

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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Dated.....30 Oct. 2002.....

(Vol. XXII contains Nos. 11 to 22)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 14, 2006/Sravana 23, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday a TV Channel telecast a serious incident. A Union Minister of state was shown talking to Shri Sunder Singh Bhati inside the jail.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me conduct the proceedings with the cooperation of all the sides. Otherwise, I cannot.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Sunder Singh Bhati sitting inside the jail with a mobile phone.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, we have been informed of it. I have also seen some of the portions of it. You have given a notice. I have been informed that the hon. Minister wishes to make a statement. I will permit him immediately after the Question Hour and then I shall sit with all of you to decide what is to be done.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Our view should be heard before he makes a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak before his statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you very much.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 281 Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

Expansion of capacity of DD and AIR in Border Areas

*281. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to expand the services of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) in border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade FM stations in border areas to withstand competition from private FM Radio stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Government has been assigning priority to expansion and improvement of the services of Doordarshan and All India Radio in the border areas in their various expansion plans formulated from time to time. In this regard two special packages for J&K and North-East-Phase-I and Phase-II have been conceived and are being implemented as per details given in the enclosed Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively. Presently, 281 transmitters of Doordarshan network and 56 AIR transmitters are functioning in the border areas. More over, multi channel TV/AIR coverage through Doordarshan's Free to air DTH service "DD Direct Plus" has been provided in the entire country including border areas. It is possible to receive DTH signals with the help of small sized dish receive units.

(c) and (d) As far as the competition from Private FM Radio stations is concerned, effect of Private FM Radio coverage is negligible in border areas, and hence the question of competition from private FM Stations does not arise.

Annexure I

Special package for improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in J&K

All India Radio

	J&K	
	Phase I	Phase II
Allocation	Rs.73.32 Cr.	CCEA Note under examination
Transmitter proposed	12	
Commissioned	6 commissioned and 6 technically ready.	

Doordarshan

	J&K	
	Phase I	Phase II
Allocation	Rs. 234.44 Cr.	CCEA Note under examination
Transmitter proposed	97	
Accomplished	All commissioned, including 6 transmitters at 3 locations, which are functioning in interim set up.	

Annexure II

Special package for improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in North-East

All India Radio

	North-East	
	Phase I	Phase II
Allocation	Rs.24.28 Cr.	Rs. 143.32 Cr.
Transmitter proposed	3	total nos. of 21 FM transmitters & 2 replacement (in MW)
Commissioned	1 commissioned, 1 technically ready and 1 on interim set up	Phase II of NE special package was approved in May 2006

Doordarshan

	North-East	
	Phase I	Phase II
Allocation	Rs. 46.52 Cr.	256.85
Transmitter proposed	5	42
Accomplished	All commissioned.	Phase II of NE special package was approved in May 2006.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir this question is very important. Particularly the borders areas range from Jammu and Kashmir to Kachha which covers a vast area. They cover Rajasthan and Punjab also. I have asked this question because Pakistani Media is spreading mis information in these areas. We do not have high power transmitters there. Therefore, I want to know whether Government propose to check the mis information campaign spread by Pakistan Media by setting up high power transmitters in the border areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. If so, the number of transmitters likely to be set up and time by which they are likely to start functioning.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that as far as the case of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the details have been laid on the table and he must have also got it.

As far as Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat are concerned, an HPT has been commissioned in Amritsar of Punjab. HPTs have been commissioned in Jalandhar, Bhatinda and Fazilka also. LPTs have become functional in Pathankot Gurdaspur, Firozpur and Abhor The coverage of Amritsar and Fazilka is very good up to border areas LPTs area also functioning in Ganganagar, Kampur, Raisinh Nagar and Anupshahar in Rajasthan. Apart from this, an HPT is also functioning in Jaisalmer and Barmer. As far as Gujarat is concerned, coverage is good in Bhuj upto border areas in Kutch. Apart from this, two LPTs are functioning in Punnadharo and Rapor in Kutch district. LPTs are functioning well in the border areas of Gujarat adjoining Pakistan. As far as setting up of HPTs and LPTs are concerned, Planning Commission has not taken any decision to install any new transmitter because they have just been upgraded. DTH are available throughout the country and they have started functioning,

be it North East or Jammu and Kashmir or any other border State.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jodhpur city of Rajasthan is a historical city of strategic importance and for other considerations. Whenever there is a war with Pakistan, all operations are carried out from Jodhpur. Therefore, I want to know from Government particularly whether they propose to set up new centers of AIR and Doordarshan in Jodhpur, so that they get all the information.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, at the moment we do not have any plan to set up a new centre. But I want to say that in Jodhpur which is represented by the hon'ble Member, our two HPTs DD-1 and DD-2 news are working and one LPT has been functioning from the beginning. But we have not so far decided to set up any new station.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: I am not talking about any new station but about news centre.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Our D.D. news centre is working there.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to Radio news. I want to ask a related question as to what is the reason that TV and radio transmission of Pakistan is not only clear in border areas but also in Central India whereas the transmission of AIR and Doordarshan, through which official news is aired and which contain views of India, is not clear at all even in adjoining areas. I am not talking of private channels like Aaj Tak and Star, which are seen all over the world. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has any plan to strengthen the Radio Channels and Television in border areas so that the AIR and Doordarshan news can be heard and viewed in at least in SAARC countries and whether the Government have any scheme in this regard?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member Shri Mohan Singh ji, through you, that DD India telecast is available to Indian diaspora in 146 countries after its launch from New York. Its programmes have especially been made available in some countries of Africa and Europe. It is already available in America. It has been made available according to Indian Diaspora. It has been brought at par with CNN and BBC. It is our effort to launch a competitive international channel of Prasar Bharti at the earliest, which

would be limited to News and Current affairs. A discussion is going on about it but we have not yet taken any decision. I will inform the house as soon as a decision is taken by the Government in this regard.

As far as the question of range of our transmission in border areas is concerned, I can say with confidence that the transmission power and coverage area of All India Radio news is far better and more powerful than that of Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. If any shortcoming is found in its functioning, then I have issued orders to my office to take necessary action in this regard.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, since a large area of India especially in Bihar share the border with Nepal, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister whether there are any Radio and Doordarshan channels in Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Motihari and Bettiah. If not, the time by which the Government propose to launch the channels? We hear the news from Kathmandu, Nepal in our areas. Do not the Government have any news channel of India there which we can hear properly. I would like to know whether Government propose to extend it in these areas.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, as far as the services of Doordarshan in the border areas of Nepal adjoining Bihar is concerned, our LPT is functioning properly in all the areas such as Arariya, Kishanganj, Madhubani, West Champaran, East Champaran, Supaul and Sitamarhi districts. As far as compilation of news in All India Radio is concerned, we have got medium wave to air the news and through this frequency, the news is broadcast in the entire country and it reaches upto the said border areas also. If the hon'ble member has any new scheme in mind then he can send it to me and we will certainly look into it.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, radio industry has inherent potentialities. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is proposing to make it mandatory for all the foreign channels to have local content?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Yes, Sir, this is about DD.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but the question is about DD's capacity in border areas.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: May I also know whether any Broadcasting Obligations Fund has been created?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No sir, such things are not possible because we cannot dictate private and foreign channels what kind of news they provide. However, we are considering a Broadcast Bill and after consulting all stakeholders, we shall try to see that the public service obligation content, to a great extent, is covered by such channels.

[Translation]

SHRI CHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just said in his reply that the programmes of Doordarshan and All India Radio are being transmitted properly in the entire border areas but I do not agree to his reply because if we talk about the entire Laddakh region then we find that no LPT has been set up in Yoma Sub-Division which shares its border with China. Our people in the Laddakh region are viewing the transmission from China. I had written a letter and given my suggestions also. Since the entire Kargil and Laddakh region is a border area, hence transmission of programmes of Doordarshan is very necessary there. I would like to know whether under special circumstances hon'ble Minister would like to reconsider the scheme of setting up an LPT in Laddakh region by reviewing the position again. About the LPT scheme running the region, the hon. Minister had replied in the House in his reply that it has been closed since a lot of programmes are being transmitted in the entire border area from across the border?

Secondly, Kargil Doordarshan is transmitting the programme of Balati language from Leh in Laddakh region. Currently the programme is being aired thrice in a week for half an hour. A demand was made from the Kargil region that such a programme of Balati language should also be transmitted in a way so that it can be heard in Skardu and Balati region. I would like to know whether hon'ble Minister will look into the matter.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of Kargil and Laddakh region is concerned, it is not true that no LPT is functioning there. I have complete information and I will provide it to the

hon'ble Members since it will take a lot of time to read it out. Our LPT, HPT and VLPT are functioning at ten places in Kargil and at more than fourteen places in Laddakh region. As far as the matter of making the programmes available in the entire Country is concerned, I am repeatedly saying that according to the new technology, the DTH facility has been provided in the entire country including the Andman and Nicobar islands. The DTH facility has reached there. What we need is a short antenna and a Set Top Box and with the help of both of them, more than 39 channels can be viewed through DTH. As far as the suggestion made by him about Kargil is concerned, I will be in a position to give an assurance only after looking into it.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated about the expansion of DD and All India Radio but expansion has not been taking place in my area for last several years. We have repeatedly made appeal to the hon'ble Minister and the former Minister also that in the North-Eastern States especially the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh, there is no means to provide news to the people except the All India Radio. Even today Radio is so popular there and the people wait for the news aired at 6 O'Clock. There are several tribes in that area and tribal languages have been included. The news is aired there in local dialect but several languages have been still left out. I had talked to the Director-General also in this regard and he said that the Government have not sanctioned the budget, hence, he do not have provisions to make new recruitments. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the time by which major tribes which have been counted but their dialects have not been included for the local news, are likely to be included for this purpose since the channels being aired from across the border are stronger than the Indian channels. I would like to know how the Government propose to increase their capacity.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, firstly, I would like to state that it is not true that there is no service in Arunachal Pradesh. We are doing a lot of work through LPT, VLPT and Doordarshan. We are operating from ten different places and not from six or seven places and they are Chhanglong, West Kameng, West Siang, Upper Subansiri, East Siang Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Tawang, Teerap and East Kameng etc. But as far as the matter of news is concerned, we have been successful in presenting direct news in several dialects in North-East and only a few have been left out. I am

looking into it and probably I will achieve some success in this regard by the end of this year.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Sir, there are two things. One is the improvement of infrastructure and second is popularisation of the programmes both in DD and AIR. I must compliment the hon. Minister for taking major initiatives in improving the infrastructure in the North-Eastern sector.

As far as popularisation and execution are concerned, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been any appraisal about the sale of small sized dish receiving units to understand whether the desired popularity has been achieved by the means that have been provided. Unless people buy these small sized dish receiving units, you will never have an idea about how much of your infrastructure development is taking place.

Secondly, I compliment the Minister for introducing some of the dialects like the Bodo local language. I would like to know whether the Minister thinks of using all the local languages in a phased manner so that the news becomes popular in the North-East.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In the entire country, about five million DTH sets have already been sold, and a substantial part, I am told, is also purchased by the subscribers of North-Eastern States. If a few more things can be done, I shall certainly work them out for the benefit of the North-Eastern States.

Insofar as the programme is concerned, I always try to take the local temperament and local content of the culture in the entire Region and inject it in our Doordarshan programme. I can only say that a special North-Eastern Regional Programme has been launched by Doordarshan to accommodate their aspirations in the best possible manner.

MR. SPEAKER: There are many proposals. Let the hon. Members send them to the Minister; I am sure he will consider.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, discussion can be held regarding the border-areas like Nepal. The Government of India...

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may send the letter to the Minister. I have asked the Minister to consider it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not answer that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 282, Shri Bhupendra Singh Solanki—not present,

Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria—not present

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed seven Supplementaries. Hon. Members can write to him and, I am sure, he will consider them.

Q. 283-Shri L. Rajagopal.

Operations of FCI

*283. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has decided to outsource their key operations and reduce the staff for improving its operational efficiency in pursuance of the recommendations made by a consultant study;

(b) if so, whether the said recommendations have since been implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of vacancies abolished due to its implementation;

(d) the relevance of FCI after the outsourcing of its key operations:

(e) whether the operation of Public Distribution System has been adversely affected due to the implementation of the said recommendations; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. There has been no decision by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to outsource its operations and reduce staff in pursuance of the recommendations made by the consultant, viz. M/s McKinsey & Co.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) FCI will continue its core activities of procurement, storage and distribution as usual.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Mr. Speaker. Sir in 2001, Administrative Staff College of India has submitted a Report; also in 2002 Shri Abhijit Sen Committee has submitted a Report; and also M/s McKinsey & Co. has submitted a Report on the restructuring of the entire FCI.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the difference among all these three Reports, and to what extent the Government is going to implement these recommendations.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, It is true that in 2005, M/s. McKinsey & Co. was appointed by F.C.I. to bring operational efficiency. The hon'ble Member has raised a question whether we are going to make outsourcing on their recommendations, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that I have submitted in a written answer to the question that no decision has been taken so far as per their recommendations. Of course, they have indeed made some recommendations. F.C.I. have already been outsourcing in some fields like handling, business of transportation, storage or procurement of foodgrains by the states. The help of private agency like NCMSL has been taken for the said purpose. In the year 2001, the decision on V.R.S. was taken, I would like to assure that as far as retrenchment is concerned, retrenchment of 42,000 workers as recommended by them is not to be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a number of employees in the department have as to put up applications for V.R.S. I would like to know from the Minister what action has been taken in regard thereto and what benefits are proposed to be given to the employees seeking V.R.S.?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, just now the Minister of State stated what he has done about V.R.S. As far as the total staff is concerned, there is no question of retrenchment of any of them. The additional recommendations are regarding how to minimise cost. We have the other alternative of paying less interest. The point that was raised is that earlier we used to pay more interest on our total borrowing. There is a need to accept it and it has been accepted.

There was another suggestion about raising income by giving the godowns for capacity utilisation to other persons when godown capacity remains idle and it is not utilised. There were six seven suggestion like this which will be helpful to minimize the cost and to strengthen the financial health of Food Corporation of India.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a large number of workers were previously engaged by the contractors for handling work. In regard to most of them, direct payment system has been introduced by abolishing contract system. But there are a few depots, and in regard to those depots, even the Labour Ministry had issued a notification for abolition of contract system and also to introduce direct payment system to the workers, who were engaged by the contractors. May I know from the hon. Minister—he knows the problem because we had a lot of discussions with him—about the steps that he is going to take in regard to implementation of the notification of the Ministry of Labour as well as introduction of direct payment system to the workers, who were engaged by the contractors?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are two or three kinds of staff in FCI. One is permanent staff. About 42,449 employees are working as permanent workers. About 1,67,000 labourers are working in various depots for handling food grains. There are three or four systems. One is departmental system. Under that system, about 22,502 workers are working. Under direct payment system,

in 223 depots, about 34,564 workers are working. So, about 57,000 labourers are working under departmental system and direct payment system. There is another system, that is, contract system. About 1,08,000 workers are working under contract system. There is a suggestion whether we can bring them under direct payment system. There is also suggestion whether we can set up Workers' Cooperative Societies depot-wise, and depot-wise whether we can give job and remove contractors. In principle, we have accepted the suggestion, and we have decided to begin from Punjab. I am confident that we will be able to implement that decision as early as possible.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, so far as the storage is concerned, FCI has a very crucial role to play in the country. But there has been persistent complaints from different quarters that there is pilferage, rat-eating and not proper arrangements being made for the storage; and as a result of rainfall, a substantial part of the food grains stored becomes uneatable.

In view of that, what steps the Government is going to take to protect the food storage, to prevent pilferage and to create a condition where FCI can serve as an effective agency for building up food security of the country?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have not got the detailed figures about what exactly he is referring, what type of pilferage is there; and what type of losses, FCI is incurring, but what I recollect is that the amount of losses is negligible. It is true that in certain depots, there are certain problems; the godowns are not in good condition, but corrective actions have been immediately taken. But I have no hesitation to give this information to the hon. Member, in writing.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister had convened a meeting asking for the suggestions from the Members of Parliament in regard to improvement of the Public Distribution System; and we all know, as Shri Gurudas Dasgupta was telling, at the moment, paddy is being procured through commission agents from their villages, transported to the rice mills, converted into rice; and then it goes to godowns of FCI. So, a lot of losses are to be borne, as he has told. Then, once again, it is sent to the other States for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS).

Therefore, in his meeting asking for suggestions, we gave a suggestion that the requirement of the local area

could be procured through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of women so that even they were to be benefited, the women would also be benefited..

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI K.S. RAO: No, Sir; now, I am asking a question. This way, paddy can be stored in at traditional manner by them and they can supply rice to the Fair Price Shops in the area at a fixed price. They can be given a loan at the lower rate of interest.

So, I wish to know from the hon. Minister—he had agreed, in principle and he had also admired the suggestion—whether he is thinking in terms of implementing this procedure through SHGs.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is true that in the meeting of hon. Members of Parliament, convened by me, this type of suggestion had been made and it was also suggested that we should try to procure paddy or rice in decentralised manner. It is also true that till three years back, our total concentration of procurement was essentially in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. But from the last two to three years, procurement through decentralised manner has been introduced; and this year, we have got an exceptional support. The Government could procure quite a big quantity of paddy or rice from a number of other States like Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

Now, there was also a suggestion that we should try to take advantage of the Self-Help Groups, which have been set up by women; and we should try to provide them some job.

Sir, the Government of West Bengal is the first State Government, which came forward and gave the responsibility of procurement to the Self-Help Groups. The experience of the Government of West Bengal regarding procurement through the Self-Help Groups has been very good. We would like to encourage it in other States also.

Housing Scheme For Fishermen

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*284. **SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA**
SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to the state:

(a) Whether the Union Government provides assistance to the State Governments for implementing housing scheme for fishermen under the National Fishermen Welfare Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the Central share released to the each State during the last three years and the current financial year;

(c) whether any amount out of the sanctioned assistance is yet to be released by the Union Government under the scheme;

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

(e) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central share of Rs. 4116.97 lakh and Rs.529.77 lakh has been released to the States/UTs to

implement the housing component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-2006) and current financial year 2006-07 (till 31.7.06) respectively. State-wise details are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State-wise details of the amount yet to be released out of sanctioned amount for construction of fishermen houses are given in the annexure enclosed.

(e) Based on proposal received from the state government for construction of fishermen houses, central assistance is sanctioned and amount released in installments depending upon the quantum of assistance and availability of funds under the scheme. Generally, the Central assistance is extended in two installments provided the concerned State Government furnish detailed progress report on stages of construction of fishermen houses, matching state share provided for the scheme and utilization certificate of Central assistance released towards first installment. These are the main reasons for balance central share and the State Governments are suggested from time to time to furnish the details to release further amount so that houses sanctioned are completed in a time bound manner.

Annexure

State-wise Central Assistance released during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06), current financial year and balance amount yet to be released for construction of fishermen houses under the Centrally Sponsored "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen"

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Amount Released during 2003-04 to 2005-06	Amount Released during 2006-07 (till 31.07.06)	Amount of Central Share yet to be released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	399.25	0.00	6.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	14.60	0.00	8.00
4.	Bihar	62.00	0.00	8.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	48.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Daman and Diu	15.00	0.00	15.00
7.	Gujarat	56.50	0.00	62.10
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	100.00	0.00	20.00
9.	Jharkhand	487.20	50.00	80.00
10.	Karnataka	684.87	0.00	299.98
11.	Kerala	250.00	147.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	52.34	40.77	18.29
13.	Madhya Pradesh	38.00	18.00	19.03
14.	Manipur	43.54	0.00	4.26
15.	Nagaland	140.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Orissa	269.40	0.00	205.20
17.	Pondicherry	83.23	0.00	186.77
18.	Rajasthan	29.10	0.00	30.90
19.	Tamil Nadu	446.24	0.00	370.00
20.	Tripura	43.50	24.00	28.50
21.	Uttar Pradesh	578.50	50.00	632.50
22.	Uttaranchal	12.00	0.00	0.00
23.	West Bengal	231.70	200.00	201.90
	Total	4116.97	529.77	2196.83

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Sir, we are dealing with a section of population, which is one of the most poverty stricken; and therefore, their housing problem is pretty serious.

