonomous Council.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Radhakrishnanji please sit down. You can express your self when your party gets time.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In 1980, there was a case of Tamil Nadu MP Shri R. Moharanarangam. ... (Interruptions) The first instance which came before the Supreme Court was in 1954 in Ravanna Subanna vs. G.S. Kaggerrappa AIR 1954 SC 653 and the Supreme Court reiterated the settled law of the Supreme Court through the sixties till date in Umrao Singh Vs. Darbar Singh and A.K. Subbaiah vs. Ramakrishna Hegde. There is a settled law of the Supreme Court and there four criteria to decide whether one is an office of profit or not.

- (1) Whether Government exercises control over the appointment and removal from the office and over the performance and functions of the office;
- (2) Whether the holder draws any remuneration other than the compensatory allowance that even includes conveyance bills, telephone calls, travel expenses.

Through you, I would request the Government, the hon. Law Minister to provide this august House the details of expenditure incurred by the National Advisory Council and the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council in the last so many months after this Government came to power. They have spent lakhs and lakhs of rupees.

- (3) Whether the body in which office is held exercises executive, legislative or judicial power or confers powers of disbursement of funds, allotment of land, issue of licences etc. or gives powers of appointment, grant of scholarship.
- (4) Whether the job enables the holder to wield influence or power by way of patronage.

These are the criteria as settled by the hon. Supreme Court in various case laws. That being the case, we do not understand.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We do not understand how 55 various offices of profit have been brought before the House for exemption because ultimately I think, it is a conflict between duty and self-interest. No law should be guided by self-interest. Every law should have a rationale the principle, and it should be driven by public interest, but here is a Government, the UPA Government—UPA means unprincipled alliance—which has brought a Bill in support of self-interest, self-interest of the national Chairperson of the UPA, self-interest of all the 55 or 56 MPs who want to save their heads. I do not understand this.

On one issue, I have to congratulate the Law Minister that he has not minced words in writing the Statement of Objects and Reasons while moving this Bill. I think, this is one of the brash admissions in the last 59 years of independent India's history of throwing all principles. I am reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons as provided by the hon. Law Minister:

"Recently, it has become necessary to revisit the issue of disqualification of Members of Parliament on the basis of holding an office of profit. This has been necessitated due to recent developments where approximately 40 or more Members from both Houses of Parliament, who are holding office of chairperson or members of various statutory and non-statutory bodies, are facing disqualification proceedings on the ground that they are holding an office of profit. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, then there is bound to be a large-scale litigation and the likely vacation of seats in both the Houses of Parliament...."

These seats would be mostly of UPA and Communist friends. It further reads:

"If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, then there is bound to be a large-scale litigation and the likely vacation of seats in both the Houses of Parliament which will necessitate the holding of bye-elections to fill up the resultant vacancies. This will be a wasteful expenditure and will enforce unnecessary financial burden upon the nation."

There is a historical parallel to this. In the same vein and with the same thought, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had extended the total period of the Lok Sabha between 1971 to 1976 by one more year, and these people were party to it. They do not have any respect for the democratic norms.

I am surprised with the Left Parties. The Left Parties, led by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and others, are always on high moral grounds, day in and day out, they give sermons on probity in public life. What is the situation now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: A day before the Left Co-ordination Committee Meeting, the senior CPI leaders on Wednesday said that: "The Office of Profit Bill should be returned to the hon. President after removing the clause of giving it retrospective effect." It was also mentioned that the senior CPM leaders could not be contacted for comments. Nowadays, you are not available for comments despite repeated efforts....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Please tell us the name of the newspaper from which you are reading this....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am reading from *The Pioneer*. The CPI General Secretary, Shri A.B. Bardhan, told, *The Pioneer* that:

"...Since some of the offices mentioned in the Bill were created very recently, the clause of giving it retrospective effect reflects lack of homework...."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is an editorial written by Shri Chandan Mitra....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, this is not an editorial. It is a statement given by Shri A.B. Bardhan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Now, I am going to read the *National Herald*. It writes: "Left in a dilemma on Office of Profit."...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Nobody subscribes to that newspaper except some people like you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It states that:

"While CPI categorically says that no MP or MLA should be allowed to hold any position other than those created by the House, the CPM called for a two-track approach."

It is not a two-track approach. It is double speak approach, and it is what is known as opportunism*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is your stand on Jharkhand?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Our stand is very clear on Jharkhand. We are asking the advise of the hon. President of India, and we welcoming and supporting it. We feel that there has to be a law, which is applicable to the entire country including the Union Territories....*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I want to ask a basic question at this point of time....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Acharyaji, you can speak when your party gets time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am raising a very pertinent question. They have included offices like The Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority, the Haldia Development Authority, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, etc. There are hundreds of development authorities in our country. There is the Bangalore Development Authority, the Delhi Development Authority, the Ahmedabad Development Authority, etc. Every urban area has a development authority. How come they are having a pick and choose policy in the Office of Profit Bill for giving exemption to certain offices, and that too when they are facing proceedings for disqualification?

If you want to follow your supreme leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, then you should resign, and contest again. *...(Interruptions)* The Government should resign and contest again. They should not indulge in opportunistic politics....*(Interruptions)* They cannot have one yardstick for themselves and another yardstick for others. I am saying this because they always go with a precept, and that precept is idealism for others to preach, and opportunism to follow and practise....*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What are you following in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh? Where is Prof. Malhotra? Why has he left?...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: At the outset, I am on a basic question. Both the Congress Party and the Communist Party should come out clean on this issue. This matter is being debated right from the days of the Constituent Assembly. It had been debated in the Joint Committee on Office of Profit....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member, your Party will be getting sufficient time.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Many times, on several occasions, the Joint Committee on Office of Profit recommended to various Governments, to not only this Government but also to the previous Government, to come out with the definition of "Office of Profit". Let the definition of "Office of Profit" be comprehensive, let it be generic, and let it not be a subjective option.

The hon. President has given one month's time, and the UPA Government got one month's time to ponder, deliberate and to discuss with other political parties. They had discussions with the Bhartiya Janata Party and our leadership also....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Whom should I talk to? They themselves are bewildered. Where is the leadership? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We have a very clear view on this which is what Shri Advani has propounded, and which was supported by Shri Bhardwaj. He said that there should not be any tinkering of the constitutional spirit. What is the constitutional spirit? Constitutional spirit talks about "separation of powers". Constitutional spirit talks about duty, which is different from the "Office of Profit". Whereas both the Communist Party and the Congress Party are not following this constitutional spirit. They are not heeding to the advice of the President of India. They are trying to bulldoze it....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: See, every party will get time. You can speak when you get time. So I do not want

*Not recorded.

interruption from both sides when any Member from a party starts speaking. [English] That does not look nice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Such small things are usual....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Reasonable is O.K. but it is not fair that you even do not listen to the Member. Your party will also get its turn then you can speak. One has to be liberal enough to listen to others.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are listening.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: What are you listening to?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the Congress Party is in a position to give the assurance to the entire country that the UPA Chairperson will not again become the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council. On day 1, she said that it was not an "Office of Profit"; on day 2, she resigned; on day 3, she contested, and on day 4, her Law Minister brought an amendment exempting the office of the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council from "Office of Profit". This is most unfair.

With these words, I oppose this Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill. We oppose it. I also warn the Government that the entire country is opposing this; the entire media is opposing this, nobody is with you and you are alone. Do not commit the same folly that you committed in 1975 by amending the People's Representation Act to save Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Last time, the Government subverted the Session itself by adjourning it *sine die* because the Government wanted to protect Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Now they want to protect a hoard of defaulters, fifty-six of them, and to save the Government at any cost. That is the reason why the Government has brought this amendment. We oppose this Bill. We did oppose this in the other House; we oppose it here; and we will oppose it outside this House also.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I rise to intervene in this debate on a very serious issue pursuant to the message sent by the President under article 111 of the Constitution of India. Since we are accused of being Constitutionally illiterate, let me start by generating some literacy in the process of this debate.

Article 102 of the Constitution of India, I will try and recapitulate the words of the article, says

"A person shall be disqualified from being chosen as and from being a Member of Parliament if he holds an office of profit under the Government other than through a law by Parliament which declares that such office of profit will not disqualify the incumbent of the post."

This is article 102 of the Constitution of India. What does this mean? It has two parts to it. Number one, a person shall be disqualified if three things are satisfied: (1) he holds an office, (2) it is an office of profit, and (3) it is under the Government. All three criteria have to be satisfied. It is only then that person shall either be disqualified from Parliament or shall at the time of filing his nomination papers, if it is opposed shall not be allowed to be a candidate in an election.

If all three criteria are satisfied, he is liable to be disqualified. Then the exemption part, that is the second part, comes in. If you are holding an office which is an office, it is for profit, it is under the Government of India, then Parliament can by law declare that you shall not be so disqualified. So, when you look at the 1959 Act, all the offices mentioned under the 1959 Act shall be deemed to be offices of profit under the Government because the whole purpose of the Constitutional provision is to assume that these are offices of profit under the Government and then exempt them.

Now, let us take the example of a person in this House who is the Leader of the Opposition. The office of Leader of the Opposition is exempted. So, he is holding an office of profit. You are against exempting persons holding an office of profit. Please ask him to resign.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is his argument. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down and listen to him now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is his argument. Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is his argument. Nothing is going to be recorded now.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is unfair. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your speech is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you do not ask them sit how things will go on. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): They are not allowing Shri Sibal to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: That's what there is no point in speaking....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, your turn would come and you can speak then.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dasguptaji, time will be allotted to you.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you cannot discipline them, I cannot proceed, Sir. That is your responsibility, not mine. I did not intervene when Shri Ananth Kumar was speaking. I did not utter a word. We listened with rapt attention. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I agree with you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not fair. Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not unfortunate. While leaders of the Opposition speak, we did not intervene at all. Why should not they allow Shri Sibal to respond? This is not the way....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Keep silence and listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have said this earlier as well that when a member of a party is speaking the other Party should listen to him patiently and with all generosity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Acharyaji when Ananth Kumarji was speaking I tried my best to maintain peace this side.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I want you to have patience to listen to this argument.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the point that I was wanting to make is this. I gave an example to suggest that in fact all those people who are included in the Schedule are all people who are assumed to hold an Office of Profit under the Government and that is why, the Constitution has provided the exemption. ... (Interruptions) I am not having a dialogue with you. Why are you interfering now? Please listen. If you disagree, you have a right to speak.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Geeteji your turn will come.

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The point that I was making is this. I will come to the issue and that is why, the President has sent a message. I have to answer the question of 'retrospectivity'. I will answer that. But I am just pointing out that there are many instances in the history of this

country, since Independence, that many people and very important personalities, were holding such posts. For example, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Foreign Minister when the Janata Government was in power. He was also the Chairperson of Indian Council of Cultural Relations at that point in time. That was also an Office of Profit. But he was not disqualified. We did not ask for his disqualification.

Another hon. Member of the Rajya Sabha was heading the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts. He was a Member of the Rajya Sabha and heading the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts. That was also an Office of Profit. We did not ask for his resignation.

Their problem seems to be that they do not want Shrimati Sonai Gandhi to be the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council. That is your only point and that is your only problem.... (Interruptions) Their entire debate is Sonia-centric and they have nothing to do with principles.

In fact, Shri Ananth Kumar, my friend accused us of proceeding with undue haste. He said that the President received the Amendment Bill on 25th May and on 31st May, he sent it back and that we are bringing it with such undue haste in July. But see what happened in his own State. In Karnataka what happened? Much before July, on the 6th of June, what did they do in the Assembly? They passed the Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2006 with voice vote. There was no discussion.... (Interruptions) There was no discussion. What did they do? They exempted the Offices of what? They exempted the Offices of Chairman, Speaker, Deputy-Chairman, Deputy-Speaker, Minister of State, Deputy-Minister of State, Parliamentary Secretary, Leader of the Opposition, Government Chief Whip. They were not exempted, but they have exempted them through a law. What happened to your constitutional literacy then? ... (Interruptions) What happened to principal politics? ... (Interruptions) Otherwise, the entire Karnataka Government would have gone.

Let me give another example.... (Interruptions) Let me give an example nearer home. What happened in Jharkhand? They passed, on March 24th, 2006, the Jharkhand Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 2006. The Bill included 22 posts which were exempted

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

from the Office of Profit, that included the Chief Minister's post, Shri Arjun Munda, who holds the post of Chairman of Tenugarh Vidyut Nigam Limited, Shri Karia Munda, Executive Chairman, 20-point Programme Implementation Committee and Saryu Rai, Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board, were exempted. Then, what they did was something extraordinary. That was something which has never been done in this country before. Sections 2 and 3 of the Bill seek to prevent disqualification of every MLA who holds an Office of Profit with retrospective effect. We have never heard of this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That has been passed. ...*(Interruptions)* where was your conscience then? Where was your morality then?...*(Interruptions)* where were your principles about which you talk?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request you to address the Chair.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am addressing you only, Sir. I always address everybody through you only.

[Translation]

I am only addressing you....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is what I was requesting you to do....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you do not mind, whatever you are saying is not going on record. I am not going to yield.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: When I am not yielding, what is the point in your speaking like this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Sibal, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I wanted to give this example. Otherwise I would have only stuck to the points of the President that he raised in his message. Only because Shri Ananth Kumar, an hon. Member of this House, raised this issue of double speak, double-talk and *netikta* in politics, I was forced to give back to him the examples that stare him in the face of which his Party is in the forefront. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your party will also be given time to speak....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will you yield for a minute?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he has referred to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever you have to say please speak after him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The face of the matter is that the Bharatiya Janata Party are the trapeze artists of modern day politics. They have a conscience which is supple, which stretches like plasticine and like trapeze artists, they take any position they want to take depending on which side of the House they sit. This is their history. I am reminded of a wonderful book that I am reading nowadays called, 'A Call to Honour'. Sir, the journey of the author of this book is the journey of the BJP in Indian politics. From 'A Call to Honour' to 'My fall to dishonour', "My fall from honour". So, this is their journey; from call to

honour to their fall from honour. That is what has happened and that is why, at the hustings, when they take these positions, the people of India teach them a lesson.

Let us go back to what the President said and let us start talking about 'constitutional literacy' because that I think is the heart of the matter. The President has very significantly raised three points and I think we need to answer them. Point number one is, please evolve a generic and comprehensive criteria, which is just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner. In order to evolve a generic and comprehensive criteria, two things are to be satisfied if you want to apply it across India. My good friend gave an example of saying, we have one Council, Delhi Development Authority, in one State, why not exempt all Councils in all States. The answer to that is very simple. Not all Councils in all States are headed by Members of Parliament. The purpose of exemption clause is to exempt the person who holds that post from disqualification. It has nothing to do with the post. It has something to do with the person. So, if a Member of Parliament holds a post in DDA, you cannot exempt Gujarat Development Authority because there is no Member of Parliament holding that post. It is because there is no Member of Parliament holding that post. This suggestion has come from the President. But it is very difficult to apply such a law across all posts in India because across all posts in India, it is not necessary that Members of Parliament of Members of the Legislature are holding those posts. So, you will have to make that legislation specific to such posts which are held by Members of Parliament or Members of the State Legislature which are offices of profit in the Government whether it is the Central Government or the State Government. That answers one part of the President's query....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the second point that has

been raised and which must also be answered and it is a part of the message of the hon. President....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on records.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, how can you allow them to interrupt me like this?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing whatever he said has been recorded....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on records except the speech of Sibal Saheb.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the second part of the issue that I wanted to respond to was the query by the hon. President whether it is possible to embark on an exercise by which we can evolve a generic criteria which is fair and reasonable and can apply across the country and is it possible, then to have a definition of Office of Profit which can apply across the board to everybody?

Sir, first of all, this is an exercise that has been tried not just in India, but in the oldest and the largest of

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

democracies in the world and nobody has been able to evolve such a definition. There is a reason for that. There are words which are incapable of definition. For example, 'negligence'. Can you define 'negligence'? You cannot. If somebody is driving a car at 50 kilometers in a road where there are no people present, then that is not negligence. But if the same car is driven at 50 kilometers on a road where there are hundreds of people, then that is negligence. It all depends on the facts and circumstances of the case. You cannot define what is 'just'. You cannot define 'reasonable'. You can never define 'equality'. So, there are many words in the fields of constitutional law which are incapable of definition. Unfortunately, Office of Profit is one such expression. For example, under the Income Tax Act, when you make a profit and when do not make a profit is to be decided by the Income Tax Officer depending on what you have disclosed. It is very difficult to define what profit is? What is a profit to one person is a loss to another. What is profit for us is a loss to them. ...*(Interruptions)* Having said that, it is very difficult for the Government to evolve a generic criteria which will apply to posts across the country which is fair, just and reasonable.

Sir, my good friend talked about many countries of the world where there is separation of powers and people are not allowed to hold an Office of Profit because there is a conflict of interest. He is absolutely right. There also, there are a lot of complications. If you look at, for example, American democracy, you will find that in American democracy there is complete separation of powers. In other words, a member of the Cabinet in America is not a member of the Legislature. That is not the case in India. That is not the case in England. There is complete separation of powers there. In other words, a member of the Senate, for example, belonging to the Republican Party can vote against the President in respect of a Bill on Stem Cell Research, an issue relating to embryonic stem cells. It has happens and it happened everyday. There, the question of profit is important. Why? It is because the President should not give posts to a member of the Legislature who can vote against the President. Therefore, if he gives him a post, then it is buying influence. That is a classic example of separation of powers. In America,

the whole process of law has taken a different course. It does not apply to India, so also to Canada and Australia.

Sir, if you look at the history of England, then it is an entirely different issue. As far as the history of England is concerned, there were three periods in their history and I just want to point that out. The first period was the privilege period. You know very well that in England it was the Crown who controlled everything. The Crown ordered what the Legislators were to do. So, when the Legislature was created in England, then the Members thought that they must protect their privileges. That was the phase which we call the Privileges Phase prior to 1640. It was the Privileges Phase where the Members of Parliament themselves said that they would not accept anything from the Crown and rather protect their privileges. They believed that none of their Members should accept any post from the Crown. Then came the Restoration Period, that is the period 1660 onwards: when the Crown used to offer posts to Members of Parliament to influence from the House. Now, that period went along till 1707 when the real Ministerial responsibility period started which ultimately led to a law in England from 1707—the first consolidated law in England came about in 1957. And what is it called? That is a very important thing. That law is called as the House of Commons Disqualification Act ultimately consolidated in 1975. It is not the Prevention of Disqualification but the Disqualification Act. There is a reason for that. Members of Parliament, from 300 years of practice, realised that it is impossible to prevent a disqualification because parties like the BJP will go to the court for political reasons at the drop of a hat. They knew that this can happen in any jurisdiction: initiated by members of the Labour Party or the Conservative Party. So, they did it in the opposite way. You name the offices in the statute the holding of which will result in disqualification. So, if you are not holding that office, then you are outside the Act. So, there is far greater precision in the law in England despite the fact that the statute does not define an Office of Profit. And that is exactly what the 42nd amendment in India had tried to do which Shri Bhardwaj, my colleague, had mentioned. In the 42nd amendment, we tried to, in fact, draft the legislation in this way.