Considering all these, the National Scheme of Welfare for Fishermen has been formulated, and there is a housing component in that. Now, according to the Statement given here, from the years 2003-04 to 2005-06, Rs. 4,000 and odd lakh have been released.

Next year, it is only Rs. 5,529 lakh, and the balance to be released is Rs. 2,196 lakh. In view of these figures, I would like to know from the Government that in the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, whether any amount is still

pending to be released from the Centre. What are the reasons? Why the amount is still pending? If you see, in the year 2006-07, excepting four or five States, everywhere no amount has been released. Is it that the scheme is faulty? Or, is it that the State Governments are not taking interest or the Centre is not able to get the support of the States for such an important scheme?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You see, generally, the Centre's share is released in two instalments, that is, on 50:50 basis. Fifty per cent is released at the time of sanction and the remaining 50 per cent of the amount is released on receipt of the progress report. Most of the money is not released because we do not know what exactly happened to whatever money that has already

been allotted. So, we are expecting the reports. In fact, we are writing to the State Governments that they should submit their reports on the action taken, what exactly they have done. We have no problem to release the rest of the money after getting their detailed report.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: It seems that there is a lack of co-ordination between the Centre and the States in this, and probably, this Department is also not functioning effectively. I would like to draw your attention in this context to the much talked about Swaminathan Committee appointed by your Ministry. It has recommended for effective functioning of the Department to deal with the problems of fisheries. I would like to know whether a Department with sufficient strength would be constituted at the Centre separately to handle this. That was a recommendation of the Swaminathan Committee.

Also, I would like to know this from you, considering the fact that the Centre and the State's co-ordination, as you said, is not very good. Would you kindly consider calling a meeting of the State Ministers of Fisheries to discuss this problem and find out a solution?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, about three or four months back only, I convened a meeting of the Fisheries Ministers. This year we are going to call the meeting, and I will take this as one of the important subjects.

Regarding Dr. Swaminathan Committee's recommendations, Dr. Swaminathan has given a few reports. I read recently in the newspaper that in his latest report, which he is going to submit to us, he has made a specific suggestion about the plight of the fishermen. Also, he has given certain recommendations that the Government should take certain actions. Definitely, we are going to act on that. But the Government has also taken many decisions. There are a number of schemes which we are already implementing.

Recently, one major scheme has been approved, that is, the Fisheries Development Board. It has been cleared by the Council of Ministers, by the Cabinet. I have given detailed statements about that Board in this same House. We are going to start working of the Fisheries Development Board, probably, in the first week of next month. Its headquarters has been set up in Hyderabad. Budgetary provision is also there. A number of schemes will be implemented through the Fisheries Development Board which will protect the interests of the fishermen also.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, Kerala State has a long coastal line where poor fishermen are concentrated. Every year, during monsoon the houses and properties of these poor fishermen get destroyed due to natural calamity. The assistance given for construction of the houses is a very meagre amount. It is only Rs. 40,000. The Kerala Government's request is for Rs.1 lakh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the assistance will be made need-based, that is, according to the cost of construction, which varies from State to State.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the size of the house is not very big. The plinth area is limited to 35 sq. metres and the amount which has been fixed as cost of construction of the house is limited to Rs. 40,000. As on today, for this particular scheme and this particular amount has distributed and accepted by the States. I have no specific proposal from any other State. But knowing full-well today's costing, the Government is ready to give a serious thought for a re-thinking about this amount.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, fishermen in India are occupying a very vital position socially and economically. They constitute about 10 per cent of the Indian population and economically, in terms of exports and in terms of production they occupy only second position next to Indian farmers. But these fishermen are living in a very deplorable condition. Their housing conditions are very poor. In view of the gigantic problems faced by the fishermen and the inability of the State Governments to satisfy the housing requirements of the fishermen, will the Government of India consider a national scheme of housing for the fishermen and if not will the Government of India ask the Ministry of Rural Development—which is implementing a national programme called *Inidra Awas Yojana*—to bring all the fishermen under the scheme? The fishermen are leading a nomadic life, moving from one place to another. They do not have house here or there. This is especially so in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. In Pondicherry, the tsunami-affected fishermen have not yet been provided houses even after the lapse of two years. What would the Government of India do in the case of such fishermen? Will it seriously consider the evolution of a national scheme of housing for fishermen?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in fact, a scheme is very much there already. During 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, 44,683 houses have been sanctioned and this communication has been sent to the States. Out of this figure of 44,683, some 29,554 houses have been constructed and possession has been given to the

fishermen and 15,129 houses are under construction. The Government is taking this issue seriously. We would like to help this particular section. The Government is fully aware that this is one of the areas where one can earn a lot of money and this would give food also. This year the exports are worth around Rs. 6,000 crore. Our desire is that the exports of all these items should go somewhere near Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 11,000 crore. We are planning from that angle. I am confident that from all angles—whether it is marine sector or whether it is aquaculture—we will be able to improve the total country's production and this will ultimately prove beneficiary to the fishermen also.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the contribution of the fishermen community in regard to the national income or foreign exchange is praiseworthy. We all know it. We also know about their very bad and poor social and economic condition. They are also backward in education.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Yes, Sir, My pointed question is this. Considering all these aspects and the poor financial position of the States, will the Government consider giving the full amount of cost of construction of the house? Because of their poor financial position, the States are not bearing their 25 per cent or 30 per cent share of the contribution. That is why this scheme is not implemented successfully. Will the government consider bearing all these costs by the Government of India so that the States need not bear their share and we can make this a successful scheme?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, unless and until there is some contribution from the State, nobody takes these schemes seriously. It is true that this particular section has to be paid more attention. It is true that the price which has been fixed was about three years back and there is a lot of scope for improvement and we will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Mr. Speaker Sir, the welfare scheme formulated for the fishermen is very important. I come from the state of Gujarat which has almost 600 Km coastal area. I have seen the living conditions of fishermen from close quarters. The main problem in implementing of any scheme be it central or

the State Government is that the fishermen do not have any land for building houses. They do not even own 30, 35 metre or 100 square yard pieces to build house thereen. Even the huts which they have lie in the encroachment areas. That is why the Government are facing difficulties in implementing this scheme there. They are facing all these difficultis for the reason that the fishermen do not own any land.

I would like to state that there are many small port cities in Gujarat like Goravar, Madwar. Similarly, there are port cities like Porbandar or Veraval and Hirakud which have maximum fishermen population. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government propose to effectively impement the said scheme in consultation with the State Government to provide land and ensure construction of houses for fishermen?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: it is the responsibility of the state to provide land. Hon. Member has made a suggestion. When I have promised that I am going to call a meeting of Ministers for Fisheries of those States. I will be happy to discuss this subject also with them.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, now all questions and all aspects have been answered. A meeting is going to be called by the Minister. You may give your suggestions at that meeting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Spaker, Sir, I want to raise one point...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPAKER: I have got another nine names.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, i will rise one point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We may come back to that. Let us see.

[*Translation*]

Agricultural Schemes

*285. SHRI[†] BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored agriculture promotional schemes in operation, in the country;

(b) the achievements made thereunder during the last three years, State-wise and scheme wise;

(c) whether some of these schemes are lagging behind in achieving the desired objectives;

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

(e) the steps being taken to deal with the situation?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) The names of the agriculture production oriented Centrally Sponsored Scheme currently in operation are (i) National Horticulture Mission; (ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and J & K; (iii) Micro Irrigation; (iv) Technology Mission on Cotton; (v) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM); (vi) Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; and (vii) Macro management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme. Their major objectives are indicated at Annexure I.

(b) Of the aforesaid seven Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Schemes relating to (i) National Horticulture Mission and (ii) Micro Irrigation were approved and launched recently. It is, therefore, too early to assess the achievements made under these schemes. The details regarding the achievements made under the remaining Schemes are indicated at Annexure II-VI.

(c) to (e) These Schemes have been successful in supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for

enhancing agriculture production and productivity in the country. Their performance is also regularly monitored to identify bottlenecks, if any, so that timely corrective actions can be taken to further improve their implementation.

Annexure I

Salient Feature of Production Oriented Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

(i) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

The Mission launched in May 2005 aims to promote holistic growth of the horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies; enhance horticulture production and to assure nutritional security and income support to farm households and others; establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development; and promote, develop and disseminate technologies to generate employment for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth. Under the Mission, 100% assistance is being provided by the Centre to the State Governments during the Tenth Five Year Plan period.

(ii) Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

This mission launched in 2001-02 aims to harness the potential of horticulture in North Eastern Region and other hilly States. The scheme is in operation in seven North Eastern States and the hilly States of Sikkim; Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Under the aforementioned scheme 100% assistance is provided by the Centre to the State Governments.

(iii) Micro Irrigation

The scheme was approved for implementation in 2005-06. Its main objective is to increase the area under efficient methods of irrigation (viz drip and sprinkler irrigation) as these methods have been recognized as only alternative for efficient use of surface as well as ground water resources. The focus of the scheme is on horticultural crops being covered under the national horticulture Mission. Micro Irrigation Scheme is implemented in all the States and UTs, except the seven

North Eastern States and other hill States of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal. Under the scheme funding pattern is in the ratio of 80:20 between Central Government and the State Governments.

(iv) Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)

The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) is in operation since 2000-01. Its objectives are to improve production, productivity, quality of cotton; to reduce cultivation costs in the country; and to raise the incomes of the farmers. It is implemented in 13 States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. TMC envisages an end-to-end approach comprising varietal improvement; increased production / productivity; marketing infrastructure; and processing facilities. Under the scheme funding pattern is in the ratio of 75:25 between Central Government and the State Governments.

(v) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM)

The centrally sponsored scheme of integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 1.4.2004 with the merger of four erstwhile schemes of oilseeds Production Programme (OPP); National Pulses Development Project (NPDP); Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) and Accelerated

Maize Development Programme (AMDP). It provides flexibility to the States in implementation based on regionally differentiated approach, to promote crop diversification and to provide focused approach to the programmes. Under the scheme funding pattern is in the ratio of 75:25 between Central Government and the State Governments.

(vi) Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms

The Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" in operation since 2005-06 aims at providing decentralized and demand driven extension services through active involvement of farmers, subject matter specialists, NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc. Under the scheme funding pattern is in the ratio of 90:10 between Central Government and the State Governments.

(vii) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme

This scheme was formulated in 2000-01 with the objective to, inter alia, afford flexibility to the State Governments to develop and pursue the programmes for development of agriculture on the basis of their required priority and developmental needs. The approved pattern of assistance is in the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and the States respectively except in the case of North Eastern States in which case 100% Central assistance is extended.

Annexure II

Achievements made under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in NE States, Sikkim, J&K, HP and Uttaranchal

A. Major Horticultural Produces in North States (In MTS)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Citrus	27251	142484	12987	38989	10505	20500	9050	27214	288980
2.	Banana	14817	580995	15308	67838	28973	36538		69330	813799
3.	Pineapple	36310	198550	79889	92030		40720		105086	552585
4.	Papaya		99180	21282	4484	1995	6722		9633	143296
5.	Jackfruit		182907	3137		1065			254945	442054
6.	Passion fruit			3000		2819	9500	2000		17319

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Kiwi	62								62
8.	Ginger	36666	123987	12524	47138	29582	21500	35630	2774	309801
9.	Turmeric		8401	4092	8752	2970		1920	3751	29886
10.	Chillies		9155	29296	1240	1015			16279	56985
11.	Cardamom						850	3160		4010
12.	Potato		589070		141622		1750	32900	93472	858814
	Total	115106	1934729	181515	402093	78924	138080	84660	582484	3517591

B. Major Horticultural produces in J&K, HP and Uttaranchal States (lakh MTS)

Sl.No.	Commodity	J&K	HP	Uttaranchal
1.	Apple	10.93	5.27	1.08
2.	Walnut	1.00	0.03	0.15
3.	Pear	0.40	0.29	1.17
4.	Almond	0.13	0.01	
5.	Apricot	0.12	0.02	0.30
6.	Cherry	0.07	0.004	
7.	Plum	0.37	0.20	0.41
8.	Peach	0.02	0.065	0.36
9.	Saffron (Kg)	1500		
10.	Citrus	0.01	0.28	1.22
11.	Mango	0.13	0.59	0.98
12.	Ber	0.12		
	Total	13.43	6.759	5.67

C. Additional Area brought under Horticulture crops under Mini Mission-II of TMHNE during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Fruits	Vegetable	Spices	Plantation crops	Medicinal plants	Aromatic plants	Flowers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9987	2480	5650	0	550	2307	410	21364
2.	Assam	5515	1391	2404	1594	100	100	281	11385
3.	Manipur	6456	2186	2468	170	90	135	348	11853

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Meghalaya	4672	2042	1925	905	190	123	99	9956
5.	Mizoram	10994	3427	2111	670	115	334	1272	18923
6.	Nagaland	7891	2550	3102	1025	579	1009	507	16663
7.	Sikkim	3730	4225	7533	0	10	10	994	16502
8.	Tripura	5728	2698	1757	888	18	9	128	11226
Total		54973	20979	26950	5252	1652	4027	4039	117872

D. Additional Area brought under Horticulture crops under Mini Misions-II of TMHNE during the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 in J&K, H.P. and Uttaranchal

1.	Jammu & Kashmir	7570	813	76	0	0	33	14	8506
2.	Himachal Pradesh	5528	2033	301	0	130	92	230	8414
3.	Uttaranchal	5727	1812	521	0	40	10	343	8453
Total		18925	4658	898	0	170	135	587	25373
Grand Total		73898	25637	27848	5252	1822	4162	4626	143245

Annexure III

Achievemnt under Technology Mission on Cotton, State-wise during 2003-04 to 2005-06

(Prod. in Lakh bales)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18.90	21.90	21.81
2.	Gujarat	40.27	47.25	73.80
3.	Haryana	14.05	20.75	14.99
4.	Karnataka	2.65	6.88	4.80
5.	Madhya Pradesh	6.39	6.26	7.45
6.	Mahrashtra	30.80	29.39	36.26
7.	Orissa	0.88	1.11	1.45
8.	Punjab	14.78	20.87	23.95
9.	Rajasthan	7.09	7.65	8.80
10.	Tamil Nadu	1.23	1.95	2.13
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.04	0.05	0.06
Total		137.08	164.06	195.50

Annexure IV*Achievement under ISOPOM Statewise during 2003-04 to 2005-06*

(in 000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of States / UT	Oilseeds			Pulses			Maize		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1614	2209	2005	1239	1009	1377	2477	2064	3058
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27	27	0	7			55	55	0
3.	Assam	157	147	0	63	104		14	14	0
4.	Bihar	124	117	101	563	505	482	1474	1466	1424
5.	Chhattisgarh	127	124	103	479	365	452	135	132	106
6.	Goa	6	5	0	9	0	0	1	1	0
7.	Gujarat	5665	2987	4360	622	506	580	832	413	602
8.	Haryana	998	841	1014	145	167	128	41	40	34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	12	0	9	27	0	730	736	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	42	124	0	13	79	0	533	492	0
11.	Jharkhand	8	7	0	135	185	0	300	286	0
12.	Karnataka	934	1570	1579	558	761	869	1210	2512	2651
13.	Kerala	2	2	0	8	7	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5624	4798	5257	3576	3427	3230	1866	1253	1249
15.	Maharashtra	2921	2744	3397	2027	1700	1802	752	753	1119
16.	Manipur	0	1	0	3	0	0	8	9	0
17.	Meghalaya	6	7	0	4	0	0	26	24	0
18.	Mizoram	5	6	0	4	0	0	20	16	0
19.	Nagaland	67	82	0	21	0	0	80	84	0
20.	Orissa	157	180	565	273	258	297	79	106	102
21.	Punjab	104	100	132	39	36	27	459	422	403

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Rajasthan	3997	5541	5436	2278	1356	844	2071	1263	1102
23.	Sikkim	7	8	0	7	0	0	57	58	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	964	1061	1119	201	232	278	251	295	369
25.	Tripura	4	4	0	5	0	0	2	3	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	928	952	694	2400	2356	2206	1319	1494	1077
27.	Uttaranchal	34	38	0	29	28	0	68	44	0
28.	West Bengal	651	653	580	212	209	204	127	140	174
	Others	4	8	355	10	64	335	0.7	0.3	1621
	Total	25186	24354	26697	14939	13381	13111	14984	14172	15091

Annexure V

*Acheivement made under Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms
Number of Districts Covered under ATMA*

SI.No.	Name of States / UT	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
3.	Assam	12
4.	Bihar	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	5
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	8
8.	Haryana	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
11.	Jharkhand	8
12.	Karnataka	9

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15
15.	Maharashtra	19
16.	Manipur	4
17.	Mizoram	4
18.	Nagaland	3
19.	Orissa	13
20.	Punjab	8
21.	Rajasthan	11
22.	Sikkim	2
23.	Tamil Nadu	9
24.	Tripura	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	32
26.	Uttaranchal	8
27.	West Bengal	6
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
	Total	237

Annexure VI*Achievement made under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme during 2003-04 to 2005-06***National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPA)**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		(Ha)
		Target Area	Ach. Developed	Target Area	Ach. Developed	Target Area	Ach. Developed	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14400	8949	19665	15964	12791	3515	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2250	2250	7650		8043	1900	
3.	Assam	10333	2075	2570	0	15400	3125	
4.	Bihar	0	0	7634	348	14493	2094	
5.	Jharkhand	10800	9870	16300	8500	12700	0	
6.	Goa	1500	670	3500	8380	5000	2985	
7.	Gujarat	42105	25369	18000	1402	17285	17008	
8.	Haryana	2600	1455	3306	617	4000	1159	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1549	1914	4092	1700	3325	1523	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13000	0	3181	81	25000	0	
11.	Karnataka	33610	15467	32446	13922	45520	17513	
12.	Kerala	0	0	28636	7562	12777	7742	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	48688	22932	25000	8585	57777	35190	
14.	Chhattisgarh	26140	15681	39209	12697	44600	19169	
15.	Maharashtra	40720	17636	23000	0	29045	11172	
16.	Manipur	7900	3462	4040	6630	9508	1154	
17.	Mizoram	10050	7247	7043	6642	14680	3636	
18.	Meghalaya	6025	6026	7632	4563	9946	0	
19.	Nagaland	8000	7700	8599	5832	8475	7224	
20.	Orissa	29334	13644	7250	0	16328	8122	
21.	Punjab	1056	1056	3500	44946	3988	1518	
22.	Rajasthan	77448	84424	83500	3296	124157	85715	
23.	Sikkim	3390	2784	4500	5587	3712	784	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	33889	32881	44444	0	44444	29276
25.	Tripura	6960	4258	5839	23518	6254	1667
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24240	24272	50425	12787	65123	51988
27.	Uttaranchal	18116	13182	30210	12787	12001	15234
28.	West Bengal	8216	1434	3300	0	8216	6400
Total		482519	326638	494462	206246	634587	336813

Annexure VI Contd...***B : River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)***

(Area Developed in 000 hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of States / UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.15	6.633	3.533
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.02	0.85
3.	Assam	1.48	—	1.03
4.	Bihar	—	—	0.005
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	2.15	3.974
6.	Gujarat	8.09	13.313	16.861
7.	Haryana	5.07	4.198	2.677
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.22	3.825	4.849
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.76	2.408	3.916
10.	Karnataka	22.84	21.77	19.674
11.	Kerala	3.31	2.6	2.169
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22.94	16.273	3.83
13.	Maharashtra	17.58	16.748	13.599
14.	Mizoram	0.6	0.79	2.698
15.	Nagaland	—	2.58	2.26
16.	Orissa	0.98	1.15	1.772
17.	Punjab	—	—	2.213

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Rajasthan	22.74	23.86	20.729
19.	Sikkim	0.21	0.418	1.16
20.	Tamil Nadu	3.81	5.965	7.409
21.	Tripura	0.31	0.37	0.475
22.	Uttar Pradesh	37.85	42.34	24.668
23.	Uttaranchal	1.77	4.06	2.103
24.	West Bengal	0.43	7.98	0.356
25.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
Total		170.14	179.177	142.81

Annexure VI Contd...**C : Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)**

(Area Developed in Lakh hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of States	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Gujarat	0.048	0.172	0.085
2.	Haryana	0.119	0.104	0.132
3.	Karnataka	0.009	0.006	0.006
4.	Punjab	0.005	0.000	0.000
5.	Rajasthan	0.013	0.051	0.031
6.	Tamil Nadu	0.009	0.012	0.030
7.	Uttar Pradesh	0.005	0.000	0.000
Total		0.208	0.345	0.284

Annexure VI (Contd...)**D : (i) Farm Mechanisation Programme during 2003-04**

(In Nos.)

S.No.	Name of the State	Tractor		Power Tiller		Manual Tool/Implements		Animal Drawn Implements		Tractor implements		Self-Propelled power Driven Machines	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh		0	1331	598	14110	2368	38187	13020	394	2008	662	1594
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		50		20		730		30	0	10		187

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Goa		0	61	61	40	60	1	1	7	6		60
4.	Gujarat	987	582					296	240	100	217	61	
5.	Haryana		0							2832	2780		
6.	Himachal Pradesh	40	39	30	36	2455	2409	500	1960			300	136
7.	Karnataka		464			837	1075						
8.	Kerala		23			94							39
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1000	542	40	30	78625	110269	56380	45628	2365	718	1163	433
10.	Chhattisgarh	132	210	22	15	6650	12873	950	1199	43	7	100	127
11.	Maharashtra		0										
12.	Manipur	13	20	47	98	412	204	255	178	15	7	22	16
13.	Nagaland	10	9	200	188								
14.	Orissa	400	521	1200	1493	13000	5824	7000	669	65	63	2460	426
15.	Punjab		0								54		
16.	Rajasthan	476	430			300	238	2700	2388	800	771	700	575
17.	Tamil Nadu		105			609					10		3
18.	Uttar Pradesh		238			2	1162		3010		628		86
19.	Uttanchal	20	17	10	3	5500	1477	150	125	20	17	20	16
20.	West Bengal		0	800	800	1850	1850	720	720				
	Total	3078	3250	3741	4884	122942	140339	107139	69168	6641	7296	5488	3698

Annexure VI (Contd..)*D : (ii) Farm Mechanisation Programme during 2004-05*

(In Nos.)

S.No.	Name of the State	Tractor		Power Tiller		Manual Tool/Implements		Animal Drawn Implements		Tractor implements		Self-Propelled power Driven Machines	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh			312		3450		1736		1590		2128	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	80	NR	32	NR	1709	NR	20	NR	200	NR	150

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Assam	400											
4.	Bihar	666*						114	NR	2403	NR	176	NR
5.	Jharkhand												
6.	Goa	45	40	45	53	15	10	35	55	3	4	52	55
7.	Gujarat	400	565	100	142			400	628	200	251		
8.	Haryana									2505	2151		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	40	59	10	18	4250	6006	500	6678	180	851		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	1				31987			NR	8		
11.	Karnataka	330	147	1507	713	4722	1935			389	113		
12.	Kerala	20	9	60	62							168	11
13.	Madhya Pradesh	650	48	145	34	69905	56626	38445	24055	3461	656	1339	194
14.	Chhattisgarh	250	228	50	23					175	2	90	251
15.	Maharashtra			50	10	100	50	50	10	332	300	50	10
16.	Manipur	24	10	42	22	350	467	445		45	60	42	20
17.	Mizoram												
18.	Meghalaya												
19.	Nagaland	5		50		181						35	
20.	Orissa	370	345	1200	940	38000	1585	4720	441	130	38	718	110
21.	Punjab												
22.	Rajasthan	330	300			300	629	2200	651	900	1147	600	323
23.	Sikkim												
24.	Tamil Nadu	45	35	480	348	4				8		5	
25.	Tripura			300	300	120	120					50	50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	244	173	5500	426								
27.	Uttaranchal	20	20	10	8	4000	1495	150	10	20	25	20	42
28.	West Bengal			830	540	4000	1945	500	240				
Total		3173	2060	10691	3671	129397	104564	49295	32788	12341	5804	5473	1216

*includes power titlers

Annexure VI (Contd..)**D : (iii) Farm Mechanisation Programme during 2005-06**

(In Nos.)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Tractor		Power Tiller		Manual Tool/Implements		Animal Drawn Implements		Tractor Implements		Self-Propelled Power Driven Machines		Gender friendly equipment	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh			1997	498			24048	11026	11796	4045	3960	2373	21050	6823
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	50	150	150	5000	1000			75	75	925	1630	1085	1085
3.	Assam			416	266	371	371	681	681						
4.	Bihar	1000		570						2040		850			
5.	Jharkhand														
6.	Goa			50	5	15		27		14		10			
7.	Gujarat	383	1196	150	126			900	510	300	129			2000	
8.	Haryana									2995	2075	450	68	260	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	90	131	18	41	1400	3680	910	453			182	321		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	208	2	5	5		19768	3000		154	9				
11.	Karnataka	1174	1126	2393	1794					1993	5178				
12.	Kerala													8000	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	500	430	100	8	35100	15898	31000	26097	3399	541	1601	71		
14.	Chhattisgarh	270	282	63	31	90	20	10450	900		706	425	560	520	
15.	Maharashtra	800	596	150	644	1400	45	2401	274	840	177	395	9		
16.	Manipur	30	15	133	75	3800	1518	969	775	557	189	130	188		
17.	Mizoram	30	NR	30	NR	200	NR		NR	460	NR		NR		
18.	Meghalaya	NR	1464	NR		NR	820	NR		NR					
19.	Nagaland	3	5	112	199	790	1324		213				25		
20.	Orissa	800	628	1374	1276	2865	1787	260	73	220	55	311	226	3190	825
21.	Punjab					595	394								
22.	Rajasthan	800	430			2630	1384	2000	807	15150	255	5220	649		
23.	Sikkim					60	60	40	40					40	40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
24.	Tamil Nadu	180	82	973	365					311	79	114			
25.	Tripura		NR			2100	NR	100	NR	170	NR	50	NR		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1508	306			7905	2177	13157	808	11951	1102	226		18984	53731
27.	Uttaranchal	104	419	25	25	5000	4845	300	97	405	498	220			
28.	West Bengal	129	130	920	980	4020	1650			320	10			NR	4000
Total		8059	7292	9629	6488	73341	56751	90243	42754	53150	15123	15069	6120	55129	66504

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Minister has replied in detail about the agriculture projects which are beneficial to the farmers all over the country. In reply to the question it has also been stated that the schemes of the National Horticulture Mission and minor irrigations have recently been launched, so it is not possible to assess their achievement. But in the annexures it has been stated that under the 10th Five Year Plan 100 per cent assistance has been provided to the States under the National Horticulture Mission. Now despite the 10th Plan coming to an end assessment of its achievement has not been made. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Central Government will explore the market all over the world for the fruits produced under the National Horticulture Mission and they will consider to promote their exports that the people could get remunerative prices?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, the National Horticulture Mission was launched in May, 2005. Now one year and three months have elapsed since it was launched. We have released funds to State Governments under this Mission. Now we have asked the State Governments that they should start the work of horticulture by releasing funds to the farmers. But even the work of sapling has not been completed so far. So, I think it is wrong to presume that Plants will bear fruits soon. One thing more is that each of the States is giving better response of this scheme. It seems that it will take at least four-five years for getting the results?

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply that the minor irrigation project was launched in 2005-06. The objective of this project is very good that irrigation facilities be available

to the farmers. Cost of the Minor Irrigation Project is shared by both the Governments i.e. the Centre and the State Government in the ratio of 80 and 20 respectively. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Central Government will also make 100 percent funding to the State Governments for the Minor Irrigation Projects like the National Horticulture Mission?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, before this question one more question has been raised that today the Ministry has various schemes. In some schemes 50 percent subsidy is given, while in some schemes 80 percent is given and in some schemes 40 percent subsidy is given. In this regard a uniform policy needs to be formulated. So, we will consider how to formulate a uniform policy and take steps accordingly.

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, animal husbandry is an integral part of Ministry of Agriculture. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you, whether there is any Centrally-sponsored scheme in the area of animal husbandry which is being pursued and which is very specifically related to improvement in our indigenous breeds of cattle and buffaloes, such as *murrah* buffalo from Haryana and cow breeds from Haryana.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I will require a separate notice for this question as it is related to a separate item. But I will be happy to inform the hon. Member that I have received one proposal from the Government of Haryana to set up a Centre for Development of Murrah Breed in Haryana, and Government of India is seriously thinking on that proposal.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: The implementation of Mission for Horticulture Development in the North-Eastern and other hilly States is going very slow. I want to know from the hon. Minister what mechanism has been developed to effectively implement this scheme. I also want to know from the hon. Minister about the declaration of the Government to launch the National Bamboo Mission. Last year, in his message to the nation, hon. *Rashtrapati* had announced that there would be a National Bamboo Mission. Also, there is a proposal of NEC to have a separate Regional Bamboo Mission for the North-East region. I want to know from the hon. Minister what has actually happened to this declaration of the Government for effectively launching the National Bamboo Mission. So far, for two years, it is languishing in various steps. What is the reason for delay? When will the Government actually implement it?

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Recently, the Government has given approval to this proposal for National Bamboo Mission. There are certain suggestions. This particular subject was handled by two or three Ministries. The Department of Science and Technology was handling up to a certain level. The Department of Forest was also doing. The Ministry of Agriculture was also doing. So, we are trying to bring all these works and schemes under the umbrella of one Ministry. I am happy to inform that we will be able to take a final view within, I think, 30 to 40 days. We will start implementation from this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. I hope I have pronounced your name correctly.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, Sir. Thank you.

While many of these schemes proposed by the Ministry are very worthy, they never get down to the areas which need them because there are no messengers, there are no teachers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras have no information and no teaching abilities in two areas. One of the biggest areas of potential export is organic good. There is absolutely no teaching in the organic food area, how farmers can learn these methods. The second area is of traditional grain for instance millets, which receive no support whatsoever from the Government. Could the Minister please tell me what is being done in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to teach or to first teach the officers so that they can teach the farmers in the areas of organic food and traditional grains?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is a separate scheme for organic food in Krishi Vigyan Kendras. It was the desire of the Government to set up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each and every district of the country. In the last two years, practically we have succeeded to cover more than 300 districts. I think, there are hardly 11 districts which remain and these 11 districts are new districts. That is why, Krishi Vigyan Kendras have not been set up there. But in all these districts, the Government of India has provided substantial money and also sanctioned staff. It is the responsibility of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to look after and guide the farming community of that district, provide them information regarding soil testing systems, provide information regarding new seeds and provide information regarding various types of diseases and to organise farmer *melas*. So, these types of activities are being done by them in many of the districts.

There are certain districts from where I am getting complaints that no proper work has been done. Recently, I had called a Conference of Krishi Vigyan Kendras at national level. We have given certain guidelines and we have deputed small teams to visit Krishi Vigyan Kendras so that they may take their assistance. With regard to Krishi Vigyan Kendras who are not ready to take correction action we will take some different action.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you, Sir. Major horticulture produces for certain States are indicated in part A of the Annexure II of the reply to Question No. 285. However, there are no figures shown in respect of the State of West Bengal. We all know that substantial quantities of produces like potato, mango, banana, pineapple, papaya, jackfruit, guava, ginger, chillies, etc. are raised regularly in the State of West Bengal every year. I want to know from the hon. Minister about this apparent anomaly.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am fully aware of all that exactly happened in this particular year in West Bengal. In fact, West Bengal is one of the States that has taken a lot of interest to export of mangoes and potatoes from last year, and the Government of India also supported their projects. This is one of the States, which can provide substantial horticulture products to South East Asia, and we would like to execute this scheme in many of its districts from that angle. I will collect whatever information is insufficient, and pass on the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Out of the seven Centrally Sponsored Schemes, one of the

major schemes is Micro Irrigation. It is also stated that it has been approved very recently. But, from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, three years have already passed for the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA) as shown in Annexure VI. Further, according to the statement—which has been placed before this House—hardly 50 per cent of the targeted area has been achieved in these three years, and we are in the fourth year. Will the Minister apprise us with the reasons for not achieving the target beyond 50 per cent?

As regards the River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), the major areas being developed are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, etc. Why have other flood-prone States like Orissa and Andhra Pradesh not achieved the target? Why have States like Orissa, West Bengal and Maharashtra achieved 'nil' in the Watershed Development Project in the year 2004-2005?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Rainfed Area Development is a very important programme. This programme was implemented through many Ministries, but there was no proper coordination. The Agriculture Ministry got to implement certain programmes; Ministry of Environment and Forests is also implementing this programme; the Planning Commission is also implementing this programme; the Water Resources Ministry is also implementing this programme; and the Rural Development Ministry is also implementing this programme.

Now, we have discussed this particular problem. The hon. Prime Minister has recently announced that there will be a separate authority, and the entire programme will be under one umbrella, that is, under the Rainfed Authority. I believe that last week only the Union Cabinet has taken a decision to give full approval to the Rainfed Authority, and all schemes will be consolidated under this Authority. All the problems, which we have seen in the last couple of years, would be definitely corrected.

As regards the second issue raised by the hon. Member, in fact, I myself was surprised when I saw the details about the River Valley Development Programmes. I am saying this because the States that have to be taken up, especially, for floods, etc. are really States like Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. These types of States have to be given topmost priority, but the priority is given to States like Rajasthan, etc. This is also news to me that Rajasthan is facing floods! Anyhow, we are taking corrective action. We will

see that the States that are really facing this problem get monetary support, and we will concentrate on these States.

[Translation]

SH. SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to agricultural planning and several Members have raised their points also about National Horticulture Mission. The best guava of India is produced in Allahabad and you have also tasted the same.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is very good, and I can certify it. But this year you have forgotten about it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are contemplating to provide any special package under the National Horticulture Mission in order to produce the best quality of guava.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, now-a-days the term 'Package' has become very popular. There is a scheme under which every State can produce better fruit and guava has been covered under the said scheme. There are many States which provide fruits for all over the country.

(English)

There are certain fruits which are available in certain areas. For instance, in Bihar, in the constituency of hon. Member Shri George Fernandes, Muzaffarpur, you will get the best quality of a particular fruit, that is, litchi. That type of quality is not available in other areas.

There are some good things from your side also.

Whenever we select the fruits, we have to see their market potential also. In case of certain fruits, there is a limited market potential. Therefore, we have not given any thrust to those fruits whose market potential is very limited.

MR. SPEAKER: In case of Guava, I am sure, the Leader of the House will agree with me, Baramati is very famous.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Question 286, Sh. Rakesh Singh—
Absent

Question 287, Sh. Chandrabhan Singh—Absent

Question 288, Sh. Haneraj G. Ahir—Absent

Question 289, Sh. G. Karunakara Reddy—Absent

Question 290, Sh. Subhash Maharia

**Separate Grants on same Component In
Agriculture Sector**

*290 SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate grants are provided by the
Government on the same component for various Centrally
sponsored schemes in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to restore
the limit of grant to 50 per cent for Macro-Management
Action Plan as before; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.
Differential in grants/subsidy is largely on account of the
fact that Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been started
at different periods of time, for fulfilling specific objectives
under crop and area specific programmes.

(b) and (c) The pattern of subsidy as applicable since
inception of Macro Management Scheme has been 25%.
Hence, restoring subsidy at 50% may not be possible.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under
National Agriculture Conference for the Kharif year 2005-
06, the ceiling of grant is 50% under ISOPAM and intense
cotton programme under the center sponsored schemes,
while the ceiling of grant for micro farming is 25 percent.
I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether there is
any proposal to grant 50% subsidy for plant protection
equipment agricultural apparatus, IPM demonstration water
management activities etc. related to micro management
farming?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have furnished the
information in the reply of question asked earlier. There
are a number of schemes under which subsidy is provided
as per their nature. In a scheme 50% subsidy is provided,
40% subsidy is provided for the same work under the
second scheme and 20% to 25% subsidy is provided for
the same work under the third scheme. Therefore, we
are planning for providing uniform subsidy. Today, the
problem raised by the hon'ble Member will be solved by
uniform subsidy only.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the
farmers of the country are eagerly waiting for such grants.
I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time
by which decision for granting universal subsidy is likely
to be taken? please inform the maximum time limit for it.
It will convey a good message to the farmers of the
country.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is difficult to give a
definite time-frame. But there is no need to delay it further
and there is a need to decide it at the earliest. I accept
this notice.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: As the hon.
Minister is aware, for micro irrigation systems, like sprinkler
and hi-tech systems, earlier, 75 per cent subsidy was
given to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and
women. Now, there is a uniform 50 per cent subsidy. By
encouraging women, sprinkler irrigation, and the area
under water management can be expanded. Is there any
proposal to increase the subsidy level?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are certain schemes
where the farmers and persons belonging to the weaker
sections, like the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled
Tribes, get a different types of subsidy, and that will
continue.

About drip irrigation, one Committee was appointed
under the Chairmanship of former Chief Minister of Andhra
Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu. That Committee
submitted its report to the Government, and the
Government has given a serious thought to it. The
Government has given a serious thought. On the basis
of a recommendation of the Chandrababu Committee we
have introduced a new scheme from the last year and
that is the Micro Irrigation Scheme. In that particular
scheme, essentially weightage has been given to sprinkler

irrigation and drip irrigation. We have provided about Rs. 400 crore for this year. But we have given priority that this particular type of system has to be essentially used in horticulture area. We would like to expand the scheme. But this is the last year of the Plan. In the next year, the new Plan will be there. Due weightage will be definitely given for implementation of this scheme. Enough monetary provision will also be requested from the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Committee on Ship Breaking Yards

*282. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed the Government to constitute a Committee of technical experts to ascertain the extent to which the infrastructure as existing at the ship breaking yards adequate;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since been constituted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d): As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 17th February, 2006 in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 657 of 1995 on Management of Hazardous Wastes, a Committee of Technical Experts has been constituted in the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests vide its order dated 24th March, 2006. The Committee is headed by the Union Secretary (Environment & Forests) and eleven other technical experts, including some retired naval officers. The terms of reference of the Committee include finding out whether the infrastructure as existing presently at the Alang ship breaking yard is adequate and if not, to indicate the deficiencies and suggest remedial measures to upgrade the infrastructural facilities.