"In article 102 of the Constitution, for sub-clause (a) of clause 1, the following sub-clause shall be substituted:

(a) If he holds any such office under the Government of India or the Government of the State as is declared by Parliament by law to disqualify its holder.."

So, what we tried to do by the 42nd amendment in 1976 is to bring a law consistent with 300 years of experience of England parliamentary democracy to actually set out in the statute offices which would disqualify a person. But that was unfortunately rejected by the 44th amendment by you, by the then party in power, the Janata Party. So, when we tried to bring about constitutional literacy, you were in favour of illiteracy. When we tried to bring about some certainty in the law, you were in favour of uncertainty. The double speak is in your party.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Why don't you bring it now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Why don't you listen to me? It is because he talked about constitutional literacy, I am mentioning this. I am trying to at least educate myself if I cannot educate others. Sir, I should be allowed to educate myself. So, this is what the state of the law is. When the President says to evolve a generic definition, my answer is, it is very difficult. Look at the constitutional history of many countries. Maybe, we can bring a more precise criteria into the law if we were to follow the English course by bringing a statute which sets out offices which disqualify people rather than sets out offices which prevents disqualification. That is the road. This is my answer to the first query.

The second query which the President has raised in his message is about the implication of including for exemption the names of offices the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a member and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the competent authority. What the President is asking is this. You are bringing a legislation and some enthusiastic people in this country have filed petitions before the Election Commission which seek to disqualify some people. The President is asking as to what will happen to those people. That is the second query which he has raised. The answer is found in the legislation itself. It is there in the last clause of the legislation.

"For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that any petition or reference pending before any court

or other authority on the date of commencement of this Act, shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act."

So, that concern of the President has been addressed to by the law itself, namely, that all the petitions pending before the Election Commission shall be decided in accordance with the provisions of this amended Act.

This third query raised by the President is the soundness and the propriety of the law in making the applicability of the amendment retrospective. The President is asking as to why is this law to be made retrospective? The answer is very simple. It is not just the question of 55 persons or posts. It affects the BJP; it affects Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and all others....*(Interruptions)*

The ingenuity of lawyers in this country is so enormous that it can affect any post anywhere in this country. So, let us not be too confident about this. But that is not the issue. It impacted on 200 Members of Parliament and legislators across the country. There are 200 petitions pending. So, we thought, as a responsible Government, that it would be appropriate for the benefit of all parties concerned to pass a law like this....*(Interruptions)* I am saying so. There is no need to laugh about it. It is for the benefit of all the parties concerned. You passed a similar Act in Jharkhand and we did not oppose it; you did it in Karnataka and we did not oppose it. Similarly, everybody thought that it is not the fault of the individual who is holding the office. Therefore, it is better to pass a law because that is a law which is passed under article 102 of the Constitution itself. That is the power given by the Constitution. This is not a power that we have acquired outside the Constitution. That is part of article 102 itself. So, we are exercising that power and you know that the legislature is entitled to exercise the power both prospectively and retrospectively. Forget the legislature. Many a time Members of Parliament and constituents ask that such and such benefit should be given to us from such and such date. For example, salaries, house rent allowance, etc. Many a time the Government says, "Yes, we will give it to you from the date we set up the Pay Commission. We won't give it to you prospectively. We will give it to you retrospectively". Many benefits under special dispensation, under tax laws, are given retrospectively.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

They tell us, "All right, you will get this credit retrospectively from such and such date". So, retrospectivity is not something that is unheard in law. It is part of the legislative process. So, nobody can have any objection to retrospectivity. So, that then is the answer to the third issue raised by the President of India.

Now, I come to a very important issue. Hon. Members said in this House, "Look how is it that you brought this legislation without considering all these things? You are, in fact, being arrogant and you are disrespecting the President". Again, let me go back to 'constitutional literacy'. Article 111 of the Constitution, if my memory serves me right, says that the President, when he receives a Bill, is entitled to either assent to the Bill or withhold assent to the Bill. The two expressions used are "either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent". If the President withholds assent, then what happens? In the second paragraph it uses the expression "as soon as possible". He received it on May 25th and sent it back on May 31.

What can he do when he sends it back? Number one, he can say, "Re-consider the entire amendment", which he has done. Number two, he can say, "I am proposing the following amendments. I propose these amendments, please consider these amendments". The President has not asked us to do that. Number three, he can say, "I want you to look at this specific provision of this Act and I want Parliament to re-consider this specific provision." The President has not done that. He has not given us his amendment and he has not asked us to look at any specific provision. He said, "Re-consider the Bill". Article 111 itself says that once Parliament gets the message from the President, it can either pass the amendments that he has proposed or it can pass the original Bill without any amendments. That is the power given under article 111. There is no disrespect. The Constitution itself provides for that. We can say to the President that we will pass the Bill as it is. It is part of article 111 of the Constitution. We exercise our constitutional authority as Members of a sovereign House. The President is part of the legislature. As you know, under article 79, the legislature consists of three entities, the President, the Lok Sabha and the Council of States. So,

when the President sends the Bill back to us, we, in our sovereign capacity under article 111, are entitled, as a matter of law, to pass the Bill in the same fashion. Once we pass the Bill in the same fashion and once it goes back to the President, the Constitution says that he shall not withhold assent.

In other words, there is a constitutional imprimatur that once it goes back to him in the same form, he cannot withhold consent. ...*(Interruptions)* Nobody knows. It is because a very prominent Member of the BJP, the other day, said that the hon. President must refer the matter under article 143 to the Supreme Court of India. If they had read article 111, they would not have said so and many of their very prominent leaders would not have said so. In fact, this was part of a debate in the other House. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, therefore, they are, in fact, asking the hon. President to violate both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution. My dear friend, Shri Ananth Kumar, does not believe me because he is looking very intriguingly at article 111 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will read 111(2) proviso. It says:

"... and if the Bill is passed again by the Houses with or without amendment and presented to the President for assent, the President shall not withhold assent therefrom."

So much 'for constitutional illiteracy'. We do not have any proprietorship on constitutional literacy. That is for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

We do not have proprietorship in constitutional literacy, but we also believe that there is no proprietorship in constitutional illiteracy...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, the question that is now posed before this House in this. We have debated on the points that the hon. President referred to us in his message. We have looked upon those points and we will then take a considered view at the time of voting whether we want to

*Not recorded.

pass this Bill in its entirety as it was or we want to reconsider it. The hon. Minister of Law and Justice has commended the Bill to the House as it is and, I think that is should be passed in that fashion.

I would like to raise my last point, just to go back to Indian history for a minute. If you look at the debates in March, 1950, if I remember correctly, a debate in Parliament took place in which Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Dr. Kunzroo and Shri Kamath participated. The debate was a very interesting debate on the Office of Profit. These are little vignettes of constitutional history which we should be aware of. In that debate, the issue was that when the 1935 Act was applied, it was applied after Independence before the Constitution came into force, namely, 15th August, 1947 to 26th January, 1950. Now, there was a hiatus because the Constitution had not come into force before that. Under the 1935 Act, you had an Executive Council. The Executive Council was like the Cabinet. In the meantime, some Deputy Ministers were appointed, some Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed and State Ministers were appointed. This happened between 1947 and 1950.

So, the question arose whether these are Offices of Profit or not because there was no protection as far as Deputy Ministers and State Ministers were concerned. So, the debate that took place was that we must protect them. They had already been appointed, just like here where people already have been appointed. But we must be protected. So, an Ordinance was passed immediately coming into force of the Constitution. The Ordinance was passed in 1950. The Ordinance at that time was not for a period of six months; it was for six weeks, if I remember correctly. The Ordinance could be passed only for six weeks, and that Ordinance was promulgated for six weeks to protect them. But here you took great umbrage at the Ordinance procedure that people said that we were wanting to invoke in this House. We never did it. But in 1950 an Ordinance was promulgated to protect people who are Deputy Ministers and Ministers of State for six weeks and thereafter a Bill was passed saying that these people are protected. So, these are little vignettes of history which we must know. Then, came the Committee which my learned colleague talked about, the 1954 Committee where a whole debate took place as to what should happen. In the 1954 Committee, there is a beautiful

analysis on what are Offices of Profit and what are not Offices of Profit. But, by and large, the essence of the debate says that advisory councils of a non-statutory nature are not Offices of Profit.

If you really look at some of the Annexures here, you will find that most of these offices can never be Offices of Profit. Shanti Niketan can never be an Office of Profit.
...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South):
Who said it?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, no interruption is allowed.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I say so. That is my opinion.
...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that is my opinion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken 45 minutes. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am entitled to an opinion. I am closing now. Coming to my point, I may tell you that many of these offices even under this Act, and even under the previous Act, are not Offices of Profit. But, my friends what you have done—and that is why we had to bring forward this legislation—is that you have tried to make these offices of profit issue an opportunity to file litigation for profit. It is to thwart that attempt so that you cannot reap the fruits of litigations, the purpose of which is only to profit you politically, that we have brought forward this legislation. And, that is why, I commend this legislation to this House to be passed as amended.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of this bill. The Parliament has been debating issues under article 102 and 103 of the constitution from time to time. But this time certain new situations have arisen with regard to above articles.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

Since the time when we adopted constitutional and Parliamentary systems, it is for the first time that a bill passed by both the Houses of Parliament has been returned by the President of India with his suggestions for consideration. His prime concern about the bill which is quite natural thing, is that instead of declaring each time some posts as office of profit, it would be better to define office of profit comprehensively. The concern expressed by H'E President is not first of its kind. Earlier the Supreme Court of India also expressed the same concern in its two-three verdicts. With the functioning of Indian Parliament in the beginning when similar type of controversies arose in 1952 and 1953, a committee was constituted in 1954 under the chairmanship of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargawa a member of Constituent Assembly and the said committee gave certain suggestions in 1956 for amendments along with certain definitions. Accordingly the Act of 1959 was passed by the Parliament in 1959. But in 1969 banks were nationalized many other institutions were also nationalised. Indian oil corporation was constituted all the coal companies were nationalised. At that time Parliament nominated many Hon'ble Members on the governing body and executive of these institutions and companies. Shri S.N. Joshi was nominated as member in this Reserve Bank of India. Again a controversy arose whether it was an office of profit and Members of Parliament cannot be a member there. Therefore, again in 1975 a committee was constituted by the Parliament and a comprehensive amendment in the form of constitutional amendment came to the fore, it too was passed by Parliament. But in 1978, all the laws enacted during emergency were undone by the Parliament constituted after the Emergency. In that process even some good laws were undone because it was said that a lot of things were anti-democratic in Emergency. The emergency law was also anti-democratic. All those sections were undone because the Parliament elected in 1977 was elected for 6 years and the constitution had been amended. That parliament, undoing all those things, had also undone it and this controversy was silenced for a long time. Had the case of Jaya Bachchan not been brought up and her membership not cancelled owing to political reasons, this matter would not have been in the limelight. Perhaps those who conspired against her were not aware that its flame might engulf them also. Now, in order to save themselves they have brought this

bill hurriedly and, thereby, declaring many offices as office of profit. Therefore, I would like to say that today we are in favour of passing this Bill as it is. But, the Hon. President's suggestions and the rulings given by the Supreme Court in different cases regarding whether an office can be termed office of profit or not should be taken into consideration even after passing the Bill as it is. In some cases, the Supreme Court itself said that if someone gets car, bungalow, house rent, TA, DA and salary then it is an office of profit and recently it has stated that if such provisions exist then all such posts will fall under office of profit whether one uses those facilities under those provisions or not. So, this is the latest ruling given by the Supreme Court. Therefore, an all-party Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in the light of the decisions of the Supreme Court and the legislation of 1959, Thakurdas Committee of 1956, legislation and Constitutional amendment of 1976. This committee should define the office of profit in accordance with the sentiments of the Hon. President and thereafter this right should be given by amending the section 102 so that we will not have to discuss this matter in parliament again and again. Only this Parliamentary Committee should have the right to decide to exclude any post from the list of office of profit so that we do not have to discuss it in the parliament again and again.

Secondly, I want to say that most of the Members are holding offices of profit. It is quite understandable if they hold one or two such offices but it is unbecoming if they hold dozens of such offices. Therefore, I want to say that there will be a natural tendency in the mind of those who have quit their offices to occupy such offices again as soon as possible. So, I want to urge that the decency and political ethics demand that the people who have resigned from their posts in the wake of this section should not occupy the same posts after the Bill is passed. With this submission, I fully support the Bill to be passed as it is.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill.

15.59 hrs.

(SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*)

Sir, had the founding fathers of the Constitution ever visualised that in future there could be such a party, a communal party like the BJP and irresponsible parties as some of the BJP's allies are they would have drafted article 102 (1) (a) of the Constitution in a different manner. I am saying this because the BJP and its allies made the charge that the hon. Speaker is holding an office of profit. The most unfortunate part is, the high office, the office of the speaker was tried to be unjustifiably tarnished.

16.00 hrs.

And very rightly, the hon. Speaker has decided not to sit in the Chair during the time the debate is taking place.

I am just coming to how responsible the Opposition is! There are about 200 petitions pending. The hon. President has asked, what will happen to these petitions.

I am just reading out one of the complaints made by one Trinamool leader. What does it say? It says: "The following are the Members of Parliament and the Offices of Profit held by them, thereby disqualify them from being MPs..." Shri Somnath Chatterjee is the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Is the Office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha an Office of profit? Nowhere it is mentioned. Then, it says that he is the Chairman of Santiniketan Sriniketan Development Authority. My previous speaker, Shri Kapil Sibal has explained that it has never been an office of profit. By no stretch of imagination, it can be called as an office of profit. Since some Trinamool leader has said that it is an office of profit, will it be construed as an office of profit? Further it says that he is the President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. I challenge the complainant. He is misleading the hon. President as the BJP is. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has not been holding the post of President of the Asiatic Society. How is this pending till now, for months together in the website? What is the purpose?

Then, it said about Shri Hannan Mollah. As an elected Member of Parliament, he is put on the Wakf Board. The Wakf Board Act clearly mentions it. Earlier, the chairmanship was held by officers but after the amendment in the Wakf Act in 1995, as the public representative he is holding that Office, and it is as per the amendment in the Wakf Act in 1995. You have not reconciled. There may be some differences between one

Act and the other, and both are the Acts of Parliament. They are charging that Shri Hannan Mollah is holding an office of profit. Sir, no one has till today defined what is the office of profit. The debate has been continuing.

In the Constituent Assembly, after long deliberation, article 102 (1A) had been made. It is left to Parliament, and Parliament, by law, can define what can be an office of profit, what is an office of profit and what is not an office of profit.

You cannot visualize. Santiniketan and Sriniketan Development Authority or the Wakf Board, as per the amended Act, and all others are listed in the Schedule. All could not be visualized. Some of them came only very recently, in the last decade or a decade before that. You cannot visualize that. Therefore, with great anguish, I would like to say that BJP is trying to use this issue to create destabilization in the country. Through this issue of office of profit, they are dragging the name of the President, the high office. They are so eloquent and said that the President has said this and the President has said that. A former President had said: "Genocide is taking place in Gujarat." What was your reaction to that? Where was your respect to the Office of the President at that time?...*(Interruptions)* I am not responding to you....*(Interruptions)*

The office of profit, as has already been explained, is there the world over. In the US, Canada and Australia, one set of arrangements has been made. In the UK, they have 300 years of experience.

Now, they have prepared a list of what is Office of Profit. Beyond that, nothing is an Office of Profit positively. We want that. What has happened is not a simple case of protection. Of course, protection is one element, but there have also been wild charges on the basis of which the Election Commission is putting on the web site their names. How discriminatory this is, I am just mentioning you the case of Nilotpal Basu. He was a Member of the Rajya Sabha and the complainant said he was holding an office, as a Chairman of an NGO. Both Mr. Balbir Punj and Mr. Nilotpal Basu retired on the same day. From the web site, the name of Mr. Balbir Punj was removed because he has already retired whereas the name of Mr. Nilotpal Basu, who was a Chairman of an NGO only, is still there. To vilify, to malign, to tarnish his image, his

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

name continued for months together. It is also happening in the case of hon. Speaker. What is the purpose?

One-by-one, the names of all the Left MPs have been mentioned in the web site. They are not taking any remuneration and there was no question of profit, there was no question of receivable. But as a representative of the people an MP has also a duty to serve the people through developmental bodies, through advisory bodies, etc. Who will determine it? Would it be one particular individual who is making false complaints even against the high office of the Speaker? Till, now, he has not withdrawn them. Stangely enough, Constitutional body like the Election Commission is saying that it is not the duty of the complaint to prove what he has said is true or not. The Election Commission itself is seeking the information! A quasi judicial body is helping the complainant to collect the information. Is it in the interest of the Constitution? Is it in the interest of democracy?

The BJP has all along been trying to divide and destabilise the country on communal lines. They are talking about the double speak! What they are doing in Jharkhand cannot be done here! What they are doing in Karnataka cannot be done here! They are speaking about probity. It is the BJP whose President was openly seen to take bribe. The whole nation knows and the whole world knows it..* They are speaking about honesty, probity!
...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What a way of defending!...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What is way!
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am coming to the point.

Now, about the steps that have been proposed, it is not dishonour to the President. It is as per the Constitutional requirement that this House, the Parliament in its wisdom, has passed a Bill. There have been deliberations, there have been views, and after that the Bill was put into an Act and sent for the Assent of the President so that the nation may know how the Parliament is responding to a particular situation. Our objection is

that the BJP, in its enthusiasm, to create destabilisation, to make political profit out of that destabilisation, is trying to involve the high office of the President. This should not be done. Whatever is being proposed, whatever is being done in this Parliament by the Government and this august House is according to the Constitution. Can they show anything in the Bill, which is violative of any provision of the Constitution? No.

The Bill was sent. The President has every right and authority to send it for reconsideration with or without amendment. If it is sent with amendment, the Government can consider it but there is no amendment proposed. It is only for reconsideration. The House is reconsidering that. Yes, we reiterate whatever has been stated in the several provisions of the Bill. It is the duty of the President to accept it.

They are speaking something dangerous. The President cannot act independently, independent of the Council of Ministers. If he is making a reference to the Supreme Court without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, what does it mean? It means that they are suggesting something new, and that will be disastrous for the country and disastrous for the Constitution. De-linking the President from the Council of Ministers, from their aid and advice is disastrous. Of course, as rightly stated by my esteemed colleague, the President is also a part of this House. He is also a part of this House. How can we ignore that high office of the President? Also, how can the views of this House be ignored? It cannot be done. So, such a position that is being taken by the BJP is disastrous. Enough is enough.