[Translation]

Use of G.M. Seeds

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

(a) whether the Indo-American Agricultural Agreement is being used as an excuse to force the usage of gene-modified seeds or food products on the farmers in the name of bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider formulating a policy to deal with the basic problems of low productivity as a result thereof; 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): No, Sir. The Indo-US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI) has a focus on education, food processing, biotechnology and water management. Under the AKI, it is not contemplated to force the usage of gene-modified (GM) seeds or products thereof on farmers.

(c) and (d): No decline in productivity is foreseen as a result of the adoption of G.M. seeds. The environmental release of all GM seeds/ varieties including transgenics of crops is done after thorough testing under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986, for which the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is the nodal Ministry

The National Agricultural Policy is in vogue. It aims at raising production and productivity through development of new crop varieties with higher nutritional value including adoption of biotechnology while addressing bio-safety concerns.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is already implementing a number of schemes to raise agricultural productivity and production such as Integrated Cereals Development Programme, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize, several crop-based All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Projects etc. National Horticulture Mission has also been launched during 2005-06 to promote horticulture in the country.

Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

*287. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beedi workers are aware of the beneficial schemes being run by the Union Government;

(b) if not, the measures taken by the Government to create awareness among the beedi workers about such beneficial schemes;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time-frame for payment of claims under the welfare schemes for labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is making necessary efforts to generate awareness among the beedi workers by organizing the campaigns for awareness generation and health check up from time to time at places where there is concentration of such workers. The Labour Welfare Organization in coordination with the offices of Central Board of Workers Education of the Ministry of labour & Employment launches such campaigns to make the beedi workers aware of the welfare schemes. Booklets/pamphlets containing details of such schemes are distributed during these campaigns. Wide publicity of these schemes is also made through newspapers and on All India Radio (AIR) network. 200 dispensaries and several hospitals being run for beedi workers all over the country also display in vernacular the details including salient features of various welfare schemes for beedi workers.

(c) and (d) It is the endeavor of the Government to settle the claims expeditiously on receipt of complete proposals from the beneficiaries.

Voluntary Organizations in Agriculture

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

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the Agriculture Extension Scheme being run through the voluntary organizations;

(b) whether the Government is coming out with any other scheme for orientation and guidance in the agriculture sector through the voluntary organizations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time-limit fixed by the Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c): The Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Extension through Voluntary Organizations (AEVO)" of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) was under implementation till March, 2005. Under the scheme, the DAC was providing financial assistance to selected Voluntary Organizations on the basis of their annual proposals for undertaking extension activities, such as demonstrations, information dissemination, training, exposure visit.

The AEVO scheme has since 2005-06 been subsumed under a much larger Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model. A total of 252 districts across all States/UTs are to be covered under the new scheme during the X Plan. The scheme is currently under implementation.

The Extension Reforms Scheme provides significantly increased opportunities for involvement of voluntary organizations in implementation of extension activities. It is mandated under this Scheme that minimum 10% of the allocation on recurring activities, such as demonstrations, training, exposure visit, information dissemination, organizing farmers' groups, a district level is to be utilized through the non-governmental sector, which includes Voluntary Organizations. The decision concerning selection of implementing agency for different extension activities is taken by the ATMA Governing Board, which is a multi-stakeholder body at the district level.

[English]

New Emission Norms

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

(a) whether the Government is working out any new emission norms in the country particularly in the metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the new emission norms would be implemented, particularly in the metros?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to obtain a holistic view on the issues of automobile technologies, corresponding fuel and its impact on environment etc. The recommendation of this Committee on Auto Fuel Policy provides a road map for emission norms for control of automobile pollution in different parts of the country. The time-frame for introduction of new emission norms for automobiles is as following:

- Bharat Stage II (BS-II) equivalent emission norms in the entire country from 1st April, 2005;
- BS-III equivalent emission norms in respect of four wheeled vehicles in the 11 cities of Delhi/ National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur and Agra from 1st April, 2005;
- Introduction of the BS-III emission norms in the entire country from 1st April, 2010;
- Introduction of the BS-VI emission norms in 11 cities referred above from 1st April, 2010.

The above referred metro cities have been brought under a separate schedule for quicker adoption of new emission norms. The schedule for introduction of BS-III emission norms in the entire country and the BS-IV emission norms in 11 cities as mentioned above is subject to review in 2006.

[Translation]

Study on Availability of Water

291. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study assessment on the availability of water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a report entitled "Reassessment of Water Resources Potential of India" has been prepared by Central Water Commission. As per the report, the average annual water availability in the country is estimated to be of the order of 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The river basin-wise annual water availability is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The assessment in respect of availability of water made has been reviewed by a Sub-Committee constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources in the year 2000 and the Sub-Committee has endorsed the earlier assessment made by Central Water Commission.

Statement

River Basin-wise Average Annual Water Availability

Sl.No.	River Basin	Average Annual Water Availability
1	2	3
1.	Indus	73.31
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak	
	a. Ganga sub-basin	525.02
	b. Brahmaputra & Barak sub-basin	585.60
3.	Godavari	110.54
4.	Krishna	78.12
5.	Cauvery	21.36
6.	Pennar	6.32
7.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52
8.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46
9.	Mahanadi	66.88
10.	Brahmani and Baitarni	28.48
11.	Subamrekha	12.37
12.	Sabarnati	3.81
13.	Mahi	11.02

1	2	3
14.	West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.10
15.	Narmada	45.64
16.	Tapi	14.88
17.	West Flowing River from Tapi to Tadri	87.41
18.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53
19.	Ara of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert	Negl.
20.	Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	31.00
Total (National)		1869.37

[English]

Supply of Coarse Grains

*292. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised its proposal for reduction in allocation of wheat for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the proposal of supply of coarse grains in lieu of wheat has also been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the Central issue price fixed for BPL and AAY families;

(e) whether the wheat allocation for other food based schemes is also proposed to be reduced; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b): Keeping in view the reduced stocks of wheat in the central

Pool, the allocation of wheat to States for Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category has been rationalised to each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the existing allocation, whichever is lower. However, the overall allocation of foodgrains has remained unchanged for BPL/AAY households, as the reduced wheat allocation has been made up by a corresponding increase in rice allocation.

(c) and (d) To encourage the consumption of coarsegrains under the Public Distribution System, a quantity of 2.5 lakh MT of coarse grains has been allotted to various States from December 2005, till date, as per the demand projected by them. Government is making available coarsegrains at the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of 50% of the economic cost in the case of BPL families and at Rs. 200 per quintal in the case of AAY families.

(e) and (f) The Department of Food and Public Distribution has proposed that the allocation of foodgrains under SGRY be fixed on the basis of a norm of 3 kg per manday, against the existing norm of 5 kg per manday, and the balance compensated to the workers as additional cash component. No final decision, however, has been taken on this proposal.

Allotment of Forest Land

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

(a) the criteria laid down for allotment of forest land to the private parties for its development;

(b) the forest land given to the private parties in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether revenue is collected from such land allottees; and

(d) if so, the revenue thus collected during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines for participation of private sector through involvement of Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and Forest Department for afforestation/rehabilitation of degraded forest land with a view to increasing forest

cover in the country. According to these guidelines, the State/ Union Territory Government may enter into a tripartite agreement through the Forest Department with the industrial house and an acceptable NGO for such purpose. The essential elements of such arrangement are as follows:

- (i) The industrial house must commit to bear the cost of the Afforestation scheme, and the NGO must commit to faithfully implement the scheme under the supervision and directions of the forest Department.
- (ii) The industrial house as well as the NGO shall not claim any right whatsoever over the forest land or produce therefrom.
- (iii) The rights of the local people, if any, over the forest land shall not be affected.
- (iv) The agreement shall be for a period of five to seven years.
- (v) Plantation of naturally occurring species and local native species should be given priority.
- (vi) Forest land having less than forty percent forest cover, and which cannot be regenerated through natural regeneration, should be taken up under the scheme.

(b) to (d) Details of forest land involved and revenue collected, if any, under such arrangement are maintained at the State/Union Territory level, as according to the guidelines referred to in part (a), prior permission of the Central Government is not required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for such arrangement.

[Translation]

Procurement of Poor Quality of Foodgrains

*294. DR. RAJESH MISHRA
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

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

(a) the status report of the raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case of irregularities committed by the staff of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in procurement of poor quality of wheat and rice during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the time by which the cases are likely to be disposed of finally?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has not conducted any search during last three years i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005 against officers/officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) on the allegation of procurement of poor quality of wheat and rice. However, during the current year, CBI conducted searches in 3 cases in which 3 First Information Reports were registered on 07.01.2006 against 83 officers/officials including the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Punjab region, besides 330 private rice millers, on the allegation that during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS 2004-05), the FCI staff in Punjab region in criminal conspiracy with private rice millers, had accepted sub-standard rice consignments and released payments as prescribed for Grade-A rice and thereby caused huge financial loss to FCI.

(b) Investigation in all the above three cases are in progress and is being expedited by the CBI but a definite time frame cannot be given at this stage for completion of the same.

Use of Fly Ash

*295. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of fly ash is mandatory for making bricks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations for amending this provision of the relevant law;

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

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of notification SO 763 (E) dated 14.09.1999 (amended vide SO 979 (E) dated 27.8.2003) no person within a radius of one hundred kilometre from coal or lignite based

thermal power plants can manufacture clay bricks for use in construction activities without mixing at least 25 per cent of fly ash subject to its availability.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) and (e) The notification on fly ash was issued with the focus on conservation of soil which is essential for agriculture production and hence food security, and, is used up in the manufacture of bricks. The notification *inter alia* provides for prevention of the dumping and disposal of fly ash by coal or lignite thermal power stations. The notification enables availability of alternate raw material namely fly ash free of cost for traditional brick manufacturing. The notification was issued only after due consultations with all including All India Brick and Tiles Manufacturer's Federation (AIBMF) and is being implemented by many brick kiln owners. This has been brought to the attention of all those concerned including AIBMF.

Protection of Birds

*296. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has been implementing any project for protection of birds;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith the budget allocation for the purpose and the time since it is being implemented along with the name of the implementing agencies;

(c) whether an assessment of performance of the said project has been undertaken recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government is not implementing any dedicated project for the protection of birds. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', assistance is provided to the State Governments for the protection and development of different bird sanctuaries.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Public Sector Steel Companies

*297. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector steel plants are facing stiff competition from global steel companies:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to enable the Public Sector steel companies to face the competition?

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

(b) With the reduction in import duty, steel imports have increased, resulting in competition with the global steel companies. Also, with the proposed entry of international players like POSCO and Mittal Steel into India, competition would be fiercer, especially in light of state of the art technology available with such new entrants.

(c) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has formulated a Corporate Plan 2012 which envisages enhancing capacity and building competitiveness for maintaining leadership in the Indian Steel Market. Competitiveness, defined in terms of cost, quality and growth will be achieved by optimum usage of existing assets and the induction of new assets/technology. Competitiveness would also be achieved by proactive strategies for sourcing key raw materials. The plan envisages a growth in production to 22.5 MT of Hot Metal with an investment of about Rs. 37,000 Crores.

To bring down the cost of production, technological innovations like augmenting concast route, 100% Basic Oxygen Furnaces, introduction of auxiliary fuels usage, oxygen enrichment, increase in power generation through Joint Ventures etc. are planned to be introduced. Ten new finishing mills with state of art technology are planned to be installed.

SAIL has made extensive plans to improve the quality of products across the value chain and make value added

steel, which will help in improving marketability and financial performance. Substantial Investments are proposed in the areas of pre and post treatment of metal, on-line testing and quality control facilities, standardization/automation/process control & Information Technology.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), another public sector undertaking is implementing an ambitious expansion programme to increase its liquid steel capacity from 3MT to 6.3 MT, to augment its production capacity.

Fishing Harbours

*298. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fishing harbours functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken for development of these harbours; and

(c) the funds allocated / released / utilized for the purpose, during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) State-wise details of the fishing harbours functioning at present in the country are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, has been providing financial assistance to the coastal State Governments/Union Territories and Major Port Trusts for developing fishing harbours in their respective States/UTs. Funding assistance to the tune of 50% of project cost in case of minor fishing harbours is granted to coastal States. In case of UTs, Port Trusts and major harbour projects, the funding is cent percent. Assistance is also given under the scheme for modernization/expansion of existing fishing harbours.

(c) A statement II indicating State-wise details of central funds allocated and releases made during the last three financial years for the purpose of development of fishing harbours in the country is enclosed.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of the State	Commissioned and functioning fishing harbours
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam Kakinada Nizamapatnam Machilipatnam
2.	Gujarat	Veraval Mangrol Stage-I Mangrol Stage-II Porbandar Jakhau
3.	Kerala	Cochin Vizhinjam Stage-I Vizhinjam Stage-II Puthiappa Munambam Needdakara Chombal Mopla Bay Thangassery Baypore
4.	Karnataka	Karwar Stage-I Honnavar Tadri Mangalore Stage-I Malpe Stage-I Malpe Stage-II
5.	Maharashtra	Sassoon Dock New Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka) Mirkarwada (Ratnagiri)
6.	Orissa	Paradip Gopalpur Dhamra Stage-I Nuagarh (Astrang)
7.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Tuticorin Mallipatnam Pazhayar Chinnamuttom

1	2	3
8.	West Bengal	Frasergunj Digha Stage-I Digha Stage-II Sultanpur (Diamond Harbour)

1	2	3
9.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
10.	Andaman and Nicobar	Pheonix Bay

Statement II

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total cost of the Projects	Central share	Central releases made during the past three financial years		
				2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Gujarat	3824.04	1912.02	—	400.00	200.00
2.	Karnataka	907.00	453.50	107.50	—	209.44
3.	Kerala	10182.15	5091.075	150.00	209.485	375.00
4.	Pondicherry	5666.50	5666.50	—	—	400.00
5.	Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam Port Trust)	344.95	344.95	19.95 (Last instalment)	—	—
6.	West Bengal	6356.96	3178.48	—	316.34	625.00
7.	Orissa	1080.00	540.00	100.00	—	—
Total		28361.60	17186.525	377.45	925.825	1809.44

Port Based Steel Plants

*299. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to State:

(a) whether the proposal to set up some port-based steel plants in the country are under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of Memorandum of Understanding signed during Tenth Plan between the Government (both Union and State) and the private sector, State-wise; and

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

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

(a) to (c) After the commissioning of Vizag Steel Plant under Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., the Government do not propose to set up any port based steel plant in the country. However, Government of Orissa has signed 3 (three) Memoranda of Understanding with private sector steel plants for setting up major port based steel plants. The progress made in each case is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the company & location	Progress
1.	M/s Tata Steel Ltd., Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Duburi, Jajpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology has been finalized and technical tie-up with Nippon Steel has been entered into. • 2000 acres of land has been acquired by the company. • Water allocation, Pollution clearance & Rail traffic clearance have been obtained. • Investment of Rs. 150 crores has already been made. • Mining lease application for iron ore mines has been submitted. Pre-feasibility & Topographic surveys and Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) completed.
2.	M/s Hy-Grade Pellets Ltd. (ESSAR Group), Paradeep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Hundred acres of land has been purchased from farmers/land holders. • The work on the bought land including fencing, soil survey has been done. • Techno Economic Feasibility Reports for the Project have been drawn up. • Mining Applications have been filed for the iron ore requirement. • Essar Group has already established a full fledged office in Bhubneswar.
3.	M/s POSCO India Project (P) Ltd., Paradeep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSCO-India Company has been incorporated in August 2005. • Newly incorporated company has opened head office at Bhubneswar in August 2005. • Total capital paid up by September 2005 is USD 51.3 million. • The company has opened construction office in Paradeep in January 2006. • 1,135 acres has been sanctioned to the company. • The company has prepared R & R package on the basis of Orissa R & R Policy, 2006. • The company had decided to adopt FINEX technology for production process. • The company has completed feasibility study and master engineering plan for 12 million tonnes steel capacity. • The company has applied for advanced Prospective Licence for iron ore mining.

Crime Serials on TV Channels

*300. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether TV channels are showing crime related serials;

(b) if so, whether these serials are so dramatised that they are leaving bad impact on the mind of people of the country specially youth and children;

(c) if so, whether any assessment/study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to contain these serials; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

is aware of the fact that some of the TV channels are showing crime related serials.

(b) to (d) No analysis has been made by the Government about the impact on society of crime serials telecast by TV channels.

(e) and (f) In so far as Doordarshan is concerned Prasar Bharati has informed that it takes care to ensure that serials telecast on its channels are wholesome and in conformity with societal norms and Indian cultural traditions. However, all programmes and advertisements of all TV channels transmitted/ retransmitted through the cable network are required to strictly adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Any violation of these Codes attracts action against them under the Cable Act. The Government has also set up an Inter-ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programme Code and Advertising Code. This Committee, on receipt of complaints or suo-motu takes action against the TV channels which are violating the said Codes.

[Translation]

Water Project of Jharkhand

2159. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding water projects has been received from the Government of Jharkhand by the Union Government; and

(b) 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) and (b) Four Water Resources Schemes namely, Kanhar Reservoir Project, North Koel Reservoir, Upper Sakri Reservoir and Burhai Reservoir Project have been received in Central Water Commission for appraisal from the Government of Jharkhand. The Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources has accepted another four major Water Resources Schemes, namely, Punasi Reservoir, Submarekha (Multipurpose) Project, Ajoy Barrage (Siktia Barrage) and Konar Irrigation

Project subject to certain observations. Also, Government of Jharkhand has submitted a revised estimate of the scheme, namely, Auranga Reservoir Project, which was earlier cleared by Planning Commission in September 1983 for Rs. 125.40 crore, for appraisal. The time taken for the investment clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government arranges satisfactory compliance to the observations of Central Appraising Agencies.

[English]

Rehabilitation on Dry Land

2160. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is making any efforts to step up and to focus rehabilitation activities in dry land areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the dry land farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ICAR is emphasizing upon creation of permanent assets of drought mitigation in the dry land areas through renovation of old tanks / village ponds for storage of rain water and its recycling, development of open grazing lands, creation of seed banks and fodder banks, distribution of improved planting material of fruits and perennial multi purpose trees, use of drought resistant and short duration crop varieties, contingent planning and adoption of integrated farming systems to guarantee food and nutritional security and enhance livelihood generation for the disadvantaged sections of the dry land areas.

(c) The Council is advocating efficient crop planning including agroforestry and biofuel crops, use of short duration drought resistant varieties, intercropping, rain water harvesting for supplementary irrigations, participatory integrated watershed management, micro irrigation, land management including resource conservation technologies (RCTs), integrated nutrient management and short medium range weather forecasting for optimizing crop productivity

of dryland/rainfed regions. Besides, special efforts are being initiated under National Agricultural Innovation project (NAIP) to develop location specific rainfed integrated farming system modules for reducing the risk and increasing the profitability of dryland agriculture in the form of rural livelihoods and value addition chains. A number of developmental schemes like National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), River Valley Project (RVP), Flood Prone River Project (FPR), Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Swaranajyanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY), etc. are also in operation to create livelihood generation in rainfed dryland areas.

FDI in Steel Industry

2161. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to State:

(a) the details of the FDI in steel industry in the country during the last two years and the proposed investment in the next two years;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposals from some private sector steel companies for investment in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any requests from some States also for setting up of such steel plants in their respective States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) As per available information, the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved by Government in iron and steel sector during April 2004 to March 2006 are enclosed statement. As per the Government's Policy, FDI upto 100% is permitted in the steel sector under the automatic route. Further, mineral rich States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with private sector steel companies for setting up steel plants in their respective States, the details of which are as under:—

S. No	State	No. of MoUs signed	Capacity envisaged (mtpa)	Investment envisaged (in Rs. Crores)
1.	Orissa	43	58.04	1,37,156.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	42	19.32	43,129.38
3.	Jharkhand	31	68.67	177,059.15
Total		116	146.03	3,57,344.53

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

Detailed Break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Approved by Government During April 2004 to March 2006

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Name of the collaborator	foreign equity (Rs. Crore)	%of foreign equity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bluescope Steel Building Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Bluescope Steel Asia Holdings P. Ltd., Australia	8.870	99.97

1	2	3	4	5
2.	EBG India Private Limited	Thyssenkrupp Electrical Steel EBG GMBH (TKES), Germany	25.40	100.00
3.	Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited	Investar Ltd. Super Vision Ltd. Precisetec Ltd. Terecota Consultancy Ser Magetec Ltd. Global Scal Investment, Mauritius	6.14	33.05
4.	Facor Alloys Limited	Investar Ltd., Mauritius	7.52	38.35
5.	Visa Industries Limited, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	Visa Comtrade A.G., Switzerland	44.30	47.41
6.	Visa Industries Limited, Bhubneswar, Orissa	Visa Comtrade A.G., Switzerland	45.32	74.00
7.	Visa Industries Limited, Bhubneswar, orissa	Visa Comtrade A.G., Switzerland	35.00	31.82
8.	Monnet Ispat Ltd.	Citicrop Intl. Finance Corporation, U.S.A.	3.53	19.56
9.	Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd.	Litecaktiengesellschaft (Litec AG), Vanuatu	0.35	22.44
10.	Reyna Steels Ltd.	Euro-Fin S.R.L., Italy	0.50	50.00
11.	Wel Spun Trading Limited	Eupec Pipecoatings, GmbH, Germany	6.00	4.24
12.	Bay-Forge Ltd.	M/s. Fomas Spa, Italy	16.00	98.45

Fund for Wetland Conservation

2162. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The financial assistane released by the Union Government for conservation of wetland to various States during last three years and current year, Year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the details of utilisation of funds during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance released by the Union Government for conservation of wetlands to various States during the last three years and current year, year-wise and State-wise, and their utilization during the said period State-wise are given in th Statement enclosed.

Statement*State-wise and year-wise release of funds during last three years and Current Financial Year (CFY)*

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto 10.8.06) (CFY)	Total	Utilization
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Assam	97.58	108.80	0	27.19	233.57	206.38
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Gujarat	0	40.00	65.75	0	105.75	70.75
5.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
6..	Himachal Pradesh	56.90	58.06	0	20.18	135.14	114.96
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	56.32	37.51	0	0	93.83	93.83
8.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Karnataka	0	18.275	64.475	24.50	107.25	49.575
10.	Kerala	84.73	31.12	0	0	115.85	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	11.00	0	11.00	0
12.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Manipur	50.00	36.26	0	0	86.26	86.26
14.	Mizoram	0	7.50	0	7.42	14.92	7.50
15.	Orissa	112.15	140.45	69.50	54.95	377.05	322.10
16.	Punjab	0	0	0	48.79	48.79	0
17.	Rajasthan	85.98	56.76	0	61.45	204.19	142.74
18.	Tamil Nadu	22.16	86.72	44.93	23.25	177.06	153.81
19.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	23.67	0	23.67	0
21.	Uttaranchal	0	10.155	32.245	0	42.40	0
22.	West Bengal	52.70	70.95	169.45	45.40	338.50	187.90
Total		618.52	702.56	481.02	313.13	2115.23	1435.805

Doordarshan coverage in Border areas

2163. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether inhabitants of border region of Laddakh have been denied viewing of Doordarshan Channels;

(b) if so, whether the Chinese Government on Indo-Tibet border has started telecasting their programmes to launch a propoganda campaign;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs) or make alternative arrangements so that people in Laddakh have access to veiw Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no report about availability of terrestrial signals of Chinese TV in Laddakh region. However, it is reported that some cable operators in the region are distributing Chinese TV programmes through their cable networks.

(c) and (d) Multi channel TV coverage has been provided in the entire country (except A & N Islands through Doordarshan's Ku-band (free to air DTH) service. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country, including Laddakh region of J&K, with the help of a small sized dish receive units. Hence new transmitters are now not contemplated. Thirty three TV transmitters (HPT-1, LPTs-2, VLPTs-30) are presently functioning in Laddakh region.

**Development of Horticulture in
North Eastern States**

2164. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) a details of the funds provided to North Eastern States for development of horticulture during the last three years and the currenc financial year; and

(b) the steps taken to promote horticulture products, its exports and improve infrastructure in North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal" to address various issues related to development of horticulture in North Eastern States in a Mission mode approach. Under the Mission, assistance is being provided for expansion of area under different horticulture crops besides providing assistance for creation of infrastructure facilities for production of quality planting material, improving the production and productivity, post harvest management marketing including export, processing and value addition of various horticultural produce. In addition, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce has identified four Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) in North Eastern States for promotion of export of horticultural produces. Two AEZs for Flowers & Cherry pepper and Ginger in Sikkim; one for organic pineapple in Tripura and one for Ginger in Assam. Details of infrastructure facilities created and funds provided for North Eastern States during last three years and current financial year are given in the statement-I and II respectively,

Statement I

Infrastructure facilities created under Technology Mission on Horticulture in North Eastern states

	NE
1	2
I. Production of Quality Planting Material	
1. Establishment of Nurseries (Nos.)	355
II. Creation of Water resources	
1. Community Tanks (Nos.)	3637
2. Tube Wells (Nos.)	2128
3. Drip irrigation (ha)	3284
4. Mulching (ha)	1493
III. Facilities for Improved Management practices	
A Protected Cultivation	
1. Green houses (500 Sq.M) (No.)	1611

1	2	1	2		
2.	Green houses (100 Sq.M) (No.)	7453	2.	Earthworm units (Nos.)	4056
3.	Model Floriculture Centres (No.)	11	D	Infrastructure for training	
B	IPM/NM		1.	Gardener training centers (No.)	51
1.	IPM (ha)	2766	2.	Supervisory training centers (No.)	21
2.	Disease forecasting units (No.)	19	E	Market Infrastructure	
3.	Biological labs (No.)	2	1.	Whole Sale Markets	29
4.	Leaf analysis labs (No.)	10	2.	Rural Primary Markets	243
5.	Plant health Clinics (No.)	11	3.	Apri Mandies	43
C	Organic farming		4.	State Grading Laboratories	16
1.	Organic farming (ha)	5559	F	Infrastructure for Processing	
			1.	Processing Units	9

Statement II**A. Funds provided under Technology Mission of Horticulture in North Eastern States**

(Rs. in lakhs)				
Mini Mission/Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as on date)
Mini Mission-I	100.00	700.00	—	—
Mini Mission-II				
1. Arunachal Pradesh	1220.00	1645.55	1300.00	700.00
2. Assam	1400.00	871.00	1300.00	700.00
3. Manipur	638.00	1286.25	1500.00	255.00
4. Meghalaya	850.00	1395.99	1700.00	1000.00
5. Mizoram	1089.00	1801.10	1800.00	1000.00
6. Nagaland	1256.00	1467.30	1700.00	300.00
7. Sikkim	1000.00	1150.00	1800.00	900.00
8. Tripura	900.00	1111.30	1500.00	700.00
9. Technical Support / SFAC Service charges & other Project based proposals	101.28	89.29	189.21	28.50
Mini Mission-III	700.00	1480.49	500.00	400.00
Grand Total	9239.00	12952.00	13269.00	598350*

*as against allocation of Rs. 15000 lakhs for 2006-07.

B. Funds Provided to North East Region for development of horticulture through Export Development Fund, Ministry of Commerce

Year	Rs in Lakhs
2001-02	500.00
2002-03	500.00
2003-04	500.00
2004-05	1127.00
2005-06	530.00

Quality of Foodgrains Under AAY

2165. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding supply of sub-standard quality foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been received by the Government particularly from West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No Sir. The Government has not received any complaint particularly from West Bengal in the recent past regarding supply of inferior quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana. However, to ensure that only good quality foodgrains for PDS and Other Welfare Schemes are issued to State Governments/ UT Administrations, following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Governments and this Ministry pay surprise checks to the FPS, to the FPSs, to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of this Ministry designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

Production of Oilseeds

2166. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country;

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

(c) the special aid provided to Gujarat under centrally sponsored oilseeds production programme during the last three years; and

(d) the names of pulses, the production of which is likely to increase and the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during X Plan in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan,

Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for increasing production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/ liming / dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds and pulses.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

(c) The assistance provided to Gujarat under the Centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme during 2003-04 and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maizes (ISOPOM) during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as below:

Year	Assistance provided (Rs. in lakhs)
2003-04	732.00
2004-05	1883.00*
2005-06	1850.00*

(*Assistance includes for oilseeds, pulses, maize and oil palm).

(d) Arhar, Gram, Urd, Moong, Lentil etc. are the major pulse crops cultivated in the country. The total pulses production in the country has been 13.13 million tonnes and 13.11 million tonnes during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. It is targeted to produce 16.20 million tonnes of pulses during 2006-07 in the country. However, the production of pulse crops largely depends upon favourable weather conditions as these crops are mostly cultivated on marginal and submarginal lands under rainfed areas.

Brahmaputra Valley Authority

2167. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has come out with support for the plan to set up Brahmaputra Valley Authority;

(b) if so, the functions of the contemplated authority; and

(c) the extent of support expected from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister in his address during visit to Assam stated that the Government will consider establishing the Brahmaputra Valley Authority or the North East Water Resources Authority. Accordingly Ministry of Water Resources formulated a proposal for constitution of North East Water Resources Authority for establishment of an autonomous self contained entity. World Bank was not involved regarding this proposal. However, in the study on "Natural Resources, Water and Environment Nexus for Development and Growth in North East India" by Ministry of DONER in association with the World Bank, the findings of the study strongly support the plans outlined by India's prime minister to develop and new river basin management institution that would work across the entire Northeast and to which decision making powers would be devolved, with active participation by the States.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects of Chhattisgarh

2168. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has sent any proposal to the Union Government with regard to completion of irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the name of projects for which proposals have sent; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State Subject, the irrigation projects are planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their priorities. The completion of the ongoing irrigation project depends on the allocation of funds and the priority assigned to the project by the

State Governments. For completion of the major and medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion and beyond the resource capability of the State Governments, the Central Government launched the

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97. Under this Programme Assistance of Rs. 275.87 crore in the form of loan/grant has been provided to Chhattisgarh for early completion of following 7 projects.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Hasdeo Bango	Hasdeo Bango (Phase III)	Shivnath Diversion	Jonk Diversion	Kosarteda	Mahanadi Reservoir Project	Barnai

One project namely Shivnath Diversion has been completed with the assistance provided under AIBP.

Annual Film Festival of N.F.D.C.

2169. SHRI KULDEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Film Festival of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is not held regularly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of annual festivals held during the last three years, location-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the film festivals are held every year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The National Film Development Corporation does not conduct any Annual Film Festival.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Computerisation of Agriculture Mandies

2170. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop, strengthen and computerize the agriculture mandies in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has held talk with the States in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to implement this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" in the country with effect from 20.10.2004. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products. Under this Scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets which include for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets which include computerization of the mandis. The rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project, with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh for each project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas and to entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and their cooperatives, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% of the capital cost of the project with maximum ceiling of Rs. 60 lakh for each project. The project of State Agencies are eligible for 25% of the capital cost of the project and without credit linkage. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States that amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), wherever required, to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to permit setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a model law on agricultural marketing for guidance and adoption by the State for undertaking reforms in their laws dealing with Agricultural Marketing, wherever required, to provide for direct marketing, setting up of markets in private/cooperative sector and contract farming. Accordingly, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Daman & Diu, Lakshdweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have undertaken the requisite reforms and these have been notified for implementing the scheme.

(d) For effective implementation of the above scheme, this Ministry has taken the following steps:

- (i) An awareness programme is being conducted by Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NAIM), Jaipur in all the States/Union Territories, which have been notified for implementing the scheme.
- (ii) An Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between NAIM, Jaipur and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development Consultancy Services (NABCONS), a subsidiary of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for preparing the project reports of States for assistance under the scheme.

Adverse Effects of GM Crops

2171. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cattle have died due to consuming seeds, leaves, stems etc. of the Bt Cotton in various parts of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government had examined the adverse effects of the GM Crops on the human being and cattle before giving permission for their commercial cultivation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No report has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh about death of large number of cattle due to consumption of seeds, leaves, stems etc. of the Bt. Cotton. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported death of 132 sheep in Ippagudem and Atmakur villages of Warangal District after grazing in Bt. Cotton fields. Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken necessary curative steps by providing symptomatic and supportive treatment to control the mortality and to avoid economic losses to the farmers. In view of the suspicion, the sheep growers were advised not to graze their sheep in such fields.

(d) to (f) Bt. Cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India. The approval for commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton hybrids has been given by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests on the basis of environmental safety and food & feed safety assessments, including its impact on animal and human health. Further, studies conducted by National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow have not found any adverse effects of Bt. cotton seeds on animal health.

[English]

Targets for Producing of Fertilizers

2172. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for the production of Fertilizers during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the achievements made thereon so far;

(b) whether there is a wide gap between targets and achievements;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS, (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The targets and achievements for the production of fertilizers during the Tenth Five Year Plan are as follows:

Year	Target (in LMT)		Production (in LMT)		%age Achievement of target	
	N	P	N	P	N	P
2002-03	116.15	48.19	105.61	39.04	90.9	81.0
2003-04	111.81	46.40	109.36	38.00	97.8	81.9
2004-05	114.06	49.25	113.35	40.67	99.4	82.6
2005-06	118.11	46.63	113.54	42.21	96.1	90.5

The gap between targets and achievements are mainly on account of constrained availability of feedstock/rawmaterials/intermediates in the domestic and international markets.

(d) Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in the fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government announced policies for investment to be made in new and expansion projects of urea de-bottlenecking / modernization and revamp of existing urea units and conversion of existing non-gas based units to natural gas/liquefied natural gas (LNG). In order to augment indigenous availability of urea, IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, had setup a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman Oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT of urea will be off taken by the government of India.

Task Force on Flood and Erosion Control

2173. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the recommendations of the Task Force on flood and erosion control indicating total outlay, annual allocation and target set, State-wise;

(b) the specific programmes recommended for the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries;

(c) whether the restructuring of Brahmaputra Board and formation of regional water resource authority has been materialised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The implementation status of the recommendations of Task force for Flood Management/ Erosion Control is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Task Force recommended specific flood management schemes for river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries under Immediate, Short Term-I and Short Term-II category.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) Restructuring of Brahmaputra Board is linked with constitution of North East Water Resources Authority and time likely to be taken for materializing thereof will depend on consent of all the concerned States.

Statement

1. The jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage has been extended for speedy implementation of anti-erosion works. The allocation of funds has also been enhanced to take up works by FBP in its extended jurisdiction.
2. Four schemes of Bihar under immediate category at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.2 crore have been included in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes for implementation.

3. For funding the schemes under immediate and Short Term-I category, revised EFC Memo for Brahmaputra Valley States and Ganga Basin States have been recommended by Expenditure Finance Committee for sending to CCEA for approval.
4. Regarding creation of Sikkim & North Bengal River Management Board, the Planning Commission did not favour the proposal.
5. Regarding setting up of North East Water Resources Authority, matter has been taken up with concerned States. Government of Arunachal Pradesh has shown reservations towards constitution of such an authority.

[Translation]

Delay in Release of Foodgrains

2174. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the name of States and the quantum of foodgrains allocated to them as a special component of Gramin Rozgar Yojana for the victims of natural calamities like droughts floods during 2005-06;

(b) whether there was a delay in release of the said foodgrains; and

(c) 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) As reported by Ministry of Rural Development, the State-wise details of foodgrains authorized under Special Component of Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana during 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Details of Foodgrains Authorised Under Special Component of SGRY for Flood/Drought/Tsunami affected Areas

Sl.No.	State	2005-06
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	310000
3.	Assam	
4.	Bihar	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0
6.	Gujarat	
7.	Haryana	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	
9.	Jharkhand	
10.	Karnataka	72000
11.	Kerala	20000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	50000
13.	Maharashtra	0
14.	Meghalaya	
15.	Mizoram	
16.	Orissa	200000
17.	Rajasthan	850000
18.	Sikkim	
19.	Tamil Nadu	43968
20.	Uttar Pradesh	
21.	Uttaranchal	
22.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	7500
23.	Jammu and Kashmir	7000
24.	Pondicherry	1500
Total		1561968

*[English]***Green Way of Cremation**

2175. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought proposals from State Governments to promote the Mokshda Green Cremation System, a green and clean technology under its river cleaning programme;

(b) if so, the number of projects received and approved so far and their current status of implementation;

(c) the details of allocation/utilization of funds for this purpose during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(d) the steps proposed for extension of this technology in major towns for abating river/ air pollution and conservation of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have submitted proposals to set up improved wood crematoria based on Mokshda Green Cremation System (MGCS) under the National River Conservation Plan. With regard to Delhi, a proposal was submitted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to the Ministry. The Central Government has sanctioned a project for installation of six units in Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 71.02 lakhs under the Plan during the Financial Year 2005-06 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between Central and the State Government. As regards Uttar Pradesh, a project proposal for installing MGCS at Lucknow was received by the Ministry from the Lucknow Nagar Nigam (LNN). As the proposal was not prepared as per the National River Conservation Directorate guidelines, necessary clarifications on the project were sought from the Municipal Commissioner, LNN, after which a revised Project Proposal along with some information was received from the LNN. The LNN has been requested to send additional clarifications on the project proposal, which are awaited.

For provision of a Project Development Facility (PDF), a Medium Sized Project (MSP) to set up 80 units of MGCS in 11 major cities of the country has also been taken up with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on

70:30 cost sharing basis between the Ministry and UNDP-GEF.

Integrated Steel Plant

2176. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up integrated steel plants in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of said plants; and

(d) the sources from where the Government is going to raise funds for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d): There is no proposal to set up new integrated steel plants in West Bengal by the Government. However, SAIL has plans to increase the hot metal production from the current level of 0.7 MT to 2.5 MT at IISCO Steel Plant at Bumpur by setting up new Blast Furnace, steel melting shop, casting facilities etc. at an approximate cost of Rs. 9,500 crores. Another plan is also under finalization to increase hot metal production from the existing 1.95 MT to about 3.2 MT at Durgapur Steel Plant of SAIL. SAIL will primarily rely on internal resources to raise funds for these projects.

Violation of Water Tribunal Awards

2177. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether violation of certain awards of water tribunals in the country have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps propose to correct this tendency among the States;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute Cauvery River Authority on the lines of Bhakra Nangal River Valley Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh in May 2005 complained to the Central Government that construction of Babhali Barrage by Government of Maharashtra within the submergence area Sriram Sagar Project Reservoir is in violation of Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award. Besides, in the past, in a few water years, state of Tamil Nadu brought to the notice of Central Government the issue of non implementation of certain aspects of interim order of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) such as monthly and weekly quantum of inflows in Mettur reservoir of Tamil Nadu & arez irrigated from Cauvery water in Karnataka.

(c) The Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 was amended in 2002. As per amended Act now known as Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act 1956, the decision of a Tribunal after publication in official gazette has the same force as an order or the decree of the Supreme Court and becomes final and binding on parties to the dispute and is required to be given effect by them.

(d) and (e) Cauvery River Authority (CRA) was established for giving effect to the implementation of Interim Order. The interim order is operative till final report and decision of CWDT under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act. The report and decision of the CWDT under Section 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956, is reserved as per order of CWDT dated July 27, 2006. Therefore, there is no proposal to change the constitution and functions of the CRA.