What are you doing in Jharkhand? Yes, in a given situation, you adjourn *sine die*. What is happening in Karnataka? What will happen in Madhya Pradesh? Out of 200 such cases, how many of them belong to the BJP? How many of them belong to other parties? It is only because Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was spared—although he is holding the high office of the Sports Authority—only because technically some name has not come, some other names have come though these names should not have come, though by any stretch of imagination these names cannot come as in the case of the office of the Speaker, the hon. Somnath Chatterjeeji and as in the case of my esteemed colleagues here.

*Not recorded.

We agree with whatever suggestion that has been made by the hon. President for a generic and comprehensive definition. That can be done by the Joint Committee of Parliament. That should be the solution, an abiding solution. As early as possible, that should be done. But so long as that cannot be done, this unjustified sort of move to tarnish the high office of the hon. Speaker, to tarnish the innocent Members of Parliament, who have nothing to do with any receivables, is not proper. They are not taking any salary or any financial benefit. The observations of the Supreme Court or the High Court are not enough. Some political parties, which are frustrated and rejected by the people, are making irresponsible accusations; there is no clear definition of office of profit.

That is why, I am sorry to mention again that an important Constitutional body is using it and putting it in a very discriminatory manner on the Website. On similar ground, certain names have been rejected and deleted. This should not be allowed. We, the Members of Parliament, are on equal footing. We should have same honour and same prestige. It cannot be done. One section of the House, one section of the political establishment makes wild accusations. Some irresponsible political parties make wild accusations.

Now about the suggestion that has come that this Bill as it is, should go to the President, I would say that in the same fashion it would go without any change. That is also a part of our authority.

Sir, we are not trespassing into any other's authority. We are not ignoring the provisions of the Constitution. Rather, as per the requirement of the Constitution, we are fulfilling our duties and responsibilities. In this situation I am just reminding you two more things and then I will conclude.

The list that is prepared in this Bill consists of 45 names. In future it may be that many more such cases may come. You cannot foresee. So, as early as possible, a permanent solution should be there.

The last point that I would like to make is this. Whatever damage has been done, it cannot be salvaged. An irreparable loss has been made. Our image as important Members of Parliament, this important office has been tarnished. They should apologise to the nation.

They should apologise to the hon. Speaker saying— 'Whatever we have done, we apologise for that'. It is because false allegation was made that Shri Somnath Chatterjee was holding a particular office. It was misleading the hon. President that this office of Chairman of Shantiniketan Sriniketan Development Authority is an office of profit....(Interruptions) Who has defined it? ... (Interruptions) The same is happening in the case of many other MPs. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I am not yielding.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I just request that they should come back to their senses and they should behave in a more responsible manner. Otherwise the nation will not brook that irresponsible practice that they are practising today.

Thank you very much.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, it seems they are the only good Party in the country and everybody should appreciate it.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettia): Sir, I do not want to deliver a speech. I just want to request that we are supporting this Bill to save the powerful people but what about our 11 poor friends who have been expelled from the House even without giving them proper hearing. Therefore, if we are doing one crime then we should also do something to save them also.

MR. SPEAKER: The House has heard your point.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for providing me an opportunity to express my opinion on Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006. No provision was made in article 102 of the constitution to specify as to which offices are offices of profit and which are not. Afterwards, an act was passed in this House in 1959. This House has a dignity and it has always honored

[Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh]

the constitution and I think, Hon'ble Members would honour the constitution and the law today also.

Sir, the bill which was sent to the Hon'ble President was passed by both the Houses. Hon'ble President considered it, but he did not propose any amendment in specific sections. He has sought information regarding two or three things and has instructed that the House should consider it seriously. Mr. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair before you and he read out the message of Hon'ble President in the House. All of us are discussing that today. Nothing, in this regard, has been mentioned in section 102 of the constitution. If you go through the original act also you will come to know that it has also not been changed. But some clause of section 3 of the original Act of 1959 have been amended and a table has been drawn on that basis and various posts have been mentioned in that table. If you look at it, you will see that there were 45 posts in the bill passed in May but its scope has been broadened more in this bill and 55 posts have been included in it.

Hon'ble Member of BJP, Malhotraji was making noise on this matter at that time. I do not know why he is absent today? He should have been present today. You as well as Hon'ble Members of BJP better know the reason behind it. If the matter is raised from one side, then it is alleged that the legislation has been brought to protect a particular individual. No individual is holding all the 55 offices. Therefore, I want to say through you that this bill has been brought in full conformity with the constitution. This House has the right to consider it. This House is being run in accordance with the constitution; court is being run as per the constitution; executive etc. are also run as per provisions of the constitution. Judiciary has the right to review the law, but this House has full right to make law. Hon'ble Shri Kapil Sibalji explained in detail in the House. He has placed all the sections all the matters before the people a minister more as a jurist than a minister or a member of parliament. I think, there is nothing more than that. I want to say to the members of NDA that on the one hand they are attacking Hon'ble Sonia Ji, on the other they are alleging that it has been brought to protect some people. But, have you not enacted this legislation in Jharkhand where your party is in power and whether it

has not been enacted in other states, be it Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat or any other state? This Bill is fully in accordance with the law and I support this Bill.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the bill on offices of profit. I rise to speak in support of this Bill.

Shri Ananth Kumar Ji put forth arguments on behalf of opposition. He also argued to discuss the matter again in the House because the Bill has been returned by the President. It appears from his speech that Hon'ble President has raised some objections. Hon'ble President has returned this bill only for re-consideration. It has been discussed in Rajya Sabha, in the House and all the members have expressed their opinion. Our learned jurist Hon'ble Minister put forth each point logically in the House, for which there is no reply with the people opposing it. I want to say that there was the need to bring this Bill in the House. The circumstances have been created today. These offices have not been created recently. These offices have been created in fifty years and the people holding those offices have availed benefit. But today the circumstances have compelled us to bring the bill. The members sitting on this side of the House were in power some times ago and then they had availed benefit of those offices. Whosoever will come in power will avail the benefit of those offices.

SMT. MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Whether you consider these offices to be offices of profit?

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Undoubtedly, I consider them to be offices of profit and I am discussing it. Today, circumstances have changed and there are some offices which require to be discussed in the House for carrying them on. Circumstances have compelled us for it today. The issue of Jharkhand and Karnataka was raised in the House. When issue of amendment of constitution came up there, it was amended but there was no such discussion but when the matter is being discussed in the House, then a lot of things are being said by the opposition. When Hon'ble Kapil Sibalji raised the issue of Jharkhand, then there was no interruption but when any logical thing is but forty, then it is being interrupted. Hon. Chairman, Sir, I support the amendment brought by the UPA Government

and I believe that all types of complications in the days to come will be solved if it is passed and the government which will come into power, will be running properly.

With these words I support the bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had opposed the Bill for making amendments in the Office of Profit legislation when it was brought in the House for the first time and I stand to oppose it today as well. At the time I had warned the House against passing this Bill. I want to talk about the negative image of the governments in the minds of the common people in the country. The people of the country do not have faith in the governments now. The governments are losing credibility in the eyes of the people. If this Bill is passed, the Parliament may also lose credibility. I think the Hon. President must also have felt the same doubts as were expressed in the House by us when the discussion on the Bill had taken place. When the Bill on being passed by both Houses of Parliament was sent to his Excellency he had returned it for reconsideration. In my view when the President returns a Bill for reconsideration it indicates that he is not in concurrence with the Bill. Shri Raghunath Singh Ji, who is not present in the House right now had interrupted Shri Kapil Sibal's arguments....he has now come into the House and I am recalling the remarks made by him. He had made a strong point. He had said we are committing sins to save the powerful. Since we are committing this sin, let us go a bit further and reconsider the case of the eleven MPs who have been punished without a trial. I want Shri Kapil Sibalji to realise that not only us but his own colleagues do not agree with him or with his arguments. Otherwise it wouldn't have been said that sins were being committed for powerful people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Bill was presented in the House for the first time I had asked the names of the MPs belonging to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who were occupying offices of profit in the institutions which were being exempted from being brought under the purview of the Office of Profit legislation. Any MP who is occupying an office of profit which is not granted exemption under the legislation would be liable to be prosecuted in this regard. If any MP appeals to a court of law the court is sure to rule against him. Kapil Sibalji, please do not laugh.

Take out your copy of the Bill and read the reasons and objectives laid down in the original Bill. The government has written therein that if this is not done then re-elections would have to be held in constituencies of 45 MPs. What does that mean? This would become a legal matter. These cases would be taken to court and by-elections would have to be held in all those places. This would not have a good effect on India's Financial situation. The government has said so in the Bill. I do not have a copy of the Bill with me, else I would have read out the relevant portions. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been stated under the reasons and objectives of the Bill that by-elections would have to be conducted in those constituencies. That is why the House and we want this information. Alongwith the House, the people who we represent, the people who have elected us as their representatives have a right to know as to who are the MPs who are here only on the basis of a majority and who are misusing this majority to safeguard the influential people. At least this list should be tabled in the House. But this list has not been tabled either.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a little surprised to hear Shri Kapil Sibalji's statements today. He advanced many arguments. I am trying to reply to those arguments or to give any clarifications. Our country follows constitutional democracy. We follow parliamentary procedures and the entire country follows parliamentary injunctions. Even so, I was surprised to hear that the hon. Minister, who is a legal expert is advocating that we should follow the example of Karnataka and Jharkhand....*(Interruptions)* I have understood what you said....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You raise your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: That is what I doing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: There is a difference between what is said and what meaning is derived from it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: That is very true.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You misinterpreted what I said. ...*(Interruption^s)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The State Legislative Assemblies ought to follow the Parliament's lead. But we are being told now that the Parliament ought to follow their example. If their actions are right then we are also in the right. If they are wrong, if you want to say what they did was wrong...you did not mean to say this either....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please remain silent. Let him first finish his statement....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request Shri Kapil Sibalji to kindly go through at night his statement made here in the House. By going through it he would laugh at him self. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I would also like to request him to go through it at home. Perhaps he would understand as to what I said....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I have got it at once. That is why I am saying it here....(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a matter of dispute between us. This is not the matter for dispute between Shri Kapil Sibal and Anant Gangaram Geete. But to whom do we want to follow? If what has happened in Jharkhand and Karnataka is wrong then what we are going to do here in the House? We are repeating the same mistake. This is what they are saying. If that is wrong, then now we are going to do something here in the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain silence.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, article 102 and 103 of the constitution have been referred to here in the House. The constitution provides us this right, you were not telling anything new to the House. You have got every right to amend that law but your way of amending that is wrong. The members and organizations which we intend to keep out of the purview of that law, since when those organizations are in existence and the time since when the law relating to office of profit is there in place? Today 45 members of both Houses of the Parliament have come under the ambit of that law but when those members were appointed they were not aware that such a law was there in place in our country and that we were violating

that law. We have been violating that law for the last fifteen to twenty years and we have been violating that law continuously. Had the case of Shrimati Jaya Bachchan not surfaced, I don't think, we would have got an opportunity to have a discussion on this topic. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan was removed from her office by implementing a law by which the post held by her was declared the office of profit whereas we have been violating continuously this law for the last fifteen to twenty years. This is like not accepting the mistake we have been doing since long and try here in the House to uphold that we are not committing any mistake. What we have been doing for years was not a mistake. Atleast we should realise our mistake but we are trying to prove that mistake correct here in this House. This House is followed by the entire country and state legislatures. That is why we had opposed this Bill at that time also and I am opposing this bill at present too. We are abusing our power to save some prominent members and big leaders. We are abusing our rights, majority and power. The way today the Union Government and the State Governments in the country have lost their credibility, similarly this action of ours will be a signal to the people of the country that our Parliament will also loose its credibility in future. I had cautioned about this earlier too and I am cautioning you even today. That is why I had opposed this Bill at that time and I am opposing it at present also.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening with rapt attention to the very powerful speech delivered by Mr. Sibal. Based on the whole argument he put before the House, I came to two conclusions. What I understood from his arguments is that there are two motives behind bringing this Bill. One is to save 45 Members of Parliament and a few Members of different State Legislatures. He said that there is a political motive for this Bill.

Hon. President of India is a part of this Parliament according to the provisions of our Constitution. Shri Ananth Kumar referred to the reply given by hon. Law Minister in Rajya Sabha in which the Minister stated that the President is a father figure of this country and that the Parliament always seeks guidance from the President. However, unfortunately, when the President wants to guide

Parliament, when the President wants to guide this country, the Government refuses it.

This Bill is being given retrospective effect. Hon. President has returned this Bill for reconsideration.

What the President wants is a uniform criterion to determine as to whether a particular position is an Office of Profit or not. What the President wants is, there should be a uniform criterion. If you go through the list of the posts that are to be exempted from Offices of Profit, one can find that there are 55 posts belonging to different States. Take for example Wakfs Board of West Bengal. Why not all the Wakfs Boards of the country? Another example is—Film Development Corporation of Uttar Pradesh or West Bengal. Why not all the Film Development Corporations belonging to all the States? There could have been a uniformity in this.

If you see the list, out of 55 Members of Parliament that has been mentioned, most of them belonging to only two States—West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Out of 45 MPs who are affected by this Bill or benefited by this Bill, more than one-third belong to my Left friends. When any Bill was brought by any Government to increase the salaries of allowances of hon. Members of Parliament, hue and cry was raised from that side. They talk of 'idealism'. They say: "We follow idealism; we are a party which believes in 'idealism' and which believes in 'value-based' politics." Where is that 'value'? I would like to compliment hon. Speaker, who has chosen not to preside over this sitting when this Bill it taken up for discussion. Would you follow suit? Would our Congress friends or those Members of Parliament, sorry to say, who are going to be benefited out of this Bill, would follow the hon. Speaker and following the example of the hon. Speaker at least abstain from this discussion? I do not know as to whether Division would be called or not. When Division is called, we would see as to whether they would be participating or as to whether their party allow them to participate in the Division or not. There is double standards in the interpretation of 'idealism' or 'values'. That is most unfortunate. A wrong thing has been done in the past, let us try not to do the same wrong thing in future. Let not the Government use this Parliament—this Parliament is not the Holy Ganges—for washing away all the defaults, irregularities and frauds. This Government is misusing this forum of Parliament.

I would like to take the attention of every hon. Member of this House to what had happened between 1975 and 1977. Bills after Bills were passed in this House. Many Members of this House were put inside the prison. All the important leaders of this House were sent to jail and put behind bars and Bills were passed. Within two hours, our Constitution was amended. Brute majority was used for misuse of this pious House. What happened to them? The people of India had punished those people. History is there for everyone to see.

My submission to the Government is, let us not try to degrade the values of this august House by passing such Bills. Shri Sibal was arguing as to why should we apply uniformly and that it cannot be uniformly applicable. There are MPs who are occupying the Offices of Profit and they should be excluded from the list, from the Bill and not others. What message are we trying to send to the people of this country? That is my point.

I think, it will not be out of context to mention the case of Shrimati Jaya Bachchan. It was decided within a few days. People are asking about this. Many cases were referred by the President to the Election Commission. What the Election Commission is doing? I do not want to question the autonomy of the Election Commission. I do not want to question the style of functioning of the Election Commission. But this question is hitting the mind of every lay man in this country. A number of cases had been referred by the hon. President to the Election Commission....*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, This is objectionable. This portion of the speech of the hon. Member is an insinuation of the functioning of the Election Commission, in a quasi-judicial function. The Election Commission is deciding the matter....*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I am not questioning the quasi-judicial functions of the Election Commission. I am stating the plain truth. I made it categorically clear that I am not questioning the quasi-judicial functions of the Election Commission. I am not questioning the autonomy of the Election Commission. But this is the bare fact.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

...*This is the question that is striking not only my mind, but it is the one which is striking every individual in this country. That is the point....(*Interruptions*)

This Bill is not an impartial Bill. I would like to draw your attention to clause 4 (ii) of this Bill. This clause has been incorporated in this Bill because of an apprehension. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan went to the court; if she wins, then also she will be deprived of becoming again a Member of the House. Keeping that in view 4 (ii) of this Bill has been inserted in this Bill. Shri Sibal was correct when he said that there is political motive in this. There is political motive; this is not free from politics. And we are misusing the floor of this august House by bringing forward such a Bill.

16.47 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can I interrupt you for a minute?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, yes.

16.47¼ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: ATTACK ON
LEBANON BY ISRAEL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this morning all sections of the House raised a very important subject, namely Israeli attack on Lebanon and killing of innocent people. The Government also responded and it was agreed that we should sit together and find out whether a Resolution should be passed or not. We had that meeting. And I am very happy to announce that the Government has brought a draft which has been approved by all the hon. Leaders of Parties. I wish to place it before the House for its acceptance. I believe all sections of this House would accept it.

"This House unanimously expresses its deep concern over the growing tension in India's extended neighbourhood of West Asia that has exacerbated an already complex and delicate situation in the

region. It unequivocally condemns the large-scale and indiscriminate Israeli bombing of Lebanon that has been under way for many days, which has resulted in the killing and suffering of large numbers of innocent civilians, including women and children, and caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure in Lebanon. This House conveys the deepest condolences, sympathy and support of the people of India to the people of Lebanon at this difficult time. The people of India are ready to make their contribution in providing humanitarian relief to the victims of this tragic conflict.

Deeply concerned over the escalation of this conflict which affects India's security and other vital interests, this House calls for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire so that further destruction of Lebanon is prevented, and urgently needed humanitarian assistance can reach the affected people. We urge all parties to the conflict to eschew violence and return to the path of dialogue. This House is of the firm view that lasting peace and security in this region, which is a matter of interest and concern not only to the countries of the region, but to the whole world, can be achieved only through a negotiated and comprehensive solution to the problems of this region that takes into account the legitimate interests and grievances of all the parties concerned."

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you very much.

Shri Prasanna Acharya, you may continue now.

16.50 hrs.

(SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*)

PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF
DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT
BILL, 2006—*Contd*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Article 102 of the Constitution was for the limited purpose. When the framers of the Constitution inserted that article in the

Constitution, it was meant for a very limited purpose, which has already been discussed in the House. We have the Cabinet form of Government. We do not have the Presidential system of governance. In the Cabinet system of Government, there has to be a Cabinet. Members of Parliament will form a place in the Cabinet. What is happening in Presidential system of Government in America? The American President can choose any of the bureaucrats as his Secretary, his Minister. That system is not prevalent here. Therefore, the makers of the Constitution incorporated Article 102 for a specific purpose. Those Members of Parliament who will be occupying the ministerial posts, will be exempted from the Office of Profit. That was the specific purpose for inserting that Article but we are diluting that purpose. We are misusing Article 102 of the Constitution.

There is no limit now. Today, Parliament has exempted one set of Members from the Office of Profit. Tomorrow, it can exempt another set of Members. Day after tomorrow it can exempt a third set of Members. So, where is the limit? Therefore, my contention is that Article 102 is not being properly interpreted or used by this Government and there is no end to it. Today, 45 Members of Parliament are included in the list. Tomorrow, if another set of Members occupy of the Office of Profit, they will be exempted. So, there is no limit to it.