Ban on Child Labour

2178. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government imposed a ban on employing children on the recommendation of Technical Advisory Committee on Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for imposing such ban after 70 days of its announcement; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for strict compliance of the said ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR

SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the Government has issued a notification, prohibiting the employment of children in the following two Occupations:

- (i) Employment of Children as domestic workers or servants;
- (ii) Employment of children in dhabas (road-side eateries) restaurants, hotels, motels, tea-shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centers.

(c) Under Section 4 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, three months notice is required to be given by the Government of its intention to add any occupation or process to the Schedule and thereupon the Schedule shall be deemed to have been amended accordingly.

(d) The State Governments are the appropriate Governments for the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. All the State Governments and other concerned have been addressed for strict compliance of the said ban.

Consumer Price Index Series

2179. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI P. MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to declare the Consumer Price Index Series from the base year 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the stake holders have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the manner in which the selection of compiling centres, families to be surveyed, the type of the market and the items to be included in the index basket were finalised for the compilation of new series; and

(f) the details of the authorities, member organizations etc. that constituted the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living which has approved the new series?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the approval of the Government, the Labour bureau has released on 9th March 2006, the New Series of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (base 2001=100) with effect from monthly index pertaining to January 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Selection of centers, families, markets and the items to be included in the index basket have been finalised keeping in mind the predominance of the employees working in seven industrial sectors, i.e. Factories, Mines, Plantations, Ports & Docks, Motor Transport Undertakings, Electricity Generation & Distribution and Railways and on the basis of results thrown up by the Family Income and Expenditure Survey.

(f) The list of participants of the 45th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL) held on 17.2.2006, which has approved the new series of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001=100 given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of participants in the 45th meeting of Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living held on 17th February, 2006 at New Delhi

Chairman

Shri P.S. Rana Secretary, M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation and Director General, Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)

Members/Representatives/Special Invitees

1. Dr. K.V. Rao Additional Director General, National Sample Survey Organisation, Field Operation Division (NSSO-FOD)

2. Sh. Vishnu Kumar Additional Director General, CSO
3. Sh. Balram Director General, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
4. Sh. A.K. Neog Economic Adviser, M/o Commerce and Industry
5. Dr. Rajiv Mehta Member Secretary, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
6. Sh. P.C. Tangri Deputy Director General, CSO
7. Sh. A.B. Chakraborty Director, Reserve Bank of India
8. Sh. R.K. Sonkar Additional Economic & Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture
9. Sh. D. Rajan Additional Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Kerala
10. Sh. O.P. Dhankhar Joint Economic & Statistical Adviser, Economic & Statistical Organisation, Government of Haryana

Special Invitee

11. Sh. H.N. Gupta Labour and Employment Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
12. Dr. Harcharan Singh Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment
13. Dr. M.K. Pandhe President, Centre for Indian Trade Union (CITU)
14. Sh. S.S. Paranjape Secretary, Bharitya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)
15. Sh. Lalan Choubey General Secretary, INTUC
16. Sh. A.K. Basu Representative of CII
17. Dr. P. Raghavan Senior Economist, FICCI
18. Sh. Sharad S. Patil Secretary General, Employers' Federation of India (EFI)

Others

19. Dr. A.K. Yogi	Deputy Director General, NSSO-FOD
20. Sh. Daljeet Singh	Director, Labour Bureau, Chandigarh.
21. Sh. D.L. Meena	Director, NSSO-FOD
22. Sh. S.K. Gupta	Director, CSO
23. Sh. Sanjay Kumar	Director, CSO
24. Sh.S.K. Das	Joint Director, CSO
25. Sh. A.K. Gupta	Joint Director, CSO
26. Sh. R.K. Gupta	Deputy Director, Labour Bureau
27. Sh. Bhaskar Mishra	Deputy Director, Labour Bureau
28. Sh. Chhattar Singh	Senior Statistical Officer, CSO
29. Sh. S.D. Meena	Statistical Officer, CSO

Irregularities in FCI

2180. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding mismanagement and misappropriation in the affairs of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hand over the enquiry of the said irregularities in FCI to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Complaints regarding mismanagement etc. in the affairs of Food Corporation of India (FCI) are

received from time to time, including in respect of the Punjab Region. These complaints are dealt with in accordance with the prescribed procedure, promptly, by FCI/Government as the case may be. Some of these complaints dated 28.2.2006, 5.5.2006, 20.5.2006, 21.5.2006 & 30.5.2006 have been received in the recent past. Three other complaints have been received in the Ministry/CVC. These complaints alongwith those against the then Sr. Regional Manager Punjab are being looked into by a Task Force which has been appointed by FCI to investigate them.

(c) and (d) The Vigilance Division of the Ministry investigated a complaint regarding irregularities in procurement of sub-standard rice on a large scale in various centres of Food Corporation of India, Punjab Region during Kharif Marketing Season 2004-05. The inspection teams of the Ministry as well as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted inspections at four districts of Punjab. The CBI registered three FIRs against eighty-three officials of the FCI including Shri K.Siva Prasad, the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Punjab Region. Departmental action has already been initiated/taken against the officials/officer of the FCI identified by these inspection teams.

Hazardous Micro-organisms

2181. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since notified the rules for manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the way in which it would help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989 under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986. These rules and regulations cover the areas of research, large scale applications, manufacture, use, import, export, and storage of genetically modified organisms and hazardous micro-organisms. These rules also define the competent authorities and composition of such authorities for handling of various aspects of the rules.

(c) Extensive rules and guidelines have been framed under the above said rules with a view to evaluate the impact on the use of genetically modified organisms/hazardous micro-organisms and the products thereof on the environment and human health.

[Translation]

Availability of Water

2182. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of water in the country, as on date;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to raise the percentage of availability of water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of success achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. Based on the population of 1027 million as per the 2001 census, the per capita availability works out to be 1820 cubic metre per year.

(b) The average annual water availability may be considered to remain unchanged.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Milk Dairy in Gujarat

2183. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from Gujarat under Centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of new milk dairy in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any proposal for establishment of new Milk Dairy in the State, under the scheme. Thus at present, no proposal from the State Government of Gujarat is pending with this Ministry.

Prices of Metal

2184. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of metals are rising continuously;

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

(c) whether the rising price trend of metals has affected the cost of automobile and consumer durables;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to contain the prices of metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The spot retail price of various steel items have increased during the last six months.

(b) The spot retail price of selected steel items at Mumbai during the last six months is given in the enclosed statement. The domestic market prices generally follow international prices and are guided by the landed cost of imports. International prices of items like HR Coils, CR Coils, Billets and Wire Rods have moved up since February 2006. Strong domestic demand for steel and increase in cost of raw materials like zinc and ferro alloys has also contributed in the rise in steel prices.

(c) and (d) The steel companies charge different prices for different customer segments. The domestic prices charged by steel companies may be classified either as long-term contract prices or spot retail prices.

The prices relevant for any steel consuming industry such as the auto sector are usually long-term contract prices, which are negotiated between producer and consumer and are confidential by nature. Ministry of Steel does not maintain information on the increase in long-term contract prices of steel.

(e) Though in a deregulated environment the Government does not intervene directly in the market to influence prices, in order to reduce the landed cost of

imports and assist in stabilization of domestic steel prices, government has reduced the customs duty on iron and steel items significantly. The customs duty on non-alloy steel has been brought down from 30% in 2002-03 to 5% in August 2004. In case of alloy steel the reduction during the same period has been from 30% to 15%. Customs duty on alloy steel was further reduced to 10% in the General budget 2005-06 and has been brought down even further in the General Budget 2006-07 to 7.5%.

Statement

Trend of Market Prices of Select Steel Items at Mumbai

(Rs./Tonnes)

	Feb. 2006	March 2006	April 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
TOR/TOT (10 mm)	24500 (11.22)	24750 (10.10)	25750 (5.83)	27000 (0.93)	27000 (0.93)	27250
Wire Rods (8 mm)	22600 (16.15)	23700 (10.76)	25000 (5.00)	28750 (-8.70)	26750 (-1.87)	26250
Rounds (16 mm)	24000 (9.38)	24250 (8.25)	25250 (3.96)	26250 (0.00)	26250 (0.00)	26250
HR Coil (2.5 mm)	25250 (29.70)	26750 (22.43)	28250 (15.93)	31750 (3.15)	31500 (3.97)	32750
CR Coil (0.63 mm)	29000 (15.52)	30500 (9.84)	30500 (9.84)	34000 (-1.47)	33000 (1.52)	33500
GP Sheets (0.63 mm)	34000 (8.82)	35000 (5.71)	35000 (5.71)	37500 (-1.33)	37250 (-0.67)	37000

Source : ERU/JPC

Note: (i) Prices are inclusive of Excise Duty and Sales Tax.

(ii) All Prices are indicative.

(iii) Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage variation in July price compared to each of the previous five months.

[Translation]

New Consumer Price Index

2185. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make a new price index in the form of "Urban Consumer Price Index";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and the category of the commodities whose prices are proposed to be included in the said index; and

(d) the new features proposed to be incorporated in the proposed index in comparison to the current wholesale price index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR

SAHU): (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Central Statistical Organisation) has a proposal in this regard.

(b) According to information received from them, Consumer Price Indices (CPI) presently compiled and released for Industrial Workers, Agricultural/Rural Labourers and Urban Non-manual Employees at National level reflect the fluctuations in retail prices of commodities in the country and pertains to this specific segment of population. These indices do not encompass all the segments of the population in the country and as such do not reflect true picture of the price behaviour in the country. In view of above, it is proposed to construct CPI (Urban) covering all segments of urban population for States/UTs and All-India.

(c) The number and the category of the commodities whose prices are proposed to be included in the said index would be decided only after the construction of the weighting diagram at national/state level. The weighting diagram would be prepared from the results of the NSS 61st round Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) conducted during 2004-2005, which are yet to be released.

(d) There is no comparison between Consumer Price Index and Wholesale Price Index. The weighting diagram of the Consumer Price Index will be based on consumption behaviour as revealed by the CES of the NSS 61st round. The retail prices of items consumed by the urban population including personal services will be utilized for compilation of CPI (Urban), whereas the weighting diagram of Wholesale Price Index is based on the marketed surplus and the wholesale prices of commodities for (i) Primary articles (Food, Non-food and Minerals) (ii) Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants and (iii) Manufactured Products are utilized for index computation.

The proposed Consumer Price Index (Urban) would cover all segments of urban population, namely, affluent class, middle class and poor class spread over to more than 300 towns of all types (Metros, Class I, State Capitals, Class II, Class III and Class IV) in all States/UTs.

[English]

Price Monitoring Board

2186. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a "High Powered Price Monitoring Board" to monitor the commodity prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the constitution and area of operation of the Board;

(c) whether the Government has imposed a ban on export of potato, tomato and other vegetables and fruits on the recommendation of the Board; and

(d) 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 (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) was constituted in December 1998 under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary. The other Members of HPPMB are Finance Secretary, and Secretaries of Departments of Economic Affairs, Revenue, Agriculture and Cooperation, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Road Transport and Highways, Commerce, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Chairman, Railway Board, and Director General, India Meteorological Department. The functions of HPPMB are to review all aspects relating to prices and availability of essential commodities and make recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on Prices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foodgrains Under Public Distribution System

2187. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendation for expanding the variety of foodgrains available under Public Distribution System (PDS) with a view to improving food sufficiency is under the consideration of the Government;

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

(c) the action taken thereon so far?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Study on Price Rise

2188. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons behind the sudden price rise of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to slash the duty on imported commodities to control the prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts and the manner being followed to monitor the prices of essential commodities and the achievement noticed, if any, thereunder?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has already issued a Notification on 28th June, 2006 reducing import duty on wheat to 5%. Import duty on sugar was reduced to zero duty vide Notification dated 23rd June, 2006. Import duty on import of pulses was reduced to zero vide Notification dated 8th June, 2006. With effect from 11th August 2006, import duty has been reduced on Crude palm oil, Crude palmolien and other fractions of crude palm oil from 80% to 70% and on Refined bleached Deodorized (RBD) palm oil, RBD palmolien and other refined palm oils from 90%

to 80%.

(e) Government is closely monitoring the prices of essential commodities on a regular basis and are also reviewed at various levels on a regular basis. Steps taken by the Government have generally stabilized the prices.

Edible Oil Packaging Regulation Order, 1998

2189. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998 has since been implemented in all the States;

(b) if so, the *modus-operandi* adopted to verify and check the status of implementation of the said orders, State-wise and edible oil-wise;

(c) whether any inspections have been carried out by the Government in this regard, during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Presently, 22 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Pondicherry, Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Andaman & Nicobar have implemented the Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998.

Some of the State Governments/UT Administrations which have not implemented the Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998 or have granted exemptions/extensions for varying period of time deferring the implementation of the Order have been reiterated the need to implement the Order in letter and spirit.

(c) and (d) The powers for implementation of the order have been delegated to the State Governments. The Central Government has not carried out inspections in this regard.

Unirrigated Land

2190. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area and percentage of unirrigated land in the country totally dependent on monsoon currently and at the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the target fixed for bringing additional land under regular irrigation during the remaining part of the Tenth Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) As per the Land Use Statistic compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the Net Sown Area in the country has been reported as 141.3 Million hectare (Mha) and 139.6 Mha in 2001-02 and 2003-04 respectively; out of which 85.5 Mha and 85.7 Mha respectively have been estimated to be unirrigated area. State-wise details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The State-wise targets for creation of irrigation potential during 2006-07 are given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement I*State-wise details of Net Irrigated Area, Net Sown Area and Unirrigated land*

(In thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	States	2001-02				2003-04			
		Net Sown Area	Net Irrg. Area	Unirrigated land	% of Unirrigated land	Net Sown Area	Net Irrg. Area	Unirrigated land	% of Unirrigated land
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10410	4238	6172	59	10118	3634	6484	64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	164	42	122	74	164	42	122	74
3.	Assam	2734	170	2564	94	2793	174	2619	94
4.	Bihar	5664	3462	2202	39	5725	3462	2263	40
5.	Chhattisgarh	4800	1151	3649	76	4779	1090	3689	77
6.	Goa	141	23	118	84	141	24	117	83
7.	Gujarat	9622	2994	6628	69	9622	2994	6628	69
8.	Haryana	3566	2938	628	18	3534	2969	565	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	550	102	448	81	545	124	421	77
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	748	310	438	59	747	307	440	59
11.	Jharkhand	1769	164	1605	91	1769	164	1605	91
12.	Karnataka	10031	2565	7466	74	9847	2384	7463	76
13.	Kerala	2191	377	1814	83	2190	384	1806	82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14859	4735	10124	68	14518	4494	10024	69
15.	Maharashtra	17619	2975	14644	83	17432	2944	14488	83
16.	Manipur	140	65	75	54	219	40	179	82.
17.	Meghalaya	230	59	171	74	227	60	167	74
18.	Mizoram	118	16	102	86	98	16	82	84
19.	Nagaland	333	65	268	80	333	65	268	80
20.	Orissa	5845	1938	3907	67	4889	1119	3770	77
21.	Punjab	4250	4038	212	5	4254	4042	212	5
22.	Rajasthan	16765	5420	11345	68	17394	5420	11974	69
23.	Sikkim	95	17	78	82	110	9	101	92
24.	Tamil nadu	5172	2801	2371	46	4689	2148	2541	54
25.	Tripura	280	37	243	87	280	40	240	86
26.	Uttaranchal	793	347	446	56	793	347	446	56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16812	12391	4421	26	16812	12391	4421	26
28.	West Bengal	5522	2376	3146	57	5522	2980	2542	46
Total States		141223	55816	85407	60	139544	53867	85677	61
Andaman and Nicobar Island		38	0	38	100	17	0	17	100
Chandigarh		2	1	1	50	2	1	1	50
Daman and Diu		4	1	3	75	2	0	2	100
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		23	8	15	65	23	7	16	70
Delhi		29	29	0	0	27	25	2	7
Lakshadweep		3	1	2	67	3	1	2	67
Pondicherry		24	21	3	13	21	17	4	19
Total UTs		123	61	62	50	95	51	44	46
Grand Total		141346	55877	85469	60	139639	53918	85721	61

Statement II*State-wise Targets for Creation of Irrigation potential
During 2006-07*

(In 000 ha.)

Sl.No.	Name of States	Target for Creation of Irrigation Potential during 2006-07	
		Major & Medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	142.45	29.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	6.85
3.	Assam	12.71	13.80
4.	Bihar	125.00	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	35.00	35.00
6.	Goa	5.10	0.60
7.	Gujarat	15.00	4.00
8.	Haryana	25.29	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	2.00
10.	Jharkhand	—	34.26
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
12.	Karnataka	146.89	8.00
13.	Kerala	15.00	10.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	343.18	28.17
15.	Maharashtra	—	250.00
16.	Manipur	1.50	5.00
17.	Meghalaya	—	2.581
18.	Mizoram	—	0.35
19.	Nagaland	1.00	8.40
20.	Orissa	33.34	32.05
21.	Punjab	30.00	—
22.	Rajasthan	131.55	5.00

1	2	3	4
23.	Sikkim	—	1.25
24.	Tamil nadu	—	—
25.	Tripura	4.65	5.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	344.00	396.84
27.	Uttaranchal	0.67	5.50
28.	West Bengal	15.00	30.97
Total of all States		1428.33	915.16
Total UTs		NIL	2.67
All India Total		1428.33	917.83

(—Not available)

*[Translation]***Utilisation of Surplus Water of Rivers**

2191. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for utilization of surplus water of rivers that flows from Nepal to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for the implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development has identified five links namely (i) Sarda-Yamuna, (ii) Ghaghra-Yamuna, (iii) Gandak-Ganga, (iv) Kosi-Ghaghra, and (v) Kosi-Mechi for transfer of surplus water of rivers flowing from Nepal to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

*[English]***Availability of Pulses**

2192. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 60th round (2004) of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) consumer expenditure survey has indicated that there is no shortage of cereals/ pulses in the country and that their production is more than the consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

*[Translation]***Import of Foodgrains**

2193. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) the current stocks and demand of foodgrains in the country, grain-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on welfare schemes for Below Poverty Line families;

(d) the factors attributed to the shortage of foodgrains;

(e) whether there has been a decline in the procurement of foodgrains over the years;

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and grain-wise;

(g) whether the decline in procurement is due to monopolisation of grain markets by the Multi-National Companies and private entrepreneurs; and

(h) if so, the steps taken to put a check on this tendency?

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 current stocks position of foodgrains as on 1.7.2006 are as follows:

Grain	(in lakh tonnes)
Rice	111.44
Wheat	82.07
Coarsegrains	11.62
Total	205.12

On the basis of trend of offtake of foodgrains so far in the current financial year, the estimated monthly requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes works out to 20 lakh tonnes of rice and 10 lakh tonnes of wheat per month.

(b) and (c) The stock of rice is above the buffer norms of 98 lakh tonnes as on 1.7.2006. The stock of wheat is below the buffer norms of 171 lakh tonnes on that date. Keeping in view the dwindling wheat stocks, the allocation of what under TPDS has been streamlined for all the States/UTs on the basis of past offtake, without reducing the overall entitlement of foodgrains at the rate of 35 kgs per household per month. The release of foodgrains under Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Special Component of SGRY has been rationalized.