My suggestion is this. Why not dispense with this provision of the Constitution? Instead of dispensing with this provision of the Constitution, the Government is making mockery of it. Let us not try to distort the Constitution. Let us not mis-utilise or misinterpret Article 102 of the Constitution. The Government is interested in this Article either to keep its alliance intact or to keep the Government intact.

What is the Government doing, particularly after passing the latest amendment to the Constitution, that is 15 per cent of the total strength of the House can also be taken as Members? It is trying to gain support of other Members, by exempting them from the Office of Profit, whom it is not able to adjust in the Cabinet. For this purpose, the Government is bringing this Bill. This is a sheer insult to the makers of the Constitution. So, it will be better if we dispense with this provision of the Constitution altogether.

By passing this Bill again, after being returned by the President, the Government is diminishing its own stature and it trying to diminish the stature of Indian Parliament before the nation. Since the Government has a majority in this House, technically it may be right to pass the Bill. It can successfully pass this Bill today, as it did during Emergency. This House represents the wishes, the desires, the sentiments and the feelings of the whole nation. What moral impact will it have on our next generation? Are we not aware of it? If we pass this Bill today, in spite of it being returned by the President, Sir, it will not be a great day for us. It will be one of the blackest days for the Indian democracy.

I am not only talking about the people sitting on that side or sitting in the middle. I am talking about all. Let us not have double standards. One may speak against the Bill here but in his or her own State one may rush through the Bill. I cannot support this. It has happened in some of the States. We are opposing it here but we are rushing through a Bill of the same nature in our Assemblies. This is double standards. I am sorry to say this.

My State of Orissa is a small with only 147 MLAs. I would invite everybody to come to Orissa and see what is happening there. Not a single MLA or MP has been appointed as the Member or the Chairman of any office which is an office of profit in my State of Orissa. Do you think there is no pressure? There is a tremendous pressure on our Chief Minister and our Government. Every MLA wants to be a Chairman of any trust or board or committee of the Government but not a single MLA or MP has been appointed to such an office nor the Government of Orissa is contemplating to come out with any Ordinance or a Bill in this regard. I would like to say that Orissa has set an example in India. Therefore, I am opposing this Bill. If some conscience is left within us, let us not denigrate the stature of this Parliament and let us not insult the President of India. We have inflicted enough insult on the President of India.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to please withdraw this Bill. You come out with some other amendment as has been directly or indirectly suggested by the President of India. Let this Session be over. You come up with this Bill in the next Session. The sky is not going to fall. If a few Members of this House face

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

consequences, let them face. The sin committed by this Government cannot be rectified by this Parliament. As I said, this Parliament is not the holy Ganges where errors and falls will be washed off. Let us not use the floor of this Parliament for this *mala fide* purpose.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, with a sense of commitment undiluted, for the politics based on principles and with a sense of our commitment to the Constitution and to the people of this country, I rise to support this Bill.

The question is that the Constitution has given the right to the Parliament. Why I say so? The Constitution has given this right to the Parliament to prevent disqualification. It is enshrined in the Constitution and the Constitution has been passed by the Constituent Assembly. It is in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution which gives us right to prevent disqualification. We are making use of this provision. Therefore, my conscience is clear. We are only making use of a constitutional provision. If the Constitution has not given us the right then it would have been difficult for us to prevent the disqualification. Therefore, I do not lose my heart, neither I lose my conscience nor do I consider that I am departing from value based politics. It is very clear.

The question is, opposition is being raised to the Bill because the President has advised. The point is that I do not take the opposition to the Bill to be so innocent. I do not accept that the opposition to the Bill is so innocent.

17.00 hrs.

The reason for this is very simple. It is being suggested that the Bill should be modified to make it technically equipped so that it can stand judicial scrutiny. That is the suggestion being made by my friends. An attempt is being made to read the mind of the Judiciary. An attempt is being made to know what the judicial pronouncement will be. A judgement is being pronounced before the judgement has been delivered. I do not think there is need for alarm. I do not think any warning bell has to be sounded. If the Judiciary takes a different view, then Parliament is within its right, conferred by the Constitution, to do its job. We shall do our job if the

Judiciary takes a different view. Therefore, there is no need to ring the bell of warning.

Sir, on the question of relationship between the Office of President and Parliament, I would submit that the relationship is well established. Since the Constitution has been enacted, on a number of occasions this issue has been raised. The relationship between the Office of the President and the Parliament has been well established. We respect the advice of the hon. President. We also respect the sovereignty of the Indian Parliament. I believe, Parliament is supreme. Therefore, I believe that the sovereign Parliament has a right to decide according its wisdom. There is no question of showing disrespect to the hon. President. The hon. President has done his job. He has given his advice and we have done our job to act independently on the basis of our wisdom. That is where the Constitution stands. If any attempt is made to dilute the supremacy of the Parliament, then we shall oppose that. The Parliament is supreme because, we represent the people of this country on the basis of the provisions as contained in the Constitution.

Sir, I am a little surprised that a suggestion is being made that there is no hurry in according assent to the Bill. This is being said openly. This Bill can be kept pending as it was done by the late President Zail Singh for three years in respect of a particular Bill. This is being said openly. What does it mean? It only means that something is being suggested not only to dilute the sovereignty of the Parliament but something is also being done to stand in the way of expression of the collective will of the Parliament. Therefore, I feel, opposition to the Bill is linked with the struggle for power in the country...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have been very zealously listening to the running commentary being given by Madam Maneka Gandhi. It is nice to learn that she has imbibed the quality of giving a running commentary. She must be frequenting to the cricket grounds!

Sir, if the in the name of further scrutiny, the Parliament does not adopt the Bill; if in the name of showing respect to the hon. President we decide not to adopt the Bill; if assent to the Bill is kept pending, then what is going to happen? I am very frank about it. If the Bill is not passed, then the Election Commission will be

within its right to take a view on the issue. If a number of Members of this House lose their membership, which they may lose, may not lose, what will happen? The gamble for power shall begin. The politicians who are hungry for power, being out of power, may begin it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to him.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make your point when you get an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I repeat it and I have no hesitation in saying it. If the Bill is not enacted, the Election Commission will be free to take a view on the matter and if 48 or 58 or 38 members lose their membership, then there may be a feeling that it is the time to initiate instability in equation of forces and therefore, begin the gamble for power....(Interruptions) I am very clean so far as my conscience says. I openly say that this Bill is being enacted to prevent disqualification because we have the right. The Bill is being enacted to protect the political stability of the present equation of forces. The Bill is being enacted and we shall be in power. The only course left to you is to move a No-Confidence Motion or to go to the street and create a situation where the law and order comes to a halt. You take this course. I openly say this. I am openly saying that if you have in mind to send these people out of power, then move a No-Confidence Motion. Why do you take the guise of opposing this Bill? Why do you play hide and seek? You openly move a No-Confidence Motion or create a law and order problem which will make this Government unstable. Do it. We are ready to face it. I am openly saying that we are ready to face that situation. We are ready to face the situation if the court strikes down the Bill. We are ready to face the situation if assent is delayed. We are ready to face the situation if you move a No-Confidence Motion. We are ready to face the situation if you destabilise the Government. There is no hide and seek game in it. We are ready for it. In order to prevent that, we want to bring this Bill. I call a spade a spade. In order to prevent

destabilisation, in order to prevent the gamble for power unconstitutionally, illegally, well beyond the norms of parliamentary democracy, we are bringing this Bill. Face it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be a listener.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dasguptaji, the time allotted to you is over now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Let us not speak of the consequences. The election result of the last election has shown the mandate of the people. Let us not speak of the consequences. We are here in our own right with the largest number. The Left is here with the largest strength. You are reduced to a minority. You have been thrown out of power. When you speak of consequences, please look at the mirror. Just look at the mirror. We are for immediate enactment of the Bill. We are for preventing the disqualification. We are only using our constitutional prerogative. We have not gone beyond the *lakshman rekha*. We are within the Constitution. Therefore, any clamour against the Bill is nothing but an attempt to destabilise the Government and a gamble for power. Indian people are not going to accept that.

I have a suggestion to the Government. It may be assumed that there are some shortcomings in the Bill. I do not rule out that assumption. After the enactment of the Bill, it will be the responsibility of the Government to monitor the implementation of the law and to create a mechanism by which the question of a parliamentary definition of "Office of Profit" can be done. There has to be a mechanism. There has to be an assurance from the Government that the Government, in the future date, will bring about changes in the law if it is found to be inadequate. That is my suggestion to the Government.

With these words, on behalf of Communist Party of India, I support the Bill and I oppose any gamble for power that is being done.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramnathapuram): Sir, on behalf of my party, the DMK, I rise to support the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualifications) Amendment Bill, popularly known as the Office of profit Bill, as passed again by the Upper House, Rajya Sabha. His Excellency, the President of India, in his wisdom has returned the Bill to Parliament for reconsideration. We respect and regard the advice given by the President because he is a fatherly figure. He is a titular head in the constitutional set-up. I think the Government has already agreed for setting up a Parliamentary Committee to go into the whole issue.

I do not know why this time this Bill has evoked so much controversy because this is not for the first time that exemptions are being given to some offices of profit held by Members of Parliament. As representatives of the people, Members of Parliament have to perform a lot of duties and functions and when they hold certain offices which are purely of honorary or service-oriented, they should not be disqualified. Similar amendments in the past had enabled the leaders of the Opposition and the Chief Whips of parliamentary parties to get perks from the Government.

I would appeal to the Opposition, especially the BJP not to make unnecessary controversy over this issue because even the BJP-ruled States and their Chief Ministers have passed such Bills in their State Assemblies, exempting certain offices held by their MLAs from the provisions of office of profit.

With these words, I support the Bill, as passed second time by Rajya Sabha.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me do speak. I rise to oppose the Bill brought by our Hon. Law Minister, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj....(Interruptions) [Translation] Had it been yours I would have supported it but it belongs to CPM so I oppose it. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Gurudas Dasguptaji has rightly said if this Bill was not brought then the 55 members who have come under the ambit of office of profit would have disqualified and this government would have fallen. He has said that had the government gambled politically your government would have fallen.

[English]

To save your government, you hurriedly brought this

Bill. [Translation] We are of the view that this is not confined only to Jharkhand or Bengal. We sometimes do like this in Bengal, Bihar and Parliament also. The question is that what happened earlier was as per the situation prevailing at that time but why you people have started now? It is true that we were not aware of it. When Shrimati Jaya Bachchan lost her membership we were compelled to ponder over as to what was the reasons of this and what will be the repercussion of this in future. One member lost her membership for no fault of her. Similarly the members of State Legislative Assemblies are enjoying the similar positions and no action has been taken in their case. That is why this hurts me. [English] You cannot differentiate one from another. [Translation] Law is same for all. But we see that there are one two sets of law. One if for layman and one is for privileged class. People of privileged class are those who are in government and who have the power the enact law....(Interruptions)...I have also been in congress. [English] You ask the Bengal Congress people what are their sentiments and ask your state people about this Bill what are their sentiments. [Translation] There is no need of our saying all this. I am saying this because in clause 4 it is said that if this Bill is passed these will not be disqualified even by the court. One thing more has been said that on passage of this Bill when it will take the shape of a law, the Election Commission will also be not in a position to do anything in this matter. That is why this has been brought hurriedly. The Election Commission has written a letter to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal. [English] It is reported in the Press that you please give your reply within 31st July....(Interruptions) [Translation] That is why it has become necessary for you to get this Bill passed today itself. Earlier a notice was issued by the Election Commission to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal which the Chief Secretary did not reply to the Election Commission, but the Advocate General wrote in a letter. [English] We do not need to reply. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: He spoke right....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: He spoke right or wrong but I am speaking right. Election Commission wrote again after that [English] You are bound to reply to the Election Commission....(Interruptions) [Translation] Let me speak on the subject first. [English] You are the Chairman

of the Minority Development Corporation. Why are you sitting here?...(Interruptions) All the 54 MPs are holding the posts...(Interruptions) Why are they sitting here?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): The Election Commissioner could not do anything in the Assembly elections....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, listen to him quietly.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The police issued the statement and also the Bill. Anyone involved in the case would not have listened quietly....(Interruptions) [English] They are not our enemy...(Interruptions) I consider him as my friend ...(Interruptions) [Translation] I do not want to say anything in this case. I want to say that you could have done it in the State Assembly when you come to know about it. [English] You have your State Law. Only two are exceptional cases. [Translation] Why did you not do it? If it was done in Jharkhand then why you did not do it now? Why did you knocked the doors in Delhi?...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not for MPs there. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Do not say this. It is for MPs also in the States. [English] I appeal through you, Sir, to the Congress Leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. She has taken a stand....(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: You may go back to the Congress. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What I do, I will not have to take the advice from you. [Translation] Sir, you will have to give me time. How can I put my point if I do not get time....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You raise your point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why am I congratulating her? It is because that after the Jaya Bachchan's case, she resigned her seat in Parliament. Then, she contested again and won the election. [Translation] I had seen Soniaji sitting here when a discussion on Mumbai blasts was held here but she is not present today. She came today but left, why? Because she feels uneasy. She has to give support in order to take your support. It is not a question of honour, it is a question of the House. Why you did not see the way which she had shown you. Do you have any answer to it....(Interruptions) [English] Two-thirds of the posts belong to the Leftists. They speak about ideology...(Interruptions) This is not the West Bengal Assembly. This is Parliament ...(Interruptions) My friend, you are also the Chairman of the Asansol Development Corporation....(Interruptions) Sir, he is being summoned....(Interruptions)

SHRI BANASGOPAL CHOUDHURY (Asansol): I am saying this that as leader of the Trinamul Congress Party, she is getting salary from the Board of a Company as a Director....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why you did not give it in the Assembly?...(Interruptions) [English] Why do you not lodge a complaint with the Election Commission? [Translation] If you want to say something against him, then you approach the Election Commission ...(Interruptions) [English] You are fit to write ...(Interruptions) You are fit to write to the hon. President. We do not have any objection. He mentioned his name ...(Interruptions) He is not present here. He is the Chairman of the National Institute of Personnel Management. This is not a Government organisation. All the 15 people are enjoying the privileges of the Government, enjoying the powers and privileges. ...(Interruptions) [Translation] The message given by the President....(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, I am sorry to say one thing...*

[Translation]

Should not we people think over this?...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY:....*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:....* This is the most unfortunate part of it.

[Translation]

Sir, I have objections to two-three things. How can I put my point....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reference to President will not go on record.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They shout so much that I cannot speak. How should I speak....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are increasing your time by shouting. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, today will be known as the black day. Today, is a very tragic day for the Parliament. Such a black legislation should not be there for the country. You should look carefully the message of the President under article 102. He had stated three points which have been mentioned by Shri Kapil Sibal, Shri Anant Kumar and many other Members. ...(Interruptions) [English] I am not going into the details of it. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 was sent to the hon. President for assent on 25th May of 2006. The hon. President returned the same on 30th May, 2006 with a message to both the Houses of Parliament for reconsideration of the Bill under the provision of Article 111 of the Constitution.

[Translation]

His message was:

[English]

"Evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner."

[Translation]

What is the problem in it?

*Not recorded.

[English]

Sir, I am opposing this Bill because the Government is not exempting offices, but they are exempting some Members of Parliament. Why are they exempting some individuals only? It is because without them the Government cannot run. I do not blame the Government because sometimes in coalition politics there are such compulsions.

MD. SALIM: Shri Vajpayee knows about it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Shri Vajpayee was far better than you people. You have to respect Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Don't compare yourself with Shri Vajpayee.

Sir, the Congress Party's stature is very high. It is the oldest party in the country, but I am surprised to see [Translation] that the left parties have become their kidney, liver and heart. [English] The Left Parties have become your kidney, liver, heart and brain. You are losing your credibility because of them. Why are you losing your credibility for them? They are going to destroy the country and they are going to destroy the parliamentary system. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, she is reading from the papers....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not reading from the papers. I have got all the details with me.

Sir, I have great respect for the Speaker's Chair. I do not want to mention anything about him. I respect the Chair. But I will mention the name of the individual....*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is all right, Sir, if you tell me not to take the name.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The person whose name you are

*Not recorded.

taking, is hon. Speaker and discussion on him cannot take place here.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not referring to hon. speaker....*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other ways have been mentioned in the Rules for having a discussion on him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I will abide by your ruling....*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should listen first and then say what you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, the Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly is taking salary from a company....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, he is holding a position in the Aasonsol Development Corporation.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should develop the habit of listening....(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, what is mentioned in the Bill? [Translation] Names of 55 have been mentioned in the Bill. You can look yourself whether this Act is there in the Bill or not. It is written in the Bill that [English] this is office of profit, West Bengal Town and Country Planning and Development Act, 1979 is there.(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You remove your confusion.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, why am I mentioning this? I am saying this because there are three or four offices mentioned such as the Sriniketan-Shantiniketan Development Authority. If you see SI. No. 8 on page 2 of the Bill, you will see that it has been written very categorically about the law that I mentioned.

Not only that but it is also for Haldia Development Corporation. Our friend is there from that area. Even the Asanasol Development Corporation is there. The Member is also present here. I am not mentioning the names. There are about 15 such names from West Bengal. They say that there is no document. If there is no document, why do we complain then? If anything is wrong, they can plead their case.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, Sir, how can it be over? These people do not let me speak; how can my time be over? It is a very good thing....(Interruptions) [English] Sir, this is a notification showing how they became the members of these committees and if you want to read this, I can supply all these documents to you. We have handed over all the documents to the Election Commission.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): It is all garbage....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It may be garbage for them, but it is not garbage for the country. Sir, they have the majority and they can pass this Bill, but it is not the people's will [Translation] This is not the will of the people, they will not support you in this regard as they are against it. [English] When the matter is pending before the Election Commission, I do not think, it is right time to pass this Bill hurriedly. They are doing it so that the Election Commission cannot take action against them.

Sir, I want to inform the House that if you pass this Bill, it will be a bad practice. It is unethical and it will subvert the Constitution. It is violation of all sorts of constitutional rights and the fundamental rights. Sir, when there was a case of ten MPs involved in the MPLAD case [Translation] You took away their job. I am not in favour of corruption. If they have made a mistake then it is a mistake

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

but [English] You have not allowed to listen to them. [Translation] You did not even try to defend. Now, when it concerns you and there is a case against you then you are quarelling here. [English] This is the difference. We do not think that this House should run like this. [Translation] for this, I would also like to say that the President is not alone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you finished now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We have Parliament constituting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and [English] President is an integral part of this Government and President is the highest person of our country and the House. So, the President can advise. The President can give the guidelines and he is able to see the interests of the people. He can do it. But we are sorry that 55 [Translation] There had been 2-3 occasions after independence when we had to pass such a black Bill for the 55 post holders. [English] This is most unfortunate. I will again request the Government that when the President sends a message, we should accept his message and try to see what he wants to say.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your speech concludes.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They do not want to listen. We must note that article 74 provides that President can advise the Government and can take advice from them. But they trying to bar judiciary and Election Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter has been concluded, please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: One thing Gurudas Dasgupta clearly said that if they do not do this the Government will fall. It is right but why it did not strike them when the Government of Ataljee fell just for one vote. [English] Not only that, the Government of Devegowda and many other Governments have gone. They can adjust with everything, but they cannot adjust morality with everything. They can adjust everything, but they cannot adjust their ideologies. They can adjust with everything, but they cannot adjust with corruption.

Sir, I would like to inform this House that this Bill will give them a befitting reply and that reply will be of the people. People are watching them and looking at them. They would not allow them to do it.

With these words, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the Constitution came into force, this is the second time when hon. Rashtrapatiji has returned the Bill for reconsideration. I am very happy to discuss on that advice. Today, hon. Law Minister piloted the Bill for further reconsideration.

Hon. President of India, who is a part of Parliament under article 79 of the Constitution of India, has given advice on three important issues. One is on the evaluation of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair, reasonable and can be applied across all the States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner. We have included 54 corporations or other authorities—offices of profit—for exemption. What are we doing here? We are not exempting the office; we are exempting the persons who are holding the office of profit. This is not at all correct. The framers of the Constitution have incorporated that due to some eventuality if an office comes under office of profit, we can exempt the office and not the person. We are giving benefit to the persons under this present law. Suppose, some urban development authority comes under an office of profit. Suppose, we provide in the Act that throughout the country any urban development authority in any State is exempt from the office of profit, then tomorrow any MP occupying that post will be exempted I do not accept the arguments put forward by Shri Kari Sibal. That is not the intention of the President. There should be uniformity. Suppose in Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka that comes under the office of profit, tomorrow if any Member of Parliament is appointed to that authority, he can come back to Parliament as that office is exempt. That is a lacuna. So, there should be uniformity. I do agree with the hon. Rashtrapatiji.

My second point—and it is most important point—is this. At the time of discussion also, my Party had opposed this retrospective thing. The same view has been taken by hon. Rashtrapatiji about the soundness and propriety of law in making the applicability of the amendment

retrospectively. What have they done? The retrospective effect is being given since 4th July, 1959 after a gap of 46 years. Some corporations, some authorities were not even born in the year 1959. Some corporations were born in the year 2000; some corporations were born in the year 2003. What is the need to give retrospective effect from 1959? I also observe it at the time of discussion on the floor of the House. The same view has been also taken by hon. Rashtrapatiji. That is why my Party has moved amendments.

My Party has moved two amendments to delete the law; it should be prospective and not retrospective. Since 1959, till today, we have made amendments so many times on the floor of the House but we done them in a prospective manner and not in a retrospective manner. This is the first time that we are doing it in a retrospective manner. One Congress person lodged a complaint before Rashtrapatiji against Ms. Jaya Bachchan. If the Government had been so sincere, it would have brought the legislation earlier not to disqualify her for holding an office of profit as Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council. For so many days, it was in the court, and they did not bring the legislation. After her disqualification—my Party is part of that—we also lodged complaint before Rashtrapatiji against four persons. If the Government accepts our amendments, then only we will support this Bill. That should be in a prospective manner and not in a retrospective manner. The people are watching; even the media has also written so many editorials. We are making our legislation not for public interest but for our personal interest. To save some persons, we are bringing in this legislation. Everybody is talking in this country. You have to keep in view Rashtrapatiji's advice; you have to keep in view the editorials written by so many newspapers.

Now, you kindly take the public opinion also. There is no hurry. Based on that, we have to apply our mind very coolly. My Party's suggestion is that this Bill has to be referred to either the Joint Parliamentary Committee or to the Standing Committee for a thorough scrutiny.

There is no definition about the office of profit till today. We have to give comprehensive definition about the office of profit and also opinion on other matters referred to by the Rashtrapatiji. We have to discuss it in a

cool manner and the Government can bring a comprehensive Bill again. After that, we can unanimously pass this Bill.

Sir, this is not a correct thing. We have to respect Rashtrapati ji's advice. We have to take the public opinion and also the opinion of other legal luminaries. Yes, we have our supremacy. If we send it for the second time, there is no option for the President except to accept it and he cannot withhold it under article 111. Basing on the supremacy of Parliament, we cannot ignore the advice of Rashtrapatiji.

That is why, I request the hon. Minister to take all the viewpoints and also respect the advice given by the Rashtrapatiji.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my party I rise to oppose this bill. We had also opposed it when it was introduced earlier. At that time I had said that it will give wrong message. People will say that this Bill is being introduced to remain stuck to their position and same the Government and this is what has happened.

Shri Sibal is not present here at the moment. He is my friend and a renowned lawyer. With due respect I want to say that when a lawyer fights a case for his client, who may be wrong but the lawyer tries to prove his clients right, But today he could not do so. Today his argument did not hold water. He was trying to convince that no disrespect has been shown towards H'E President. But how can we say for sure that he it was not disrespect towards him. Had he any political leaning, at any time, we might have thought that he did it because of it. He is a renowned scientist of worlds and is respected by all in the country. He is a man of big stature. We had unanimously elected him the President....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I think, you will agree with me that we cannot debate Rashtrapatiji. This is the fundamental principle....(Interruptions) We cannot influence the debate by taking the name of the Rashtrapatiji....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: He is a renowned scientist....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed further.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while speaking you and many other friends wanted to know there is so much haste to pass it today itself and suggested that a Joint Parliament Committee be set up and let it discuss it. If there are certain shortcomings in it, remove them and introduce it thereafter.

When Dasguptaji was speaking I came to know that leftists are today supporting it. I just want to ask who does not fight for power. They oppose the Government on the streets and in the market only for power, but when they are in Parliament they do not do so, then why they support it. Everybody wants power, they are also fighting for power, if they are supporting, they are also enjoying power. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We are supporting this Government to prevent BJP from coming to power. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: This is not any principle....(Interruptions) This principle should be to fight for the common people, not to fight for the sake of preventing BJP from coming to power. If the policy of the Government is anti people you oppose it only on streets. When governments needs to be protected they rescue it ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We speak same thing whether we are inside or outside....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Our party's view is that the Bill should be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee and a time limit should be prescribed for the committee to submit its report. After that if the entire House is unanimous on anything then we may send it to the H'E President. But today I oppose the way this Bill is being passed.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that the way they have dealt with the office of the president, they should at least apologise for that. The issues put before the Government by HE President was quite imperative if he had any reservation. Merely saying that it is being sent back as it was returned by him, I think this is an insult of the office of President. That is why I said that they should at least apologise....(Interruptions) So far as the office of profit is concerned it has been debated much among the lawyers and the hon'ble members. It is assumed that it is essential to maintain office of profit.

17.49 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I would like to sum up the earlier opinion of the House in this regard because the things which came out during the debate is that we have to confine only to the law and abide by the spirit of the constitution in letter and spirit. The earlier view of the House regarding office of profit was—

[English]

"The underlying object of this constitutional provision is to secure independence of the Members of Parliament or a State Legislature, and to ensure that Parliament or the State Legislature does not contain persons who have received favours or benefits from the Executive—the Government—and who, subsequently, being under obligation to the Executive, might be amenable to influence.

Obviously, the provision had been made in order to eliminate or reduce the risk of conflict between duty—which is the duty of the Member of Parliament—and self-interest among the legislators."

[Translation]

Sir, it is a matter of great importance and I have seen that nothing worthwhile came out from the entire debate. Here all wanted to discuss only the words of law. Nobody talked about the real meaning of law. I want that when it is being debated here that it should once again be sent to HE President or we should keep in mind that something is done to find a way out. It would not be proper

if we go ahead keeping before us the law as it is outside its ambit. I also want to say that the present experience shows us how much loot has been carried in the name of office of profit. It would be a different thing if it is needed to be carried on in future also. But I am not saying this without basis. There is proof that a huge amount of money has been embezzled. There is also proof of the method in which this loot is being carried out as well as of the fact that these people intend to carry on their activities.

Hence, I would insist that it is impossible to accept this legislation. We should not accept it. The common man is nowhere to be seen in this whole discussion. The common man is evoked only for effect. Actually speaking, everyone works for his own good. The message this House is sending out is that the members elected by people take care of their own interests first and taking care of the problems of the people comes second.

What have we been doing since morning today? We should see what is our point of view in the discussion that has taken place since morning. Some MPs have discussed serious issues. I do not say that the issues raised by other MPs were not serious. But the message being sent out by the House is that we are only taking care of our own interests and that we are interested only in safeguarding our own interests....(Interruptions) I do not mean to accuse any MP of having such intentions yet the message this discussion is sending out is that we have no interest in the problems of the common man. We are discussing matters of our own interest instead of looking into their problems. ...(Interruptions) It means that the office of Profit Bill has no relevance for the common man who is watching these proceedings from outside ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri George Fernandes.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There are crores of unemployed young people in the country. We have to see what message we are giving them. The Naxalite movement

is spreading in our country. Many people are getting killed as a result of such activities. Many unemployed educated young men are joining the naxalite movement and killing other people. We should think what kind of message they are getting. If we send out this sort of message the country would be deeply damaged. We should hold a discussion in this regard.

I feel that our discussion does not concern the common man at all. Many people including myself, have opposed the Bill during the course of the discussion. Besides this, many MPs have expressed their views in the House. I believe that we are sending out a wrong message by expressing such views whereas we should strive to save the country.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, on behalf of the Pattali Makkal Katchi I rise to support the Bill presented by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice. This is for two reasons. I have listened to the various debates here in the Parliament. There was more of heat than of light on this issue. Unfortunately, the Bill has been discussed in a subjective manner and not in an objective manner. Therefore, I would like to place my views from two counts.

Firstly, we support this Bill because this is within the ambit of one or two of the constitutional provisions and also the Act of 1959. Secondly, we support this because it is well within the legislative competence of this House of parliament.

The Constitution has clearly said that it can give exemption to the Office of Profit and this Bill precisely gives this exemption. Although Article 102 says that the holders of Office of Profit are to be disqualified, but there is a rider to this and it says that the Constitution or the Parliament can give certain exemptions and these exemptions are given precisely in this Act. Those who have read this Constitution (Amendment) Bill will know that four general categories of people are exempted from the Disqualification Act.

18.00 hrs

One is office of Chairman, National Advisory Council.

*Not recorded.

[Prpf. M. Ramadass]

Second is office of Chairman of any statutory body. Third one is office of Chairperson of a body, whether it is public or private. Fourth is office of Chairman, President, Vice-President etc. which is not included in the Table. Therefore, it will have to be seen whether these offices deserve to be exempted or not from the purview of the office of profit or not. In my view, the offices which are exempted are not strictly the institution of profit. You take the example of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation. What is there to make profit in that institution? You take Maulana Azad Education Foundation. Is it a profit-oriented institution? A number of statutory and non-statutory boards are included in this and all these boards are functioning for the benefit of the common man. Therefore, the question of profit does not come as far as these institutions are concerned. You take Chairman of any statutory body. These statutory bodies are not supposed to make profits or are to work for the welfare of the people. Therefore, they are not the institutions of profit and the holders of the office of Chairman or members of these institutions—whethers they are Members of Parliament or someone else—are not holders of office of profit. When the institution itself if not a profitable institution, where is the question of a person, who is holding the office, becomes a holder of office of profit?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: One minute please. The time now is 6.00 pm. So, if the members in the House agree we may extend the time to conclude the discussion on the Bill.

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

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, the various boards, corporations and institutions, which are exempted here, are not institutions of profit, but they are public in character in the sense that they are contributing to the development of the people. Therefore, the question of office of profit does not arise in the case of those who are going

to occupy these positions. That is the interpretation that one will have to give to these developments.

The second question is whether the Members of Parliament are fit to hold these offices. Are we not fit to hold these offices? Supposing we are not fit to be officers of these institutions, you are going to appoint an IAS officer or a Joint-Secretary or somebody else who would become the Chairman. Do you mean to say by implication that a Member of Parliament is not competent, a Member of Parliament, who is a representative of the people, is not competent to look after Dr. Ambedkar Foundation? Then, somebody else, the IAS officer will occupy that position. Will he not hold an office of profit there? That means this assumption has to be stretched down to a number of persons who are going to occupy this position. Therefore, in our view, the offices of all these institutions, which have been exempted, are not offices of profit. Therefore, we accept this Bill.

Then, the President has returned this Bill to seek further wisdom from the Parliament and it is within Parliament's wisdom in recommending it again to the President. This is not the first time that the President has returned this kind of a Bill. A number of occasions have come where the Bill had been referred to Parliament and the Parliament again recommended it back to the hon. President. Therefore, it is well within the competence of this Parliament to pass this Bill.

There is no conflict of interest between the holder of office and Member's self-interest. A Member of Parliament does not come in conflict with this and therefore, from all these angles—legislative angle and constitutional angle—I support this Bill.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, notwithstanding the very enthusiastic and spirited intervention of Shri Kapil Sibal, I can only say that at the end of today, there will be ample demonstration for the second time in a few months that this Parliament can and will be used as a tool to serve the immoral interest of those in power.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): People do not understand English Speak in Hindi.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: I will speak in Hindi too. ...*(Interruptions)* [English] Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji' astute advice and constitutional propriety can take a walk's so much for our collective wisdom, so much for this being considered the temple of democracy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I un-hesitatingly accept the fact that when it comes to an unbashed display of arrogance of power, the UPA Government—which is usually referred to as the *Ulta Pulta Alliance* — is fast setting standards that others will find impossible to emulate. It is a matter of debate whether this misplaced gumption is of their own or lent to them by these self-proclaimed rector of probity and ethics in public life, that is, the Left Bloc. But it must be put on record that it is the Left Bloc—and more so persons from a particular State—who are desperate for this Bill to become a law.

Even though my disenchantment is with this Government —if it can be called a Government that is ready to capitulate on just about anything, yet my anger is reserved for the Left Parties. They are using their newfound power to bring down this groveling Government with an astounding lack of sensitivity and respectability. What happened to their desire to keep the legislative and judicial functions separate? God alone knows. However, I do hope that after this black deed is done, the theatrics that the Left Parties indulge in —from the high table of public morality—come down a few notches.

[Translation]

I would like to give a friendly warning to my Congress Colleagues. I was allied with your Party for a long time. Hence, I would like to give you this friendly warning that just as Laluji has destroyed your Party in Bihar and reduced it to nothing, the left is going to bring it down to the same state all over the country. This would not give me any happiness because I also like to have an equal opposition. The new Congress does not listen to its daughter which is why she resigned in anger and then was returned to the House by a large number of votes. You should follow her. You should resign and go to the people. Why do you fear? I want to congratulate Shri Gurudas Dasgupta that at least he told the truth that he wants to get the Bill passed so that we people may not come into power. For

how long can you stop us from coming into power. We will come into power by the year 2009. If you have any sense of morality, you should display it by going to the people.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my Party today finds itself in a very weird situation. We had correctly opposed the Bill the first time around, and our stand is now fully vindicated. But we can hardly reflect satisfaction. We are Members of the same Parliament, and we will helplessly watch while our Constitution is subjected to rape because reason and reasonableness has yielded now to "might is right".

[Translation]

Ever since the government has come under the influence of Shri Lalu Yadavji "might is right" has taken the place of discussion. This is wrong. Democracy needs discussion. I would like to remind Laluji about a rally he had held in Bihar. But since the word 'rally' holds a feminine gender (in Hindi) he did not like it and called it "Railla". Strongarms carrying big sticks were called to the rally from all over Bihar. In his inimitable style, Laluji had called out to the people in that same "railla" to show their muscle, "oil the stick and wield it hard." But neither the oil nor the stick served his cause because in a democracy you can hold power only if you are rational and if you hold on to your ideology...*(Interruptions)* Listen to what I have to say, I am not saying anything wrong...*(Interruptions)* I am only making a request. Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[English]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, please give me two more minutes to speak. I am asking more time because I was disturbed while I was speaking. Kindly give me a couple of minutes more to speak....(Interruptions) Sir, please look at this behaviour from that side of the House. ... (Interruptions)

Look at this. *Mahamahim* has sent back the Bill. He has not only sent back the Bill, he has sent it back with his observations. Without taking much time, since it is your direction that I must wind up, I will quote only one sentence. He has said: "Evolution of generic comprehensive criteria which are just fair and reasonable." What does it mean? Does it not mean that the President is saying to us that the Bill sent to him is unjust, unfair and unreasonable? Can there be a more damning thing for the Government and the Government decides that it will just send the Bill back.

Now, your game is out. The game is that the President is constitutionally bound to sign the Bill the second time around. But ask yourselves: "Was this provision instituted in the Constitution for this reason—to be so blatantly misused?" The *Mahamahim* sent you the Bill back and you then say that you will take umbrage under the same Constitution that you are deciding to...* that you will invoke article 111, and the President will be left with no option but to sign. Let us say your prayers are answered; let us say that the President gives his assent to this Bill. But what about the judicial review? Will it pass that? Have you asked yourselves that? Who then will be responsible for the constitutional crisis that is waiting to happen?

You are being guided, as Kumari Mamata Banerjee correctly said, by the Left, but their hollowness has begun to reverberate and reverberate loudly. Therefore, it would be in your interest as the Government of India to use your common sense. But what can I say when your haughtiness has locked in your common sense completely? All that I can say, *Upadhyaksh ji*, is "*Satyameva Jayate*".