(d) The decline of foodgrain stocks has been, inter alia, due to the following decisions taken by Government since March, 2002 to liquidate excess stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool:

1. Increase in scale of allocation of foodgrains from 25 to 35 kgs per family per month for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

2. To fix the scale of allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) families at 35 kgs. per family per month.
3. To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @15kg per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of BPL allocation to State/UTs at BPL rates.
4. Expansion of wage employment programmes such as Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) including Special Component of SGRY and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP).
5. To increase the coverage of AAY families from 1 crore to 2.5 crore in the three phases w.e.f 5.6.2003, 3.8.2004 and 12.5.2005.
6. Export of foodgrains which continued upto November, 2004 and
7. Lower procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Seasons 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(e) and (f) Year-wise procurement of foodgrains for the last three years is given below:

KMS/RMS*	Procurement (in lakh tonnes)		
	Rice	Wheat	Coarsegrains
2003-04	228.28	158.01	6.51
2004-05	246.85	167.95	8.27
2005-06 (as on 10.8.06)	276.78	147.85	11.44
2006-07		92.26 (as on 10.8.06)	

*KMS- Kharif Marketing Season (from October to September)

* RMS- Rabi Marketing Season (from April to March)

(g) and (h) As per the present procurement policy, the Government agencies carry out Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in wheat producing areas. However, the farmer is free to sell his produce to the Government agencies or private traders, including large private companies, as is advantageous to him.

During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07, there has been higher private participation in wheat procurement. To procure sufficient quantities of wheat, the Department of Food & Public Distribution has formulated a proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP.

Construction of Dam on River Kosi

2194. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dam has been constructed at Eastern and Western bank of the Kosi river;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal to elevate, broaden and make concrete Eastern and Western bank of Kosi dam; and

(c) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be given approval and the target fixed for completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No dam has been constructed across river Kosi. However embankments have been constructed along both the Eastern and Western bank of river Kosi.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Industrial Projects for Environmental Clearance

2195. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial project pending with the Government for environmental clearance;

(b) the period since when each project has been pending alongwith the reasons for the pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A total of 183 industrial projects are pending for environmental clearance as on 4th August, 2006.

(b) and (c) Of the 183 Pending industrial projects, while 122 projects are already at various stages of processing for environmental clearance and are within the mandatory timeframe of 120 days for grant of environmental clearance, the appraisal of the remaining 61 projects pending due to non-submission of requisite information would be completed within the mandated time period of 120 days after the receipt of complete information from the concerned project authorities.

Action against Black Marketing

2196. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any person/persons have been booked under the prevention of black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, during 2005-06;

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

(c) the number of detention orders made by the State Governments from 1998 to 2005, State-wise; and

(d) the number of revocations and modifications to detention orders made by the Union and the State Governments during the said period?

Name of the State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gujarat	123	97	179	98	80	101	63	101
Assam	3	—	4	—	1	—	11	—
Tamil Nadu	3	3	28	37	17	5	1	7
Uttar Pradesh	1	—	4	7	—	1	—	—
Orissa	—	5	1	5	1	—	—	2
Maharashtra	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	5	13	2	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	133	119	229	149	99	107	75	111

Other States/UTs have not reported any detention under the Act during the above period.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Governments/UT Administrations, the persons detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the calendar years 2005 and 2006, State-wise are as under:

Name of State	No. of detentions in 2005	No. of detentions in 2006 (Upto 8.8.2006)
Gujarat	101	54
Tamil Nadu	7	22
Orissa	2	—
Maharashtra	1	—
Total	111	76

(c) The details of detention orders made by the State Governments during the calendar years 1998 to 2005, State-wise are given below:

(d) The number of revocations to the detention orders made by the Central Government and State Governments

as reported by them during the period (i.e. from 1998 to 2006) are given below:

Year	No. of revocations by the Central Government	No. of revocations made by the State Governments
1998	6	3
1999	6	8
2000	NIL	12
2001	NIL	4
2002	NIL	3
2003	4	8
2004	1	7
2005	NIL	23
2006 (Upto 8.8.2006)	1	4

[*Translation*]

New Sugar Mills

2197. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has announced several incentives for setting up new sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the installed production capacity of the sugar mills in the country is not being fully utilised; and

(d) the steps proposed for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not announced any incentive scheme for setting up of new sugar mills in the country, after delicensing of sugar industry in August, 1998.

(c) and (d) The utilization of installed sugar production capacity depends upon the availability of sugarcane. In 2002-03 sugar season, the capacity utilization was over hundred percent, whereas capacity utilization in 2003-04 and 2004-05 sugar seasons was below hundred percent, when production of sugarcane was severely affected due to drought and woolly-aphid infestation of sugarcane crop in Maharashtra and adjoining areas.

[*English*]

Setting up of National Fisheries Development Board

2198. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared a proposal to invest Rs. 2100 crores for fisheries development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Fisheries Development Board;

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

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to monitor the activities of the said Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) A National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has been registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 to bring the major activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture for focused attention and professional management. The Board has been located at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. A tentative provision of Rs. 2100 crores has been approved for the Board for a period of six years including Rs. 151 crores during the current financial year subject to allocation of Plain outlay by the Planning Commission.

(e) A Governing Body and an Executive Body have been constituted to formulate, implement and monitor the programmes of the Board.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Power Plant**

2199. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has decided to set up a 1000 MW power plant in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether IFFICO has obtained the Government's approval in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said plant is likely to start power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The requisite approvals as stipulated in Indian Electricity Act, 2003 is being taken by IFFCO from time to time.

(c) The power project is a Greenfield project to be set up in Dist. Surguja, Chhattisgarh. The total estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 5100 crores.

(d) the power generation from the plant is likely to start in the year 2010.

*[English]***Crops under Minimum Support Price**

2200. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Price is not available for all crops;

(b) if so, whether the Government has proposed to extend support price cover to all crops;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure stability in the prices of the agricultural produces for which Minimum Support Prices are not fixed; and

(e) the action plans formulated by the Government for the welfare of the small and marginal 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not available to all crops.

(b) and (c) The Government has no proposal to extend coverage of MSP to all crops.

(d) In order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities and perishable agricultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop, the Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government. Losses if any, incurred by the procuring agencies are shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government on 50:50 basis (75:25 in case of North Eastern States). The amount of loss to be shared between the Central Government and the concerned State Government is restricted to 25 percent of the procurement cost.

(e) In order to increase production and productivity, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rainfed farming systems, reforming agricultural markets, putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers, etc.

*[Translation]***Irrigated Land**

2201. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of irrigated land in the country and the percentage it constitutes out of the total cultivable land, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of irrigated land, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to convert the unirrigated land into irrigated land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As per the Land Use Statistic for 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the Net Sown Area in the country has been estimated as 139.64 million hectare, out of which irrigation has been provided to 53.92 million hectare. Thus, about 39% of the Net Sown Area is irrigated. State-wise details of

percentage of irrigated area are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governments. However, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of on-going irrigation projects under the Accelerate Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Further, a pilot scheme titled "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies directly linke to Agriculture" has been approved by Government of India in January, 2005. The objective of the scheme is to restore and augment storage capacity of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. Government of India also provides support under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management Programme (CAD & WM) with a view to bridging the gap between irrigation potential created and potential utilized.

Statement

State-wise details of Net Sown Area, Net Irrigated Area and percentage of Irrigated land

(In thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of irrigated land
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10118	3634	36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	164	42	26
3.	Assam	2793	174	6
4.	Bihar	5725	3462	60
5.	Chhattisgarh	4779	1090	23
6.	Goa	141	24	17
7.	Gujarat	9622	2994	31
8.	Haryana	3534	2969	84
9.	Himachal Pradesh	545	124	23
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	747	307	41
11.	Jharkhand	1769	164	9
12.	Karnataka	9847	2384	24

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	2190	384	18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14518	4494	31
15.	Maharashtra	17432	2944	17
16.	Manipur	219	40	18
17.	Meghalaya	227	60	26
18.	Mizoram	98	16	16
19.	Nagaland	333	65	20
20.	Orissa	4889	1119	23
21.	Punjab	4254	4042	95
22.	Rajasthan	17394	5420	31
23.	Sikkim	110	9	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	4689	2148	46
25.	Tripura	280	40	14
26.	Uttaranchal	793	347	44
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16812	12391	74
28.	West Bengal	5522	2980	54
Total States		139544	53867	39
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17	NA	NA
30.	Chandigarh	2	1	50
31.	Daman and Diu	2	NA	NA
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23	7	30
33.	Delhi	27	25	93
34.	Lakshadweep	3	1	33
35.	Pondicherry	21	17	81
Total UTs		95	51	54
Grand Total		139639	53918	39

*[English]***Amendment of Essential Commodities Act, 1995**

2202. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2005, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2005.

Export of Iron Ore

2203. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron ore exported during the last three years by National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), year-wise;

(b) whether NMDC would given priority to the iron ore requirements of the industries of Maharashtra State over to its export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The quantity of iron ore exported by NMDC through MMTC during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Qty. Exported (Million Tonnes)
2003-04	7.1
2004-05	7.5
2005-06	6.0

(b) to (d) NMDC gives priority to domestic steel plants over exports irrespective of the location of the domestic steel plants over exports irrespective of the location of the domestic Steel Plants. Domestic demand is not registered as Region/State specific. However, Sponge Iron Plants situated in the state of Chhattisgarh in which NMDC's Bailadila mines are located, are given preference.

NMDC is already supplying iron ore to domestic Steel Plants in the State of Maharashtra viz. Ispat Industries (Dolvi, Raigad District), Vikram Ispat (Salav, Raigad District).

Indo-Pak Talks on Tulbul Navigation and Wullar Projects

2204. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation and Wullar Project ended in a stalemate;

(b) if so, whether both the Secretaries will meet again to review the entire issue again;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the rounds of negotiations held so far between the Secretaries on the issue;

(e) the technical and other issues which are purportedly violative of 1960 agreement raised by Pakistan and the contentions of India on the same; and

(f) the details of issue on which both the countries have arrived at in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) During the Secretary Level Talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation/Wullar Barrage Storage Project held at Islamabad from 22nd to 23rd June 2006, the two sides had a better understanding of each other's views and reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Water Treaty 1960 and agreed to continue the discussions during the next round of Composite Dialogue with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

(d) Earlier, eight rounds of Secretary Level talks and thereafter, four more between the Secretaries as part of the Composite Dialogue, have been held on the issue so far.

(e) and (f) In Pakistan's perception, the project structure is a barrage with a storage capacity of around 0.3 million acre feet (0.369 Billion cubic metre) and that India is not permitted to construct any storage facility on the main stem of the river Jhelum. Indian side has pointed out that the structure is not a storage facility but a navigation facility as defined in the Indus Waters Treaty 1960. Further, Wular Lake gains natural storage and the navigation lock is merely a structure to regulate the outflow from the natural storage to facilitate adequate depth of water for navigation during the winter months from October to February. Also, Non-Consumptive Use is permitted to India under the Treaty which includes control or use of water for navigation, provided these do not prejudice downstream uses of waters by Pakistan. Further that Pakistan has not established any prejudice to their downstream uses by the construction of the structure.

Foreign investment for Research and Development

2205. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to enter into foreign ties for investments in research and development in the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to consider adopting high technologies for modernisation and increase of production in the field of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has entered into a credit agreement with the World Bank for implementing National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) and with USA for Agricultural Knowledge Initiative.

The National Agricultural Innovation Project supported with US \$ 200 million credit from the World Bank is being implemented from July, 2006 for a period of six years. The National Agricultural Innovation Project will contribute to, (a) attaining excellence in science by strengthening basic and strategic research in agricultural sciences, (b) higher income through research on production to consumption system, and (c) poverty alleviation through research on sustainable rural livelihood

improvement. The project is implemented in consortium mode mostly through competitive funding.

The Agricultural Knowledge Initiative will focus on (a) human resource development, (b) food processing, by product utilization and bio-fuels, (c) biotechnology, and (d) water management. The budget for 2006-07 is Rs. 5 crore from Government of India and US\$ 8 million from USA.

Subsidy for Maintaining Minimum Support Price of Cotton

2206. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government gives subsidy to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for maintaining Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton;

(b) if so, whether Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited is not getting any subsidy for last two sessions (2004-05 and 2005-06) though it purchases raw cotton and helps in maintaining MSP of cotton;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal for sanction of the subsidy to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd.; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):(a) No, Sir. The Government does not give direct subsidy to Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) for maintaining the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of cotton. The CCL, as one of the nominated government agencies, undertakes procurement operations for various grades of cotton at MSP fixed by the Government. The Government of India reimburses the losses, if any, incurred by CCI in the process for such operations.

(b) and (c) Government of India does not have any scheme to grant subsidy to Cooperatives including Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation (MSCGMF) for purchase of cotton.

(d) No such proposal from Government of Maharashtra has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

2207. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy to encourage the farmers to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has setup National Medicinal Plants

Board (NMPB) in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to look after policy formulation, coordination with Ministry's/ Department's, ensuring sustained availability of medicinal plants and coordinate all matters relating to their development and sustainable use. The Board is implementing Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to farmers/growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States (TMNE), Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal w.e.f. 2001-02 and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) w.e.f. 2005-06 for holistic development of Horticulture including aromatic and medicinal plants. Medicinal plants has been included for development under NHM since 2006-07.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided by NMPB during last three years and during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

State-wise details of area covered and financial assistance provided during the last three years and programme approved for 2006-07 under TMNE is given in the enclosed statement-II.

State-wise details of area covered and financial assistance provided during 2005-06 and programme approved for 2006-07 under NHM is given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement I

State-wise details of projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) during last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) and during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		No. of Projects	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Projects	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Projects	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Projects	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	42	28.24	41	27.93	87	32.70	40	20.82
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	18.29	11	50.49	10	18.61	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Assam	0	0	0	0	2	0.91	0	0
5.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	1	1.35	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	48	196.15	20	7.05	21	45.61	1	0.75
8.	Delhi	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3.41
9.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Gujarat	8	7.43	0	0	10	11.82	0	0
11.	Haryana	43	47.66	57	96.4	90	172.15	2	3
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3.3	4	6.41	59	116.80	0	0
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	14.67	2	5.55	32	30.65	13	10.12
14.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	2	2.01	0	0
15.	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Karnataka	53	35.66	321	163.6	14	9.49	40	18.52
17.	Kerala	5	2.12	28	15.31	13	6.61	5	3.69
18.	Madhya Pradesh	261	331.15	257	299.61	194	177.88	137	161.93
19.	Maharashtra	40	46.7	80	41.27	85	113.44	17	19.19
20.	Manipur	12	18.31	96	233.35	56	139.94	0	0
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Nagaland	1	4.1	10	11.22	14	13.81	6	12.7
24.	Orissa	47	51.89	26	26.68	47	50.33	19	11.31
25.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Punjab	0	0	20	80.33	51	153.45	0	0
27.	Rajasthan	51	68.76	173	584	375	403.97	250	252.71
28.	Sikkim	2	1	19	20.75	11	14.74	5	6.34
29.	Tamil Nadu	9	10.26	18	14.34	28	46.96	2	2.68
30.	Tripura	0	0	1	4.22	0	0	0	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	15	27.77	5	6.75	7	8.30	41	25.64
32.	Uttaranchal	30	18.56	61	60.37	25	31.68	08	4.93
33.	West Bengal	1	0.6	16	22.2	0	0	0	0
Total		688	836.32	1267	1808.44	1233	1601.86	588	557.74

Statement II

State-wise details of area coverage and funds provided for cultivation of Aromatic & Medicinal plants during last three years and programme approved during 2006-07 under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States (TMNE)

State	Area covered and funds provided during the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 (ha)		Area proposed and funds approved during 2006-07 (ha)	
	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
A. NE States				
Arunachal Pradesh	2699	103.5	570	40.1
Assam	131	11.99	86	4.3
Manipur	11	1.19	—	—
Meghalaya	179	16.71	—	—
Mizoram	300	27.00	200	10.00
Nagaland	898	72.93		18.00
Sikkim	43	12.25	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—
B. Other Him. States				
Jammu and Kashmir	33	1.65	70	3.5
Himachal Pradesh	233	21.70	50	2.5
Uttaranchal	50	5.70	25	1.25
Total	4577	274.17	1001	79.65

Statement III

State-wise details of area coverage and funds provided for cultivation of Aromatic & Medicinal plants during 2005-06 and programme approved during 2006-07 under National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

Sl. No.	States	Area approved and funds provided for cultivation of aromatic plant during 2005-06		Target and outlay approved for aromatic and medicinal plants during 2006-07**	
		Physical (ha) +	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	Physical (ha) +	Financial (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	725	81.56
2.	Bihar	—	—	3000*	337.50*

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chhattisgarh	167*	188.00*	18600*	2092.50*
4.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
5.	Goa	125*	14.86*	50	5.63
6.	Gujarat	15000*	1687.50*	10300*	1158.75*
7.	Haryana	245	27.56	200	22.50
8.	Jharkhand	200	22.50	1420	159.75
9.	Karnataka	700	78.75	889	100.00
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	2291*	257.74*
13.	Orissa	—	—	2500*	281.25*
14.	Punjab	750*	84.38*	—	—
15.	Rajasthan	7500*	843.75*	10000*	1125.50*
16.	Tamil Nadu	150	17.00	10120*	1138.50*
17.	Uttar Pradesh	250	28.13	10643.5*	1197.39*
18.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
Total		25087	2992.43	70738.5	7958.57

* Including Spices.

** Medicinal plants were included under NHM during 2006-07.

+ Assistance is limited to 4 ha. per farmer.

Cut in Sugar Quota

2208. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reduced the per-capita sugar allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System since June 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the supply of the per-capita allocation of sugar in order to check the rise in prices of sugar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) The per capita levy sugar allocation has remained almost at the same level since June, 2006. The levy sugar allocations for the months of May 2006 to August 2006 for the State Governments/UT Administrations are indicated below:

Month	Quantity in lakh M.Ts
May 2006	1.54
June 2006	1.56
July 2006	1.53
August 2006	1.65

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to increase the per capita allocation of levy sugar.

Setting Up of Sugar Mills

2209. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters of intent issued during 2005-06 for setting up of sugar mills alongwith the location therof; State-wise; and

(b) the locations at which the process of setting up sugar mills has actually started?

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 Letters of Intent (LOI) were being issued to entrepreneurs desirous of setting up new units or expansion of existing capacity before delicensing of sugar industry. The sugar industry has since been delicensed *vide* Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion's Press Note dated 31.08.1998, as such, no letter of intent has been issued thereafter.

(b) Does not arise.

(English)

Commodities under PDS

2210. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) the details regarding the commodities being supplied to Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line families alongwith their prices, commodity-wise and category-wise

(b) whether many Fair Price Shops (FPS) have closed down due to lack of viability;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to add more items for distribution through FPS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A Statement of commodities being supplied to Below Poverty Line/Above Poverty Line families and their Central Issue Prices is given below:

Sl.No.	Commodity	AAY	BPL	APL
1.	Wheat	200	415	610
2.	Rice*	300	565	830 ('A' Grade)
3.	Sugar**			
4.	Kerosene Oil***			

* Rs. 795 for Common Grade for APL which is applicable only to J&K, H.P., North Eastern States, Sikkim and Uttaranchal.

** From 1.2.2001, the supply of levy sugar has been restricted to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, except for North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories, where universal coverage is allowed. The Retail Issue Price of levy Sugar is Rs. 13.50 per kg. which is uniform throughout the country.

*** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has made the allocation to the States for supply of kerosene through PDS channel. No categorization as APL/BPL is made for such supplies. The prices of PDS kerosene vary from State to State depending upon the Sales Tax and dealers Commission. The price of PDS kerosene in Delhi is Rs. 9.05 per litre.