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has to speak. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the unparliamentary words should be removed from the record. I will bring it to your notice properly, and you may kindly check it up.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is anything unparliamentary it would be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present the discussion on the bill on offices of profit is going on. Although, it is not being discussed in the House for the first time. Before this, it was discussed about two months before. That was passed by this House as well as by the Rajya Sabha. When the Bill was sent to the Hon'ble President, he reviewed it and returned it for reconsideration. To return for re-consideration means that the President was not agreed with the form of the bill in which it was sent from the House. He observed that somehow this bill is not transparent is not justified, it does not have equality. That is why he sent it for re-consideration. The Government re-considered it and it appeared to the Government that whatever it had sent was right. It has been brought to the House again and is being discussed. The members from all the parties took part in this discussion. I want to know from the Law minister as to whether he has maintained transparency. He has added 54-55 institutions in it out of which 18 are from Bengal. When they talk of policy and principle then it appears that they are the incarnation of God next to Lord Rama. When we had not come to House, we used to listen that the Marxists provided the money received from the House to the party and used to lead a very simple life. But we came to see double character in the House. We say them talking something and doing something else. Out of 54 offices 18 post i.e. one-third office has been given to West Bengal and 6-7 offices to Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Uttar Pradesh is a very big state.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Uttar Pradesh is a very state but it is functionally small. There are two offices in Bihar. One is that of Anugrah Narayan Singh Sewa Sansthan. I want to know as to what the Central Government have to do with that. That is an institution under the state Government and the laws thereof are framed by state Government. The institute is managed by the State Government and is under the control of State Government. But why have you brought it in this Bill. You have brought it because the member of parliament from Congress Party is its Chairman at present. It is strange that Kapil Sibal ji used to say...*(Interruptions)*...this bill was brought by the state Government of Jharkhand. You opposed this bill when it was brought by the NDA Government and argued that this Bill is wrong, and now you are bringing it. ...*(Interruptions)*...we*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please expunge it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: These people were opposing on that day, today we are opposing. There is no question of Public anywhere in it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have expunged it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH*: If I speak, he will be hurt as truth is bitter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is leader of the entire House and he is saying so about him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatsoever is unparliamentary will be expunged. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatsoever is unparliamentary will be expunged.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also said so in regard to ourselves, we are also included in it, then why is he angry. We are not saying so excluding ourselves. But I want to say that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the idol of sacrifice, should have taken part in this discussion in the House. The reason behind it is that

Smt. Sonia Gandhi had resigned on this issue and the people of the country called her as an idol of sacrifice ...*(Interruptions)* she won the election from there with a great difference of votes and the legislation so being brought wrongly to make her sit on the same post. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether what he speaks in unparliamentary?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not unparliamentary. *[Translation]* Please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I conclude my speech. I do not want to speak much, but it appears to me that....* with these words I conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in our democratic polity, parliamentarians and legislators decide various roles as elected representatives. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Owaisi ji, please sit down. Let us listen to what Lalujji speaks.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I request and also appeal to Prabhunath Singh ji that while delivering his speech on the dignity of House he said that...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have told that I would see the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Both of you speak in such a manner that I am helpless.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Who speak? I do not speak ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatsoever is unparliamentary. We will expunge it from the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can say this in the House that while being a minister in the Government of India Laluji never said so.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will expunge whatsoever is unparliamentary.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whatsoever is unparliamentary and irrelevant, should be expunged from the proceedings.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If there is interruption from the party, it does not matter, but it is not right to say so before the entire House*...(Interruptions) It should be expunged from the proceedings...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have told that I shall go through the proceedings and whatever will be unparliamentary in it will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

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): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Prabhunath Singh ji should beg pardon from the entire House...(Interruptions) He should beg pardon from the entire House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have told that I would expunge it. There is nothing to beg pardon.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Those who speaks without my permission, their speech will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please ask your party Members to maintain peace.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Munsiji is also requesting his members.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, the Parliamentarians and Legislators are expected to aid and advise the public institutions and trusts so as to help the institutions functions effectively for the welfare and well being of the people in the country at large...(Interruptions)

Sir, I have been listening to the debates from this side. Many times, words like constitutional, unconstitutional, constitutional propriety, morality, etc. had been used. Some Members have also asked why is it that you do not have the same law for all the States.
...(Interruptions) Sometimes you can educate some one. But when some one does not want to be educated, you can help to increase his ignorance.

Under articles 102 and 191 of the Constitution, the legislation is being brought because Members of Parliament are Members of a Committee of a State. If any MLA wants to become a Member of the Committee of the Central Government, then exemption comes under the State Government. The Centre cannot act on behalf of the States in that case.

The second point is this. They talk that we do not have respect for the President. The Supreme Court has very clearly said in the Shamsher Singh case of 1974, the Supreme Court's four Judge case, that the President can act on his own only in two circumstances—that is, when the Government loses its majority and when there is a case of dissolution. Apart from these two circumstances, the President has to act on the advice of the Cabinet. So, I am really surprised to hear things like Presidents preferring to go to the Supreme Court, etc., from such learned people on this side.

About retrospective effect, the Supreme Court is very clear in Kantha Kathuria case. In this case, the Supreme Court has clearly said that in Office of Profit, exemption can be given retrospectively.

The next point is this. They talk about probity and not respecting the President, etc. When the NDA Government was in power, when Gujarat was burning, the then President, Shri K.R. Narayanan's advice was completely ignored by this side....(Interruptions) The then President's advice was completely ignored....(Interruptions) I am really surprised. Where was their morality? Where was their constitutional propriety?...(Interruptions)

Lastly, if an institution like Shanti Niketan has to run efficiently and in an effective way, then you require a person of a stature of Shri Somnath Chatterjee and you do not require a person from BJP. If you want to do something for the welfare of the Muslims in West Bengal, you require Md. Salim there and you do not require any other person from that side.

I would like to conclude by saying this. Doubtlessly in India....*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That should be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have expunged that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he should beg pardon...(Interruptions) At first he should beg pardon....(Interruptions)

[English]

MD. SALIM: Sir, this cannot be allowed.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have expunged that.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

18.32 hrs.

(At this stage Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have expunged that.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 6.45 p.m.

18.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Eighteen of the Clock.

18.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-five minutes past Eighteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 7.15 P.M.

18.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Nineteen of the Clock.

19.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen minutes past nineteen of the clock

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

THE PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2006—Contd.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request all of you that

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

the proceedings of the House are being watched not only by the people of our country but by the entire world. All of us are responsible persons, Hon'ble Members, senior Members, and some new Members also, hence I want that we should respect each-other and should have courage to listen to each other's point of view.

So far as today's proceedings are concerned, whatever has happened here is unfortunate in my opinion. Whatever Owaisiji said about Narendra Modiji was a mistake on his part and I have expunged that. I hope that it will not be repeated in future.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, you have condemned whatever he said, it must go on record....(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, it has been done.

Shri Manvendra Singh Ji, you have only two minutes time at your disposal.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill, NDA had opposed this bill in this House three months ago, and we are still opposing it. This bill has been returned by the Hon'ble President with certain suggestions. I would not like to repeat them here. All the Members who spoke before me have discussed each point in detail. I would like to say only one thing that the post of the President of India has been regarded as supreme post in the Constitution of India. The Government has neither discussed those points in the discussion initiated on this Bill nor has the Government provided us any guideline for consideration in view of those suggestions so that this bill may be improved and the general perception of the common people about the politicians may also be changed. Today, there are many Members in the House, who....*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let unparliamentary words be expunged.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: In addition to it, we want to pass the bill only for the benefit of elected Members of Parliament. What message are we conveying to the common man through this dimension of greed? We accept

the temptation we have for the office of profit. ...*(Interruptions)*. One leftist Member has pointed out that *[English]* BJP is misleading the President.

[Translation]

Sir, I know the Hon'ble President since 1992 when he was the Scientific Advisor to the Minister of Defence. I was a journalist at that time, I know him personally since then and I want to assure you that none can mislead the Hon'ble President....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: The suggestions sent by the Hon'ble President, are sent out of his own discretion, out of his anxiety for the nation and out of his feeling of patriotism. We have rejected those suggestions. I think, this does not conform to the dignity of the House. Many Members discussed during the last week and this morning incidents of suicide by the farmers and by the army-personnel in our country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not related to this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, regarding this discussion on suicide, I would like to point out that no one has ever heard of a politician in India committing suicide. Politicians do not commit suicide because they are being given offices of profit. Even if they are doing wrong, they are given offices of profit. Why are there no cases of suicides in the ranks of politicians? Army is seeing cases of suicide, farmers are committing suicide but why is no politician committing suicide?...*(Interruptions)*. It is because all of us have colluded in giving them offices of profit. This is the condition of the country....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

to you particularly for bringing calm in the House. I am also grateful to the Leader of Opposition as he was kind enough to persuade his hon. Members to transact business.

We have a very great responsibility as this Parliament has a great responsibility. The hon. Leader of Opposition will ractic that while the President sent us this message, under article 111, it is our very humble duty and very important duty to give due consideration to this message. We thoroughly disappointed that while talking so vehemently about the President and his good qualities, none of the Members from the Opposition had said anything with regard to these points. I would have loved if somebody had pointed out that Parliament has this power to amend this law. On this, no point has been mentioned. My friend, Shri Kapil Sibal, spoke about article 102. The same article which prohibits the Members from holding an office of profit also permits both the Houses of Parliament to exempt them. I would, without taking much time of this House, point out as to when exemptions were given. The first one was done in 1950. By an Act of 1950, certain offices were exempted. The second one was done in 1951.

Several offices were exempted prospectively as well as retrospectively by an Act of Parliament in 1951. This Act was to declare certain Offices of Profit and not to disqualify the holders of these Offices. You will see what were the kind of Chairman and Members of Fiscal Commission, Chairman and Members of Film Enquiry Committee, Chairman and Office of Railway Local Advisory Committee, Chairman of Committee appointed by the Government of India and in the State, Assistant Government pleader prospectively. Even in the case of small offices where there was a doubt, these were exempted in 1951. Then, there was a much bigger law that was passed in 1954. It was also to exempt several Members of this nature, which are enumerated in this Bill. So, this fallacy in the minds of hon. Members that the House is doing something wrong must be removed once for all. This is a House representing the will of the people and whatever the Constitution permits, there should be no hesitation in doing so because you will be abdicating from your responsibility as a Member of Parliament, if what right has been conferred on you. You say that we should not exercise that right. It is a different thing that

politically you differ. It is because I have heard there are two limbs of your argument. One limb is that 45 Members will be benefited and you, being sitting in the Opposition, do not like it. I know it very well that it is to your dislike. But that does not mean that you bring any other thing besides your own political considerations.

So, I am only trying to convince you that these laws are competent and the Parliament has powers to enact. I will simply remind you of the decisions because you say of the interpretation of the Constitution.

This was done in a famous case of Rajasthan, Shrimati Kanta Kathuria's case and the citation is AIR 1970 Supreme Court 694. I will not read much from these judgements. I will read two things which should remove all apprehensions from your mind. It was the case which was argued by a very eminent counsel, Shri M.C. Chagla who later on became a Minister. He raised all these points that it cannot be done retrospectively and five judges, out of which one was Justice Hidayatullah, Justice Sikri, Justice A.N. Ray and three others later become Chief Justices of India. One of them later became the Vice-President of India. What was stressed? I am reading paragraph 39.

"Great stress was laid on the word 'declared' in Article 191(1)(a), but we are unable to imply—mark my words now, I emphasise—to imply any limitation on the powers of the Legislature from this word. Declaration can be made effective as from an earlier date."

Then, they continue and I read:

"The apprehension that it may not be a healthy practice."

The logic of your argument is that it is not a very healthy practice that you exempt so many people at a time. Again it said:-

"The apprehension that it may not be a healthy practice and this power might be abused in a particular case are again no grounds for limiting the powers of the State Legislatures."

The five judges of the Supreme Court has interpreted and none of your Members who spoke from that side said that this can be distinguished or there is another ruling of

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

the Supreme Court better than this. I wish some of the learned Members should have raised this point and enlightened me on this.

Some jokes were cut about us. We do not mind these languages which were used. These are part of parliamentary life. We are matured enough to understand that in anguish and anger we always speak wrong. Therefore, I am not at all particular of what Shri Prabhu Nath Singh has said. I could say so many things about his own character, but I do not want to say anything. He is my friend and I have full record about his character. Some of the hon. Members who have bad records come to me for help. I do not mind it because we are all colleagues. But then, again, I am saying the Supreme Court has given this interpretation of the Constitution in Article 102 and Article 191 which relates to State Legislatures. This is a *quasi-Federal* structure in which the Parliament as well as State Legislatures have been given powers to decide about the offices which are held by MPs and MLAs.

Rightly, all those legislature which have exempted their MLAs and have done the right thing. That is the right way because the Constitution give them power. If they have done it any other way, it would have been illegal. So, when the hon. President apprehends—and once we reply—the implication of exemption of office retrospectively, in my humble way, I say that this is the answer. We have brought on record that this is the power of Parliament without any limitations. Retrospective legislation is always permitted in many matters. It is not something unusual. So, after this ruling of the Supreme Court, there should be no apprehension in anybody's mind that we are persuading you to do a wrong thing. What are we doing?

Let me again emphasise on two or three points, if you just bear with me for five minutes. Several Members of Parliament have grievances that they were not being heard when they were expelled from Parliament. Is it not a fact? Regarding expulsion, disqualification, probity in public life, I think it is our duty—and duty of all the Members of Parliament on this side or that side—that we should discuss it dispassionately. But the difficulty is political being as we are, we get divided. None of these issues has been addressed. We level personal charges. I do not like this. This should not be there. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The hon. Minister has already enlightened this House. We must concentrate on Article 111. But you are discussing about the merits. You are not discussing about the merits and demerits. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have started with merits. I never controverted to this that retrospective legislation is permitted by the Supreme Court. I am giving very short replies. I do not want to waste the time of the House.

About the generic descriptions, I submit it that this is a quasi-federal structure. We cannot encroach upon the power of the State Legislatures. They create some offices. They are given to the Members of the Legislative Assemblies. In case they want to exempt them, the power vests in the State Legislatures, not in Parliament. But when an hon. Member of Parliament occupies any such office, the power has to be exercised by this House, by the Parliament. This is the scheme of the Constitution. There is no other way to do it.

Shri Anant Kumar said one thing. He is my dear friend. He is always a smiling person. But, sometimes, he misses it. He was the petitioner against Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Shri Anant Kumar, it was not proper on your part to have argued the case against her in this House because this is the real conflict of interest. When you take up somebody's cause outside the House, you cannot canvass it here. So, this was improper. You had been a Minister. So, you should not have done this. So, I again remind you two or three things.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): If you kindly yield, I will make my point clear. I filed a petition against Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in my capacity as the General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Today, I just mentioned to show how the office of profit and the exemption to office of profit is being misused by the ruling party. Therefore, I am well within my right to raise that in this august House.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: According to my little knowledge of Parliamentary law, anybody who raises an issue either in a court of law or anywhere, he cannot do it, more particularly, you are a party to it as a petitioner. It is always better not to do it, not to influence the debate

because it is your own cause. You may not agree. It is up to you. But whatever little I know, it is not done.

There are only two methods to solve this. ...*(Interruptions)* To solve this, there are only two methods. One is what is being practiced in England. The other one is what we are exercising. At least, I have the advantage of Shri Advani, the Leader of Opposition being here. You will remember that in 42nd amendment, the British pattern was invoked in India saying that you must prepare a comprehensive list of the offices of profit so that Members of Parliament could know that these offices are prohibited offices and they should not occupy them. But, later on, in the 44th amendment, that procedure was done away with.

This present article 102 of the Constitution was provided by the 44th Amendment. Under this amendment you can exempt people rather than giving a comprehensive list. There is no third method in the Constitution.

Sir, some persons have said that we should amend this and that. But any definition which will have to be provided for office of profit will not be in this Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act. It is an Act passed by Parliament. It will have to be essentially within the ambit of article 102 of the Constitution.

I was a Minister when defection was defined. I discussed thoroughly whether we can provide it in the Representation of People Act, but the legal advice throughout was that 'no', this is a constitutional disqualification and you will have to amend article 102 itself and, therefore, we put 10th Schedule in article 102. Now also some suggestions have been made. But they must consider that we would have to amend the Constitution if we want to have any definition or any other method of exempting hon. Members of Parliament. But I would like to humbly submit to both sides that we should not lose this power. There are very valuable Members of Parliament on both sides of the House. There was one Member of Parliament from the Opposition side who was dealing with linking of rivers. He was a very enlightened Member of Parliament. I forgot his name now. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, he is Shri Suresh Prabhu. He is a Chartered Account. He has got a fantastic knowledge of that subject and if he is made Chairman of board or authority, do you think he will earn profit out of it? Many Members of Parliament have

knowledge and many MPs can spare time in their constituencies after attending Parliament Session for six months. We should not put fetters on our own feet. Let us keep it open for this august House and as and when we feel anything about it, there should be a debate. Who says that there should be no debate? This is the purpose of the message of the hon. President.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing to our friends in the Opposition, with your kind permission. As Members of this House you should not attribute motives to any messages sent by the President. Just like the British Queen is sending messages to Parliament, our hon. President also deals with the Houses of Parliament by sending messages. In the matter of executive actions, he can always refer back the decisions of the Cabinet for reconsideration. Those of you who have been Ministers in the Government will vouchsafe that the President has been sending various Cabinet decisions for reconsideration. When we say, 'we reiterate the Cabinet decision', do you think that we do not show respect to the President? When your Government was in power, I am aware of several decisions that you had reiterated. So, when we reiterate the decision of the Cabinet, the President is duty-bound to accept that. Do you think that the Prime Minister then does not show respect to the President? This is the constitutional scheme. In the legislative process, the scheme under article 111 of the Constitution. If the Bill is passed and then the President applies his mind as an elder by statesman, father figure and Head of the State, he certainly has the right to say, 'I am withholding my assent and I am sending my message' and we have received that message in both Houses which says, 'you reconsider it'. If the Government decides to pass the Bill again, the Law Minister has the duty to apply the law....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am not yielding.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am on a point of order. It does not matter whether you yield or not. This is a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising a point of order?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am raising this point or order under rule 376 and I am drawing your attention to the provision under article 111 of the Constitution....(Interruptions)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am not yielding.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising your point of order?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am raising my point of order under rule 376. I am drawing your attention to the provision under article 111 of the Constitution. This is a violation of the provision under article 111 of the Constitution. This is an obligatory provision.

The constitutional requirement is categorical and the use of 'shall' made it deliberately obligatory for the House to reconsider the Bill. The use of 'shall' in the provisions of article 111 is obligatory. What are we doing? We are rejecting the advice of the President....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am reading it for the benefit of the House....(Interruptions) Sir, the provision is obligatory....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is violation of the provisions of article 111....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sorry. There is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, this is the first kind of misinterpretation of article 111 and to destroy D. Basu's constitutional law book.(Interruptions) He should not do so....(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, what is the meaning of 'shall'? The hon. Minister should convince us.(Interruptions) It is obligatory....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please let the Minister reply now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: The use of 'shall' is that he shall not repeat a wrong interpretation of article 111....(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am drawing your attention....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, 'shall' is obligatory. You must consider the advice of the hon. President. It cannot be rejected....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am reading the provisions of article 111....(Interruptions) "The House shall reconsider..."....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are reconsidering.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What does it mean?... (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, this is a misinterpretation. The Parliament is not obliged to accept the advice of the Rashtrapati....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, I have read it and there is no point of order in that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I am very sorry, firstly, there was a lot of emphasis of showing respect to the hon. President and I am very much aggrieved the way they are taking so unseriously the views of the President. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, they may not be serious, but we are very serious....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I caution the hon. Member and I personally feel that we should have patience. The mover should have this right to speak. After hearing for six hours all the hon. Members, at least, give me this courtesy to reply 5-10 points. Therefore, I will say that the very concept of legislative proposal being processed, the primacy vests in this House. Can you deny the Parliament its power to pass its verdict? What I have done is that there was a message received by the hon. Speaker, there was a message received in the Office of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, and in obedience to the message, the message was laid on the Table of the House. The President wanted both Houses to reconsider. Reconsideration means, Deputy Speaker was kind enough to what points we have to debate as he just now gave us the guidance, these are the points we have to highlight and explain.

Our conduct should have been that we should have harped on those points and not on acrimony. It will lead you to nowhere. Therefore, we should focus on that and understand what is the aim and intention of the hon. President of India. We should say or show by our statements that we are well within our rights. This Parliament is well within its rights to say: "Yes, Mr. President, we have gone into your points; we have shown due consideration, due deliberation; but we feel that Parliament has this power and we exempt these offices of profit under power vested in us." That is where the Government has come now. That is where I have come before this House to take a verdict from you. The verdict

would be on the debate which has taken place, and the performance of the Opposition is very poor there. Therefore, that is where....*(Interruptions)*

You can shout at me. I am a very fragile person; you can shout at me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Silence, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Today, so much time and energy is being applied because the President wants us to reconsider it. While reconsidering, we must reconsider the three points. We have tried to explain to you that, firstly, we are well within our powers under article 102 to exempt offices; this Parliament has power. By Kanta Kathuria's case I have enumerated that we are well within our powers to pass them retrospectively and give them this benefit. I do not want to go in politics; we will have enough of it outside. I submit, Sir, that this House is well within its power to consider it and pass it again. Thank you, sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I seek your clarification. Please listen to us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dasgupta/ji. nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, with your permission, I would like to speak for one minute more.

Some Members wanted to know whether the Government will go afresh into this. I assure this hon. House that we have noted all the points, and the Government will be very much ready to appoint a Committee of both Houses to go again and see whether a proper definition or amendment to the present dispensation can be made. We will be very happy to do

*Not recorded.

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

so. It is because, as I said, this relates to disqualification of hon. Members, we will apply our mind and we will seek cooperation from your side to resolve the issue....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, as passed again by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to move amendment no. 4.

New Clause 1A

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): I beg to move:

Page 1, after line 4, insert,-

'1A. In section 2 of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

(aa) "Office of Profit" means any office under the Central Government or the State Government the holder of which may, be virtue of the office, have the occasion of exercising executive, financial and ancillary powers, notwithstanding the fact that the holder of such an office is either drawing no allowance or an allowance which does not exceed the daily allowance admissible to a Member of Parliament or a Member of the State Legislatures:'.
(4)

I have moved this amendment and I would like to explain why. The Law Minister has given a very strong argument that we as Parliamentarians are entitled to proceed, no matter what the President's advice is. That may be so but that does not make it morally right. You have actually said that this has happened before in 1951, in 1950; these offices of profit have been exempted. That is true.

But they were offices of profit that were exempted. They had uniformity. They were fair. They were reasonable. I would like to know whether there is any comparison between what happened then and what is happening today. Today, is it the offices that are being exempted or is it the people who occupy the offices are being exempted? What has the President said? He has not said: "Do not exempt". He has said that if you are going to make one State Fisheries Corporation exempt ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): How can she make a long speech?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: She can move her amendment and speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, what has the President said? The President has said that instead of making just one Fisheries Corporation exempt, why not make them all exempt? After all, all the film boards were made exempt. If one Howrah Bridge Corporation has to be exempt, make all the Bridge Corporations exempt. That is what the President has said....(Interruptions) No, there is a Howrah Bridge Corporation also. What he has said is this. When the Hooghly Development Board or the UP Development Board has exempt, why not make them all exempt?...(Interruptions) If this was the spirit of the exemption, we would be happy to support you whether retrospectively or prospectively....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your amendment now?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: There is malice in this ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Every Member of Parliament has spoken about whether it is proper to do it or not. Has one Member of Parliament from this side said: "Yes, we need these exemptions for only one reason that a Member of Parliament is much better equipped and much better at handling a Corporation or an office of profit"? Nobody has said that....(Interruptions) Is there no Fisheries Department in West Bengal to manage Fisheries Development? Why should a Member of Parliament sit on

a Fisheries Board or on a Development Board or something that a State can handle with greater facility? Has any Member of Parliament said: "No, a Member of Parliament is a much cleverer, much better and much more experienced to handle an office, what is now an office of profit"? Not one person has said it. Therefore, it is not based on ability....(Interruptions)

The last thing that I want to say is this. I agree with the hon. Law Minister who I have known for many years. Yes, we are in power to pass it. Of course, we are. But tomorrow, if we pass a Bill—which is what Shri Manvendra Singh was trying to say—exempting for instance murder or robbery, would that make it morally right? ... (Interruptions) It is not morally right just because we exempt it. Therefore, I have asked for several amendments, which, of course, everybody must have read. But I just want to finish by reading out a portion of my amendment. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You speak only on your amendment no. 4.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 86....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: These petitions are pending in the court. What the exemptions that the NDA have asked for ... (Interruptions) You are from fisheries. I am so sorry. I did know that ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, wait a minute. Let me hear what his point of order is.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: It is clearly provided that for moving an amendment, she should have given a prior notice. Only one single question can be allowed by you. But you have allowed much more time to her. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: She can speak on her amendment.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, please sit down. She can speak on her amendment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You can give her special permission for this ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am so sorry if I have touched a wrong nerve in discussing fisheries. I just took it as an illustration.... (Interruptions) Those fifty-five categories are equally unfair and unreasonable. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please move your amendment No. 4.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I move my amendment, which specifically in all its four clauses, is asking for basically that let the petitions be heard in the court, and if you are not scared and if you believe what you have done is morally right, I am sure, the court will uphold them.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, you have to hear me.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Topdar, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: She can speak while moving her amendment.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 4, moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 3

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Bachi Singh Rawat, are you moving your Amendment?

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have moved the amendments numbers one, two and three. Which relate to clauses two, three and four of the Bill. My submission is only that no clear definition has been given in clause four of the Bill. The original Act consists of five sections. After passing the fourth clause, where do you propose to install it in the original Act? The scheme of the Bill is defective. You will have to bring an amendment again. Besides, I would also like to point out that the amendments from numbers five to seven moved by Maneka Gandhi on behalf of Shri Santosh Gangwar are identical. Amendment numbers one to three in the present Bill propose to do away with the retrospective effect clause which is not being moved by me. Kindly delete them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to move amendment No. 5.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 2 and 3,-

omit "and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 4th day of April, 1959". (5)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I put amendment No. 5 moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee, are you moving your amendment No.8?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Yes, Sir. I am moving

my amendment No. 8 because to the message of the hon. President, the Government has not shown any respect. The Government has *in toto* rejected it. That is why I am moving this amendment.

Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, *omit* lines 4 to 6. (8)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 8 moved by Kumari Mamata Banerjee to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

20.00 hrs.

Clause 3—Insertion of new Table

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to move amendment No. 2.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy-Speaker, sir, I am not moving amendment No. 2.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to move amendment No. 6.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I beg to move:

Page 2, *omit* line 15. (6)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, I want to say only one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, only the mover has the right.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: My name is there. I am moving ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my name is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, please sit down. You have no right.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Since I am not allowed to move my amendment, I am walking out....(Interruptions)

20.01 hrs.

(At this stage. Dr. M. Jagannath left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also an amendment to move. I only want to say....(Interruptions). I just want to say that the President conveyed a message by returning the Bill which we did not pay need to and neither did we bother to discuss the issue in the House. It has been written therein and the Hon. Law Minister has also said that, [English] "The Central Government shall within one year from the commencement of this Act, enact a comprehensive legislation based on criteria with are just, fair and reasonable that can be applied." [Translation] I would like to say that we should comply with the above provision and we should be thankful to H/E, the President and should apologise to him.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall put amendment No.6 moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to clause 3 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee to move amendment No. 9.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I beg to move:

Page 2, for line 15, substitute,-

"and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the date the Bill receives the assent of the President." (9)

[Translation]

The message being given by the President with regard to politics is being rejected without thought [English] I think it is a historic blunder. That is why I am moving this amendment. There should not be any retrospective effect.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall put amendment No. 9 moved by Kumari Mamata Banerjee to clause 3 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4—Special provisions as to validation and other matters

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat to move amendment No. 3.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': My amendment no. 3 relates to clause four. My submission was only that you would have to bring this amendment again because your scheme gives no clarification whether it would be inserted after section 5 or whether an amendment would be made in section 4 itself. It is defective.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why don't you move it?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I am not moving it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, are you interested in moving amendment No. 7?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, for lines 14 to 26, substitute,—

"4(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, if at the time of commencement of this Act, any petition or reference is pending before any court or other authority in respect of any of the office mentioned in section 3, that office shall not be deemed to have been exempted from disqualification under this Act till such time the petition or the reference is disposed of in its favour:

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

Provided that every petition or reference pending before any court or other authority for any office under section 3 shall be disposed of within sixty days of its filing.

(2) The Central Government shall within one year from the commencement of this Act, enact a comprehensive legislation based on criteria which are just, fair and reasonable that can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner." (7)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall put amendment No. 7 moved by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to clause 4 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for permitting me to say a few words....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Advanijee, It would be better if it is moved first.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak something during the third reading. It is a just a co-

incidence that when Parliament is deliberating upon this issue, Acharji, the General Secretary of Lok Sabha has written a book on this issue and he has written especially on the office of profit and its preface has been written by the Speaker of Lok Sabha himself. It has been emphasized in all the speeches, which I listened, that the constitution itself has vested this power in the Parliament to decide which offices should be kept out of the ambit of office of profit. There is no doubt that this power has been bestowed upon Parliament. After all article 102 (1A) under which issue of office of profit falls in consists of two parts.

[English]

"A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being a Member of either House of Parliament if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder."

Firstly, that he holds an office of profit under the Government of India or under any State, he will be disqualified; but other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder. So, it is the office which is declared not the person holding the office. This was a point that was made by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi earlier. I am not referring to that.

I would like to go into the fact that while courts which interpret the Constitution have given so many judgements as to what exactly is an office of profit and even our Joint Committee on Office of Profit has gone into those judgements, made its own interpretations etc. But no one, not even the Law Minister, not even Shri Kapil Sibal referred to the fact that the Supreme Court has emphasised that the power of Parliament to exempt any particular office is not unlimited.

I concede that Parliament has the power to declare certain offices of profit that they will not disqualify their holders. It goes on to say, I quote Mr. Achary:

"However, the question which arises here is whether this power is unlimited and Parliament and the Legialatures can declare any and every office not to disqualify its holder. It seems that this power is not unlimited."

[Translation]

You know and especially when you delivered latter part of your speech you said that nobody told him about it. You had taken all power for granted and you quoted the judgement of Dr. Kathuria.

[English]

I would like to quote the Supreme Court in Bhagwan Das versus State of Haryana in which the Court has said that a situation where the court has to intervene to strike down a law passed by the Legislature in this regard if the court feels that the exempting power under Article 102 or Article 191 is not exercised reasonably and with due restraint.

So, the court can strike it down. [Translation] I want to tell you that I have doubts and when we met the leader of this House along with many of our colleagues we had made it clear and realised why we are passing this bill when we went through the statement of objects and reasons. [English] The Statement of Objects and Reasons say:

"...because of the likely vacation of seats in both the Houses of Parliament which will necessitate the holding of bye-elections to fill up the resultant vacancies. This will be a wasteful expenditure and will enforce unnecessary financial burden upon the nation".

It is because of Constitution, because of Article 102. And if there is an expenditure because of that, it that going to compel the court to say that it is justified? On top of that, we had so many hon. Members also, not many but at least we had Shri Gurudas Dasgupta very eloquently propounding that this is necessary in order to protect the stability of the Government. If for that purpose, we are going to pass a law of this kind, the court will certainly examine whether it is a reasonable situation in which the Parliament has adopted this law. Therefore, we felt apprehensive and we said this to the Leader of the House that one can say that the President has....(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have said another words also. Along with stability, I said 'to stop the gamble for power to be done by the people who are hungry for power'.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Even the Government today can recommend to the President that the House be dissolved. Let us have fresh elections. Is it a gamble for power? It is a question of a situation. In this situation, you feel that unless these 45, 35 or 30 Members are not protected, there will not be stability. Only because of that, it is a gamble for power. In fact, when we discussed the matter with him, we said that we are keen to see that nothing is destabilised. We would like to see that a situation can be brought about where we frame a law in a manner in which we should have to face the minimum bye-elections, but at the same time, see that for all time to come, this does not become an arbitrary exercise, which as many of my colleagues say, reduce our stature also in the minds of the people. This is happening today. [Translation] They can pass anything to save their skin if you enjoy majority [English] You can pass anything. I do not agree with that. Therefore, I am not revealing any secret that my colleague, who was Shri Bhardwaj's predecessor and Law Minister in our Government, suggested to the Government that you give us only 48 hours and we will prepare a draft before you which will ensure that your objectives are served and at the same time, we are not subjected to a situation where I for one feel it is an embarrassment.

It is for the first time in 58 years that the President is invoking Article 111. It is an embarrassment to Parliament. It is not like return of something by the President to the Cabinet. That is under Article 74 and it is under Article 111. Under Article 74, when we make any recommendation like we say that President's Rule be imposed on such and such State, he sends it back saying that you reconsider it. The Government gives him an Ordinance and he sends it back saying please reconsider. It means whether it should be done by an Ordinance or you go before the Parliament. That is a different matter

Here, for the first time in the history of Parliament—I have been in Parliament for more than 30 years—Lok Sabha is having to consider a Bill that it had passed earlier, the second time. If tomorrow, God forbid, the court makes some pronouncement, the court takes cognizance of the fact that it is not an office which has been exempted; it is a person who has been protected, it is an MP who has been protected and on that ground alone, strikes down the Act. We will have to consider it once again.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

It was an embarrassment for us to get it from the President, and for the President to tell us that: "I want it to be just and fair." He used all these words. Would it make us happy if tomorrow we again get it from the Supreme Court or any judiciary?

Therefore, I would appeal to the Government, even at this late stage, to reconsider this matter. After all, in the last two years, five major judgements of the Supreme Court or judicial admonitions were administered to this Government. It has had a very un-enviable record in so far as court pronouncements are concerned. It started with the reservation made in Andhra; going on to the reservations in the AMU; going on to the issue of President's rule in Bihar; going on to the IMDT Act; and only lately regarding the Chairmanship of the AIIMS. This is the record of the Government. Why are you inviting yet another to be administered by the judiciary? Please do not do it. I plead with you not to do it. Take some more time to consider it.

Let us reconsider it by sitting together to see how we can minimise the kind of apprehension that you have in your mind. On the one hand, we can take cognizance of the views expressed by the President, and at the same time see that the law that we frame is fully within the ambit of the Constitution. There is no difficulty in doing this. I think that this should be possible, and feasible. We had made our own suggestions, and at that point of time I had a feeling that the Government was inclined to get it passed. Otherwise, there was ample time to think over this issue. In fact, this particular advise of the President came two months back. In these two months, all these things could have been done, and this Bill could have been properly passed by 31 July itself. It is unfortunate that this has not happened. Therefore, I have served this kind of warning to you.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I should be given a chance to speak after the hon. Law Minister because he named me also....(Interruptions)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I have listened to the Leader of the Opposition very carefully. He has not said anything new except express his anxiety that we should not pass this Bill. This is the common voice....(Interruptions)

Now, the Members who spoke from the other side.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I would like to tell him a few things because I am very well prepared on the legal position of this issue. I had given the ruling about retrospective legislation. What is the interpretation with regard to the question whether a person holds an office of profit? It is really the Shibu Soren's case at page 2,596 paragraph 35. It states that:

"The question whether a person holds an office of profit is required to be interpreted in a realistic manner having regard to the facts and circumstances of each case and relevant statutory provisions.

While 'strict and narrow constrution' may not be adopted which may have the effect of 'shutting off many prominent and other eligible persons to contest, the elections' but at the same time 'in dealing with a statutory provision which imposes a disqualification on a citizen it would be unreasonable to take merely a broad and general view and ignore the essential points'."

The whole issue is that we have a tradition in Britain as to who are not exempted in it. I cannot exempt any defence personnel, and I cannot exempt...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Apart from the judgement that I have cited, I wanted to quote the comment made by our Secretary-General in the last paragraph of this particular book. It says:

"The judgement of the Supreme Court in the Bhagwan Das case introduce a certain check on the exercise of power by the legislatures under article 102 and article 191 of the Constitution..."

"It seems that there is a carefully maintained balance in the scheme of articles 102(1)(a) as well as 191(1)(a) where under holding an office of profit entails disqualifications, but when the Legislature steps in and declares that certain offices do not disqualify the holders. With the judiciary hinting at

its intervention on the ground of unreasonable exercise of the above power by the Legislature, the stage is set for judicial scrutiny of the law, amendment passed by the Legislature under articles 102 and 191 of the Constitution."

I plead with you, I plead with the Government not to disturb this balance and not to land the Parliament as a whole in a situation in which we have to have some admonition from the Supreme Court.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am very sorry that a very matured leader like him is talking about the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will come into the picture after this is passed, and the President assents to it. We are discussing the President's Message. My duty is to assist you, and that we are not doing anything illegal, or which is unconstitutional. I do not think this is a proper atmosphere—interruptions, threat of the President being annoyed with us, and now, the third threat is that judiciary will strike it down. All laws are subject to judicial reviews, Even Constitutional Amendments are subject to judicial review.

What has been cited by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is that we cannot exempt every office lock, stock and barrel. For example, the British Parliament gives a cue. They have said: "You cannot exempt officers of Defence Forces, officers of the Police, and Justice Department." There are broad guidelines as to which offices have not to be exempted, and that is the tradition. In India also, we do not exempt those offices, like the Defence Personnel, Department of Police, Government officers, and Secretaries to the Government. They cannot become Members of Parliament.

Who says that these are unbridled powers? We have to see if those institutions in which the Members are holding offices are unrealistic, and that is where the courts do judge. Who denies it? That is where I started. There are various pronouncements of the court that really decide whether an office of profit has been exempted properly or whether a Member stands disqualified without an exemption. All these issues are matters of judicial scrutiny.

When laws passed by the Parliament, they are subject to the power of judicial review. Does it mean, under this illusion, that something will happen and something

will be struck down, Parliament should become defunct. I do not subscribe to this kind of philosophy of a matured leader like him? Parliament should do its duty. I reject this submission of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since I was named by the Leader of the Opposition, I may be permitted to clarify. I will not take much time of the House. The hon. Leader of the Opposition named me....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, when the Third Reading is over, how can he speak?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'No'.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The 'Noes' have it. We want a division.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, we want a division.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the lobbies be cleared.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will put the motion to vote.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am on a point of order....(Interruptions) I am drawing the attention to Rule 371 of the Rules of Procedure....(Interruptions) This is objectionable ...(Interruptions) on the ground of pecuniary or direct interest in the matter of voting of some of Members in the division of the House is challenged on the ground of personal, pecuniary or direct interest.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Tripathyji, I will listen to you after division.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, this is not the proper time to challenge. The vote of a certain Member can be challenged immediately after the division is over and after the result is announced by the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will listen to you after division and before announcement. Please take your seat and listen to me first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: How can they participate?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will listen you after division and before announcement as there is procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRAPATHY: What would happen then....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, as passed again by Rajya Sabha, be passed."

The Lok Sabha divided.

Ayes

Time 20.55 hrs.

Aaron Rashid, Shri J.M.
 Acharia, Shri Basu Deb
 Agarwal, Dr. Dharendra
 Ahamed, Shri E.
 Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel
 Aiyar, Shri Mani Shanker
 Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.
 Ansari, Shri Furkan
 *Antulay, Shri A.R.
 *Appadurai, Shri M.
 *Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.
 'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh
 Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar
 Barad, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai
 Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar
 Barman, Prof. Basudeb
 Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman
 Basu, Shri Anil
 Bauri, Shrimati Susmita
 Baxla, Shri Joachim
 Bellarmin, Shri A.V.
 Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh
 Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan
 Bhurai, Shri Kanti Lal
 *Bishnoi, Shri Kuldeep
 Bose, Shri Subrata

*Voted through slip.

Budholia, Shri Rajnarayan

Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Chander Kumar, Prof.

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.

Chaure, Shri Babu Hari

Chavda, Shri Harisinh

Chidambaram, Shri P.

Chinta Mohan, Dr.

Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.

Choudhury, Shri Bansagopal

Chowdhury, Shri Adhir

Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka

*Churchill, Shri Alemao

Das, Dr. Alakesh

Das, Shri Khagen

Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas

Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan

Delkar, Shri Mohan S.

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Deora, Shri Milind

Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Dikshit, Shri Sandeep

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Dubey, Shri Chandra Shekhar

*Dutt, Shrimati Priya

Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.

Engti, Shri Biren Singh

Fanthome, Shri Francis

Fatmi, Shri M.A.A.

*Gadakh, Shri Tudaram Gangadhar

Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo

Gamang, Shri Giridhar

Gandhi, Shri Rahul

Ganesan, Shri L.

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Gill, Shri Atma Singh

Gogoi, Shri Dip

Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash

Harsha Kumar, Shri G.V.

*Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Hossain, Shri Abdul Mannan

Hussain, Shri Anwar

Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

Jai Prakash, Shri

Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jogaiah, Shri Hari Rama

Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

Kamal Nath, Shri

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Kaur, Shrimati Praneet	Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar
Kerketta, Shrimati Sushila	Meinya, Dr. Thokcham
Khan, Shri Sunil	Mishra, Dr. Rajesh
Kharventhan, Shri S.K.	Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
Konyak, Shri W. Wangyuh	Mohan, Shri P.
Krishna, Shri Vijoy	Mollah, Shri Hannan
Krishnadas, Shri N.N.	Mufti, Ms. Mehbooba
Krishnan, Dr. C.	Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
Krishnaswamy, Shri A.	Murmu, Shri Hemlal
Kumar, Shrimati Meira	Murmu, Shri Rupchand
Kumari Selja	Muttemwar, Shri Vilas
Kuppusami, Shri C.	Nambadan, Shri Lonappan
Kurup, Adv. Suresh	Nandy, Shri Amitava
*Kyndiah, Shri P.R.	Narbula, Shri D.
Lahiri, Shri Samik	Nikhil Kumar, Shri
Lalu Prasad, Shri	Nizamuddin, Shri G.
Madam, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	Ola, Shri Sis Ram
*Mahato, Shri Sunil Kumar	Oraon, Dr. Rameshwar
Mahabir Prasad, Shri	Owaisi, Shri Asaduddin
Maken, Shri Ajay	Pal, Shri Rupchand
Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar	Palanisamy, Shri K.C.
Mandlik, Shri S.D.	Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati
Mane, Shrimati Nivedita	Panda, Shri Prabodh
** Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar	Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
Manoj, Dr. K.S.	Paswan, Shri Virchandra
Mcleod, Ms. Ingrid	Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbai
Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao	Patel, Shri Dinsha
Meena, Shri Namu Narain	Patel, Shri Jivabhai A.

*Voted through slip.

**Corrected from Noes to Ayes through slip.

Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.	Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva
Pathak, Shri Brajesh	Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe	*Ravindran, Shri Pannian
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao	Reddy, Shri Anantha Venkatarami
*Patil, Shri Pratik P.	Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
Patil, Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb	Reddy, Shri Madhusudan
Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta	Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Pawar, Shri Sharad	Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
Pilot, Shri Sachin	Reddy, Shri S.P.Y.
*Pingle, Shri Devidas	Regupathy, Shri S.
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.	Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
Prabhu, Shri R.	Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant
Pradhan, Shri Prasanta	Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
Prasad, Shri Harikewal	Sai Prathap, Shri A.
Purandeswari, Shrimati D.	Sajjan Kumar, Shri
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala	Salim, Md.
Raja, Shri A.	*Sangma, Shri P.A.
Rajagopal, Shri L.	Sar, Shri Nikhilnanda
Rajendran, Shri P.	Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmad
Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani	Saroj, Shri Tufani
Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam	Scindia, Shri Jyotiraditya M.
*Ramadass, Prof. M.	Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
Ramakrishna, Shri Badiga	Seeramesh, Shrimati Tejaswini
*Rana, Shri Gurjeet Singh	Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar	Sen, Shrimati Minati
Rao, Shri D. Vittal	Senthil, Dr. R.
Rao, Shri K.S.	Seth, Shri Lakshman

Shailendra Kumar, Shri	Sumbrui, Shri Bagun
Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh	Surendran, Shri Chengara
Shandil Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.
Sharma, Dr. Arvind	Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.
Sharma, Shri Madan Lal	Thummar, Shri V.K.
Sibal, Shri Kapil	Tirath, Shrimati Krishna
Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotimoyee	Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra	Tytler, Shri Jagdish
Singh, Chaudhary Lal	Vaghela, Shri Shankar Sinh
Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad	Velu, Shri R.
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad	Venkatapathy, Shri K.
Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	Venkatswamy, Shri G.
Singh, Rao Inderjit	Venugopal, Shri D.
Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad	Verma, Shri Rajesh
Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan	Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
Singh, Shri Mohan	Verma, Shrimati Usha
Singh, Shri Sita Ram	Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
*Singh, Shri Suraj	Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar
Singh, Shrimati Kanti	Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh
Singh, Shrimati Pratibha	Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal
Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran	Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sedhu
Soren, Shri Shibu	Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh
Subba, Shri M.K.	Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
Subbarayan, Shri K.	Yadav, Shri Giridhar
Sugavanam, Shri E.G.	Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan
Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.	Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar
Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan	Yadav, Shri Mitrasen
	Yadav, Shri Paras Nath

Noes

Time 20.56

Acharya, Shri Prasana
 Advani, Shri L.K.
 Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.
 Ananth Kumar, Shri
 Argal, Shri Ashok
 'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
 Bais, Shri Ramesh
 Banerjee, Kumari Mamata
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
 *Borkataky, Shri Narayan Chandra
 Choubey, Shri Lal Muni
 Chowdhary, Shri Pankaj
 Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
 *Deshmukh, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra
 Dhotre, Shri Sanjay
 Fernandes, Shri George
 Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
 Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
 Gangwar, Shri Santosh
 Gao, Shri Tapir
 Gawali, Shrimati Bhavana Pundlikrao
 Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
 Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
 Gohain, Shri Rajen
 Gudhe, Shri Anant
 Joshi, Shri Kailash

Joshi, Shri Pralhad
 Kanodia, Shri Mahesh
 *Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbbhai
 Khanduri, Maj. Gen.(Retd.) B.C.
 Khanna, Shri Vinod
 Koshal, Shri Raghuveer Singh
 Kriplani, Shri Srichand
 Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh
 *Kunnur, Shri Manjunath
 Laxman, Shrimati Susheela Bangaru
 Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra
 Maheshwari, Shrimati Kiran
 Mahtab, Shri B.
 Majhi, Shri Parsuram
 Malhotra, Prof. Vijay Kumar
 **Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar
 Meghwal, Shri Kailash
 Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal
 Mohite, Shri Subodh
 Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 Nayak, Shrimati Archana
 Oram, Shri Jual
 Panda, Shri Brahmanada
 Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
 Pateriya, Shrimati Neeta
 Pathak, Shri Harin

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

**Corrected from Noes to Ayes through slip.

Shailendra Kumar, Shri	Sumbrui, Shri Bagun
Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh	Surendran, Shri Chengara
Shandil Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.
Sharma, Dr. Arvind	Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.
Sharma, Shri Madan Lal	Thummar, Shri V.K.
Sibal, Shri Kapil	Tirath, Shrimati Krishna
Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotimoyee	Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra	Tytler, Shri Jagdish
Singh, Chaudhary Lal	Vaghela, Shri Shankar Sinh
Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad	Velu, Shri R.
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad	Venkatapathy, Shri K.
Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	Venkatswamy, Shri G.
Singh, Rao Inderjit	Venugopal, Shri D.
Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad	Verma, Shri Rajesh
Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan	Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
Singh, Shri Mohan	Verma, Shrimati Usha
Singh, Shri Sita Ram	Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
*Singh, Shri Suraj	Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar
Singh, Shrimati Kanti	Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh
Singh, Shrimati Pratibha	Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal
Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran	Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu
Soren, Shri Shibu	Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh
Subba, Shri M.K.	Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
Subbarayan, Shri K.	Yadav, Shri Giridhar
Sugavanam, Shri E.G.	Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan
Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.	Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar
Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan	Yadav, Shri Mitrasen
	Yadav, Shri Paras Nath

*Voted through slip.

Noes	Time 20.56	
Acharya, Shri Prasana		Joshi, Shri Pralhad
Advani, Shri L.K.		Kanodia, Shri Mahesh
Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.		*Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbai
Ananth Kumar, Shri		Khanduri, Maj. Gen.(Retd.) B.C.
Argal, Shri Ashok		Khanna, Shri Vinod
'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat		Koshal, Shri Raghuveer Singh
Bais, Shri Ramesh		Kriplani, Shri Srichand
Banerjee, Kumari Mamata		Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal		*Kunnur, Shri Manjunath
*Borkataky, Shri Narayan Chandra		Laxman, Shrimati Susheela Bangaru
Choubey, Shri Lal Muni		Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra
Chowdhary, Shri Pankaj		Maheshwari, Shrimati Kiran
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari		Mahtab, Shri B.
*Deshmukh, Shri Subhash Sureshchandra		Majhi, Shri Parsuram
Dhotre, Shri Sanjay		Malhotra, Prof. Vijay Kumar
Fernandes, Shri George		**Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.		Meghwal, Shri Kailash
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka		Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal
Gangwar, Shri Santosh		Mohite, Shri Subodh
Gao, Shri Tapir		Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
Gawali, Shrimati Bhavana Pundlikrao		Nayak, Shri Ananta
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram		Nayak, Shrimati Archana
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand		Oram, Shri Jual
Gohain, Shri Rajen		Panda, Shri Brahmanada
Gudhe, Shri Anant		Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Joshi, Shri Kailash		Pateriya, Shrimati Neeta
		Pathak, Shri Harin

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

**Corrected from Noes to Ayes through slip.

Patil, Shrimati Rupatai D.
 Potai, Shri Sohan
 Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar
 Rana, Shri Kashiram
 Rana, Shri Raju
 Reddy, Shri G. Karunakar
 Renge Patil, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao
 Rijiju, Shri Kiren
 Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
 *Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil
 Shukla, Shrimati Karuna
 Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
 Singh, Kunwar Manvendra
 Singh, Shri Dushyant
 *Singh, Shri Lakshman
 *Singh, Shri Sugrib
 Singh, Shri Uday
 Singh, Shri Vijayendra Pal
 Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Thakkar, Smt. Jayaben B. (Vadodara)
 *Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore (Puri)
 Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas (Dhandhuka)
 Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D. (Bharuch)
 Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh (Jalaun)
 Virendra Kumar, Shri (Sagar)
 ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TIRPATHY: They cannot participate. There is a Rule of law. ...(*Interruptions*) We will let you out...(*Interruptions*) We will not walk out. ...(*Interruptions*) See what is happening...(*Interruptions*) This is the rule...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; I am listening to him. Please to him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am challenging the voting of some of the Members who have participated and voted. ...(*Interruptions*) They have pecuniary interest in this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) They should not participate. This is the provision of law in the Rules of Procedure. They have voted in favour of the Bill. Hence, I am challenging their voting. They cannot participate ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have listen to him, let to me listen him first.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, listen to him first.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, this is a fallacious interpretation. There are very many matters for which the Members of Parliament are called upon to vote. For instance, it is the Parliament which gives the right to pass the law regarding their own salaries and allowances. The Members pass that law here. This provision is intended for an entirely different purpose...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: But it has not been challenged...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Parliament takes up some matters in which some individual Members may be concerned. Therefore, this provision is barring that, and not a general law of that nature. Article 102 does not place any such embargo there...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me now. Shri Tripathy, your notice is general in nature. You have not specified the name of any person or any individual Member. [*Translation*] The first thing I said that it is general not specific.

Secondly, it is for the individual Member, as a matter of propriety, to decide whether by casting their votes on a particular question, their judgement is likely to be influenced or deflected from straight line of a public policy by any personal pecuniary benefit, they may derive.

Therefore, it is their will to cast their votes. It is their own will.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes: 230

Noes: 71

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 1st August 2006 at 11 a.m.

20.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 1, 2006/Sravana 10, 1928 (Saka).

*Ayes: 230 + S/Shri P.R. Kyndiah, Kuldeep Bishnoi, Gurjeet Singh Rana, A.R. Antulay, Ajemao Churchill, Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh, Devidas Pingle, Prof. M. Ramadase, S/Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato, Suraj Singh, Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, M. Appadurai, Pannian Ravindran, Deepender Singh Hooda, Shrimati Priya Dutt, S/Shri P.A. Sangma and Pratik P. Patil = 247.

* Noes: S/Shri Arjun Sethi, Braja Kishore Tripathy, Brahmananda Panda, Sugrib Singh, Lakshman Singh, Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, S/ Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh, Narayan Chandra Borkataky, Manjunath Kunnur = 80—Division No. 268 Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi corrected from Noes to Ayes = 79

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	102,
2.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	103,
3.	Shri Bellarmin. A.V.	101,
4.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	120,
5.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	108,
6.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	104,
7.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	118,
8.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	107,
9.	Dr. Manoj K.S.	109,
10.	Shri Mohd. Tahir	116,
11.	Shrimati Nayak, Archana	111,
12.	Shri Owaisi Asaduddin	111,
13.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	109,
14.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	117,
15.	Shri Rao, K.S.	101,
16.	Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai	105,
17.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	110,
18.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	115,
19.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	113,
20.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	112,
21.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	106,
22.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	115,
23.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	114,
24.	Shri Singh Rewati Raman	105,

1	2	3
25.	Shri Singh, Uday	102,
26.	Shri Sugavanam E.G.	119,
27.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	108,

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question No.
1	2	3
1.	Shri Athithan, Dhanuskodi R.	788, 839
2.	Shri Adsul Anandrao Vithoba	760, 814, 869, 885
3.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	778, 794
4.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	786, 837, 863, 874, 880
5.	Shri Argal, Ashok	769, 846, 867,
6.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	823, 855
7.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	751, 809, 853, 875, 881
8.	Shri Barman, Ranan	750
9.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	849
10.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	770
11.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	747, 805
12.	Prof. Chander Kumar	798
13.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	771, 822
14.	Shri Chatterjee, Santasri	871
15.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	801
16.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	778, 782, 784, 821

1	2	3
17.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	791, 839
18.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	751
19.	Shri Deora, Milind	757, 772, 812
20.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	791, 839
21.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	738
22.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	752, 821
23.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	774, 785, 797
24.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	772, 773, 780, 783
25.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	767
26.	Shri Harsha Kumar, G.V.	764, 840
27.	Shri Hussain, Anwar	741, 818
28.	Dr. Jagannath M.	825
29.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	763
30.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	754, 782
31.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	742, 842
32.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	737, 827, 858, 872, 879
33.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	793
34.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	740
35.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	810, 851
36.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	773, 828
37.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	836, 862
38.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	772, 789, 884
39.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	796

1	2	3
40.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	759
41.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	845, 866, 877
42.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	744
43.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	774, 797
44.	Dr. Manoj K.S.	817, 865, 876, 882
45.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	769, 855
46.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	749, 808, 850
47.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	800
48.	Shri Mehta, Bhubhneswar Prasad	766
49.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	762
50.	Shri Mohan, P.	768, 785, 820, 854, 873
51.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	816, 835, 861
52.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	884
53.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	785, 834
54.	Shrimati Narhire, Kalpana Ramesh	828
55.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	743
56.	Shri Nizamuddin, G.	772
57.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	815, 857, 871
58.	Shri Pallanisamy, K.C.	745
59.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	756
60.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	775, 784
61.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	783, 832, 859, 878

1	2	3	1	2	3
62.	Shri Pathak, Harin	762	86.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	833, 860
63.	Patil, Raosaheb Danve	799	87.	Shir Singh, Chandrabhan	777
64.	Shrimati Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilanga	746	88.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	802, 847
65.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	883, 884	89.	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	843
66.	Shri Rajendran, P.	795	90.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	774, 785, 797
67.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	762	91.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	826, 856
68.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	775, 836	92.	Shri Singh Rewati Raman	785
69.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	765	93.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	755
70.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	804	94.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	839
71.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	819	95.	Shri Subba, M.K.	748, 807
72.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	816, 835, 861	96.	Shri Sugavanam E.G.	806, 849, 870
73.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	826	97.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	791
74.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakaran	753, 838, 864, 884	98.	Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	758, 790, 813, 821
75.	Shri Reddy, M. Sreenivasulu	739, 811, 852	99.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	761
76.	Shri Range Patil, Tukaram Ganpatra	836, 883	100.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	782, 884
77.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	824	101.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	746
78.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	779	102.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	758
79.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	790, 841	103.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	760, 814, 844, 869, 885
80.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	772, 773	104.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	794
81.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	792	105.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	792
82.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	760, 814, 869, 885	106.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	816, 835, 861
83.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	816, 835, 861	107.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	843
84.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	776, 829	108.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	781, 831
85.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	787			

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Agriculture	: 102, 106, 109, 113, 114
Chemicals and Fertilizers	104
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	101, 110, 120
Environment and Forests	107, 117
Information and Broadcasting	105, 116, 119
Labour and Employment	118
Parliamentary Affairs	
Steel	115
Water Resources	103, 108, 111, 112

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Agriculture	737, 738, 739, 740, 747, 750, 752, 758, 766, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 793, 794, 798, 799, 802, 804, 805, 810, 811, 812, 817, 821, 823, 828, 829, 832, 833, 835, 836, 838, 839, 845, 849, 851, 852, 853, 856, 857, 859, 866, 869, 878
Chemicals and Fertilizers	742, 748, 760, 762, 763, 797, 808, 884
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	754, 756, 767, 776, 777, 778, 785, 800, 801, 803, 807, 809, 815, 819, 820, 831, 848, 850, 854, 860, 862, 865, 868, 870, 874, 880, 883
Environment and Forests	744, 746, 751, 761, 768, 769, 772, 773, 780, 795, 813, 825, 830, 837, 840, 841, 846, 855, 863, 877, 885
Information and Broadcasting	745, 759, 764, 765, 774, 775, 783, 787, 792, 806, 822, 824, 842, 873, 875, 879
Labour and Employment	749, 753, 755, 791, 826, 843, 871, 882
Parliamentary Affairs	
Steel	743, 770, 771, 779, 789, 816, 827, 834, 858, 864, 872
Water Resources	741, 757, 781, 796, 814, 818, 844, 847, 861, 867, 876, 881

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