(b) to (d) No information has been received from any State/UT Administration regarding closing down of many Fair Price Shops (FPS) due to lack of it's viability. There are occasional complaints about the inadequate margins to FPS dealers. In order to improve the viability of the FPSs through increased turnover, State Governments/UTs Administration have been advised to allow FPS owners to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding additional items of daily use as per local requirements for sale. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption such as exercise books, pulses, iodised salt, tea etc. through the FPSs to make them more viable.

Production of Betel Leaf

2211. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Betel leaf recorded in the country during the last three years;

(b) the names of the said leaf producing State in the country;

(c) whether the Government has taken any research/development programme to improve cultivation of said leaf;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the produce of betel leaf is being affected by some disease in several parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA); (a) The total estimated production of betel leaf recorded in the country during the last three years is as under;

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production (In lakh tonnes)	3.99	3.79	3.85

(b) the betel vine cultivating states are West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Research on betelvine is being carried out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research at different coordinating centres in major betelvine producing states. No specific programme is under implementation for development of betelvine however under centrally sponsored scheme of National Horticulture Mission launched during Tenth Plan, the thrust is on area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for the development of horticulture crops having comparative advantage including betelvine.

(e) No disease of betel leaf has been reported to the Government so far.

(f) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Imitation of Consumer Goods

2212. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the imitation of branded consumer and other products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put a check on production and sale of such imitated products?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Legislations such as the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, etc., contain provisions which can be invoked to check the production and sale of imitated branded products.

[English]

Spot Price of Wheat

2213. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spot price of wheat and sugar has declined despite the rise in its retail prices;

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

(c) whether the said prices are likely to decline further with the physical arrival of imported wheat and sugar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of the domestic farmers?

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

(b) Out of 18 centres across the country which are reporting retail prices, there was an increase in retail prices of wheat only at one centre, viz., Lucknow over the week as on 10.08.2006. As regards sugar, retail price of sugar did not increase at any centre over the week as on 10.08.2006. Spot prices of wheat have recently shown a firming up trend. Spot prices of sugar show a mixed trend.

(c) and (d) With increase in domestic availability, other things remaining the same, the prices may be expected to decline.

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

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under AIBP

2214. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to enhance the allocation of Rs. 8000 crore per year under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in the next five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Central Assistance (CA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided for irrigation projects on year to year basis keeping in view the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the state as a whole and the budget provisions made by the State Government in the state budget during that particular year for the projects posed

for CA under the Programme, However, proposals for enhancing allocation of Rs. 8000 crore per year in next five years has not been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Utilisation Efficiency

2215. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a programme for improving water utilisation efficiency in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry in cooperation with Agriculture Ministry and respective State Governments proposes to launch programmes for water utilisation efficiency in rain-fed areas;

(d) if so, whether any training programmes for farmers regarding water utilisation efficiency are proposed to be launched; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) For efficient utilisation of irrigation water at farm level, following new initiative have been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources under restructured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme.

(i) Correction of system deficiencies above the outlet level up to distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 Cuses.)

(ii) Renovation and desilting of existing irrigation tanks including the related irrigation system and control structures within the designated command with a minimum 10% beneficiary contribution as maintenance fund, the interest from which has to be used for maintenance in future;

(iii) For increased participation of beneficiaries, a provision of 10% contribution either in cash or in the form of labour has been made mandatory for selected activities like construction of field channels, reclamation of waterlogged areas;

(iv) Implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) Programme.

Ministry of Water Resources has also taken up studies in respect of water use efficiency of few major and medium projects in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Jyoti Chitran Film and Television Institute

2216. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the upgradation of Jyoti Chitran Film and Television Institute, Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for modernization and upgradation of Jyoti Chitran Film Studio Guwahati Phase-III

(b) Jyoti Chitran Film Studio Guwahati, (JCFS), Guwahati was given financial assistance by Central Government through Ministry of I & B for completion of Phase-I and Phase-II of the JCFS, Guwahati. Subsequently, the Government of Assam asked for more funds for completion of Phase-III of the project for modernization and development of JCFS. Planning Commission has provided an outlay of Rs.10.00 crore in the Ministry of Home Affairs Annual Plan 2006-07, for execution of the scheme by the Ministry of I & B but have requested for certain project details, which have been now submitted by the Government of Assam.

[Translation]

Review of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995

2217. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a provision for payment of minimum pension under the above scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps proposed in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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

(c) and (d) The minimum monthly Member Pension for the existing members (who were member of the erstwhile Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 as on 15.11.1995) is Rs. 500/- provided his eligible service is less than 24 years, the minimum monthly Member Pension is proportionately reduced, subject to a minimum of Rs. 265/-.

However, for the new entrants (who joined Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 on or after 16.11.1995), no minimum monthly Member Pension is prescribed. The amount of monthly Member Pension in such cases shall be computed in accordance with the following factors, namely:

$$\text{M.M. Pension} = \frac{\text{Pensionable salary} \times \text{Pensionable Service}}{70}$$

In case of Survivor Pension, the minimum pension is Rs. 450.

[English]

Requirement/Production of Raw Cashew

2218. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requirement of raw cashew has been increased in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to increase the production of raw cashew in the country;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation for Special Fund for the expansion of cashew plantation in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The requirement of raw cashew has increased in the country over the years.

Cashew processing units in the country has increased to 1801 in 2004-05 from 1329 in 2002-03 to meet the increasing demand of cashew in the country. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission which was launched during 2004-05 addresses area expansion, production and productivity improvement of horticultural crops including cashew nut. Under the Scheme, massive programmes for increasing the production of cashew by area expansion, new plantation development, replanting/rejuvenation of old and senile plantation have been undertaken in various States for which an outlay of Rs. 416.0 lakh has been earmarked for the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Ceiling on Prices of Channels

2219. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has issued instruction to the multi-system operators to offer set top boxes on rental basis with a refundable security deposit to enable consumers to return the box, if they moved out of the Conditional Access System (CAS) notified area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the multi-system operators thereon;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has fixed overall ceiling on price of individual channels so that the consumers do not have to bear unnecessary high burden; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules 2006 notified on 31st July, 2006 has provided for scheme to be approved by the TRAI regarding supply and installation of set top boxes. TRAI has issued a consultation paper on mandating a standard tariff package for supply of Set Top Boxes (STBs) in CAS notified areas.

(c) TRAI has not fixed any ceiling on the prices of individual channels. However, vide TRAI's notification dated 15.01.2004, price ceiling has been fixed with reference to the prices prevailing as on 26.12.2003. TRAI has intimated that it has started consultation process for deciding the tariff of pay channels in CAS notified areas.

(d) In terms of the Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules 2006. TRAI is empowered to fix maximum retail price of pay channels.

Announcement of Minimum Support Price for Paddy

2220. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the Minimum Support Price of paddy for the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have demanded for increase of support price;

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

(e) whether the Government has also announced dual price policy for paddy so that whenever there is increase in price of paddy in the open market, the support price may automatically be increased;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the names of States where dual price for paddy is being implemented; and

(h) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has recently announced the Minimum Support Prices for kharif crops, including paddy, of 2006-07 season. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy (common) has been fixed at Rs. 580 per quintal and for Paddy (Grade A) at Rs. 610 per quintal.

(c) to (h) Such requests have been received by the Government. Higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is offered to the farmers to ensure that the required quantity of foodgrains are procured to meet the commitment under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other foodgrains based welfare schemes.

Enhancement of Production of Phosphatic Fertilizers

2221. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the demand of fertilizers during the remaining period of current financial year;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether demand for phosphatic fertilizers especially Di Ammonium Phosphatic (DAP) is very high in comparison to the present trends of consumption; and

(d) if so, the efforts made to enhance the production capacity of said fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The demand of fertilizers for each crop season i.e., Kharif and Rabi is assessed in Zonal Conferences convened by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), before commencement of each crop season.

Accordingly, the demand assessment for the ensuing Rabi 2006-07 (October, 2006—March, 2007) would be made in the Zonal Conference being convened on DAC

during 31st August, 2006 for North-East Zone and 4th to 7th September, 2006 for South, North, East and West Zones.

Fishing Harbour at Mangalore

2222. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to approve the revised estimate of the cost of construction of fishing harbour at Mangalore;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture had in September 1997 accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Karnataka for Stage-II expansion of Mangalore Fishing Harbour at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The Central share to the tune of 50% of the project cost was released in two instalments to the State Government by June, 2003 for completion of the project. The project was to be completed by September 2003 as per the extension granted. The Government of Karnataka could not achieve the set target and complete the project within the approved cost and time frame instead the State has submitted the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) proposal with the cost escalation from Rs. 75 lakhs to Rs. 144.67 lakhs. On scrutiny of the RCE proposal, the State Government has been requested since August 2004 to furnish adequate justification for deviation made in the approved project and inclusion of additional items together with the firm project completion period.

Disease in Pepper Plantation

2223. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the viral disease of pepper or stunted disease widely prevalent in black pepper plantations of Karnataka and Kerala is causing substantial loss to cultivators; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers to tackle this disease and overcome the financial loss?

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) Black pepper plants are affected by two viruses, namely Cucumber Mosaic Virus and Pepper Yellow Mottle Virus. These diseases spread through use of infected stem cuttings and through vector insects such as aphids and mealy bugs. These are more prevalent in Wyanad and Idukki districts of Kerala and Kodagu district of Karnataka. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut has developed sensitive diagnostics for virus indexing and only virus free planting materials are recommended for planting. Spray of insecticides such as dimethoate @ 0.05% is recommended wherever vector insects as aphids and mealy bugs are noticed.

Production of Oilseed in Orissa

2224. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope of growing oil seeds in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken during Tenth Plan to increase the area under oilseed cultivation in the State;

(c) whether any central scheme has been launched for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is a scope for growing oilseeds in the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. Government has taken steps to increase area under oil seeds cultivation in the state of Orissa especially in rice

fallows during Rabi utilizing residual moisture, and as a substitute crop for paddy in upland areas during Kharif.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseed growing states including Orissa during X Plan for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds. 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 oilseeds.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Complaints against Mediclaim Policies

2225. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has requested the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and the Union Government to review the policy governing mediclaim policies offered by various insurance companies by adopting regulations that prevent harassment of consumers;

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

(c) the number of complaints received by the NCH and by the Government in this regard, during the last one year; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 292 complaints relating to medical insurance have been received in National Consumer Helpline (NCH). Seventy three complaints have also been received by the Consumer Online Research and Empowerment (CORE) Centre another Government supported initiative. These complaints have been taken up with the concerned Insurance Companies for resolution.

[Translation]

**Declaration of Minimum Support Price
for Kharif Crops**

2226. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared support price for kharif crops for the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether assessment has been made regarding the production cost of the foodgrains by the farmers;

(c) if so, the difference in production cost of foodgrains during 2006-07 in comparison to the last year and the percentage increase recorded in regard to production cost;

(d) whether declaration of the support price has been made keeping in view the increased cost and the debt on farmers;

(e) whether the total fund has been declared for the amount of debt for the crop; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has recently announced the Minimum Support Price for Kharif crops of 2006-07 season.

(b) to (d) The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) while formulating its recommendations on price policy, apart from making a comprehensive overview of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity, considers the 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 industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price

situation, parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of Trade).

By taking into account the cost of production of different crops for 2005-06 and 2006-07 as projected by CACP, the average increase in the cost of production of foodgrains in 2006-07 works out to 4.37 percent.

(e) and (f) Target of agricultural credit flow for 2006-07 has been fixed at Rs. 1,75,000 crore.

Share of SAIL in Construction Products

2227. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has worked out a policy to create/increase its share in the market of housing construction products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plans to increase its share of production of Thermo Mechanically Twisted (TMT) Bars which are used in housing construction. Towards this end, it has been decided to install a new Bar and Rod Mill of 0.7 millions tonnes per annum capacity at Durgapur Steel Plant. SAIL also has plans for increasing the production capacity of TMT Bars at its Bhilai Steel Plant and IISCO Steel Plant through modernization/expansion of its facilities in the coming years.

Loss of Foodgrains

2228. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment regarding loss of foodgrains due to pilferage and wastage during transportation;

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

(c) the total quantity of foodgrains released by the Union Government alongwith the quantity actually distributed to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families during the year 2005-06 and the current year till date, State-wise;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(e) whether some States have refused to lift the foodgrains released for the BPL families; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantum and percentage of transit losses, including through pilferage and wastage, incurred by the FCI for the years 2001-02 to 2004-05 are indicated below:

(Quantity : Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Transit Shortages	Quantity Moved	%age
2001-02	1.45	238.42	0.61
2002-03	1.72	299.76	0.57
2003-04	1.70	343.10	0.50
2004-05	1.83	384.46	0.48

A Statement-I showing State-wise details of transit losses for the year 2000-01 to 2003-04 is enclosed. As regards the State-wise details for 2004-05, the annual accounts for the year 2004-05 are under finalisation.

(c) The State-wise details of total allocation and offtake of Rice & Wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and allocation and off-take of Rice and Wheat foodgrains for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto June, 2006) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) An amount of Rs. 16492.50 crore was released as subsidy towards foodgrains distributed to the Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya families for the year 2005-06. During the current year 2006-07, total food subsidy of Rs. 11887.35 crore, including for Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya families, has been spent till 10th August, 2006.

(e) It has been informed by the Food Corporation of India that they have not received any refusal from the State/Union Territory Governments for lifting of foodgrains released for the Below Poverty Line families.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

Transit Losses for the Year 2001-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Qty. 000 MT
(Value in Rs. lacs)

Region	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jammu and Kashmir	2	117.55	2	185.75	2	160.25	3	226.55
Punjab	0	37.75	0	31.69	5	244.92	2	204.39
Haryana	2	206.82	0	11.29	0	8.54	0	17.21
Uttar Pradesh	5	410.85	(-4)	(-)288.65	4	232.88	8	581.96
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	(-)28.08	0	(-)10.34	0	26.93
Delhi	1	48.05	0	-9.9	0	2.73	0	10.26
Rajasthan	7	517.55	3	201.5	0	88.75	3	200.73
Himachal Pradesh	0	1.10	0	1.03	0	1.48	0	1.67
Total	17	1339.67	1	104.67	11	729.19	16	1235.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	8	646.71	6	517.13	15	1463.32	15	1806.21
Tamil Nadu	11	1063.14	7	647.06	5	467.88	9	947.61
Karnataka	11	1050.16	8	715.43	20	1977.37	21	2049.37
Kerala	4	414.37	2	210.12	3	225.36	3	228.18
PO Madras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PO Vizag	0	7.84	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	34	3182.22	23	2089.74	43	4133.93	48	4831.31
Madhya Pradesh	9	763.51	10	812.72	12	937.80	11	670.49
Chhattisgarh	0	0	3	369.98	1	79.69	1	64.66
Maharashtra	21	1818.4	24	2082.49	17	1458.58	15	1020.98
Gujarat	8	625.98	20	1444.67	13	979.11	4	338.65
PO Kand	3	156.17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	41	3364.06	57	4709.86	43	3455.18	31	2094.78
PO Kolkata	12	1021.95	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	11	888.68	5	427.78	7	555.21	7	621.55
Jharkhand	0	0	3	233.85	3	228.59	4	361.48
Orissa	8	710.8	3	221.34	5	375.28	9	832.70
West Bengal	9	836.91	18	1486.68	19	1526.47	18	1473.10
Total	40	3458.34	29	2369.65	34	2585.55	38	3288.83
Assam	16	1513.08	23	2168.82	25	2553.42	25	251.98
NE Region	7	618.59	9	868.81	12	1194.58	9	876.03
N&M Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	210.14
Total	23	2131.67	32	3037.63	37	3748	37	3598.08
Grand Total	155	13476.16	142	12311.60	170	14851.85	170	15048.32

Statement II

*Allocation and Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the Year 2005-06 & 2006-07 (Upto June, 2006) (P)
Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)*

Name of the State/UTs	2005-06			2006-07 (upto June, 2006)		
	Total Allocation for PDS	Allocation for BPL	Off-take for BPL	Total Allocation for PDS	Allocation for BPL	Off-take for BPL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	17.06.38	1086.13	1101.87	426.6	263.022	263.78
Arunachal Pradesh	41.50	28.56	25.52	10.38	6.382	6.81
Assam	800.52	625.416	595.48	192.7	134.19	135.43
Bihar	2639.18	2,166.65	672.01	659.8	502.26	76
Chhattisgarh	787.63	532.812	536.803	1494.9	119.422	84.2
Delhi	171.78	148.464	145.19	42.95	37.116	41
Goa	15.96	10.221	3.804	3.047	1.52	0.3
Gujarat	876.85	618.063	471.11	216.9	136.169	131.69
Haryana	328.57	242.516	195.25	82.14	57.192	53.5
Himachal Pradesh	178.93	116.648	95.56	30.38	14.175	14.44
Jammu and Kashmir	309.08	220.335	225.77	77.27	53.805	53.09
Jharkhand	1005.49	700.224	380.91	251.4	175.056	84.77
Karnataka	1284.07	876.317	875.69	317.7	194.529	190.12
Kerala	625.65	445.56	436.973	163.2	106.374	106.45
Madhya Pradesh	1729.46	1,195.35	1217.46	430	266.839	279.83
Maharashtra	2744.30	1914.47	1647.21	686.1	477.771	395.24
Manipur	59.64	36.566	33.93	17.43	12.138	9.25
Meghalaya	76.86	53.568	54.7	19.22	13.377	13.32
Mizoram	28.68	18.279	17.65	7.14	4.41	4.41
Nagaland	52.08	35.817	35.61	13.02	8.028	13.99
Orissa	16.96.69	1261.91	797.408	424.3	291.924	136.62
Punjab	196.54	164.067	71.11	49.13	34.557	14.34
Rajasthan	933.40	593.382	469.57	255.3	160.77	122.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	18.24	14.076	14.05	4.56	3.519	3.28
Tamil Nadu	2042.38	1397.70	1391.6	510.6	314.808	306.74
Tripura	123.90	95.364	92.77	30.98	23.841	13.02
Uttar Pradesh	4484.79	29.45.11	2560.263	1121	691.425	321.81
Uttaranchal	209.17	162.413	166.282	52.29	40.269	24.99
West Bengal	2010.54	1447.97	1294.459	496.5	341.124	304.82
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9.23	7.428	1.81	1.71	1.26	1.07
Chandigarh	9.64	8.748	0	0.853	0.631	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.72	5.192	1.67	1.68	1.29	0.77
Damen and Diu	1.68	1.236	0.44	0.42	0.261	0.06
Lakshadweep	0.54	0.372	0.47	0.135	0.093	0
Pondicherry	35.11	22.862	12.53	8.778	5.391	5.97
Total	27268.18	19199.75	15642.52	6801	4494.96	3213.73

[English]

System of Rice Intensification Cultivation Methods

2229. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any System of Rice Intensification (SRI) cultivation methods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to increase the rice production by reducing usage of water and chemical fertilizers?

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 System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was developed in Madagascar in 1980s. SRI Technology uses less seed, fewer plants per unit area, less chemical fertilizer, more organic manures, less pesticides and yields higher than conventional method of rice cultivation. In

recent years, the Government has organized training, demonstrations and taken up evaluation study for promotion of SRI technology in the country in situations where it is feasible.

[Translation]

Condition of Godowns

2230. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding storage capacity and the total quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India Limited (FCI) in various States of the country, location-wise;
- (b) whether these godowns are in a dilapidated condition particularly in the backward areas;
- (c) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken to improve the condition of the said godowns;

(e) whether there is a long time lag in loading and unloading of foodgrains at these godowns;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the remedial measures 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 details of storage capacity and the total quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India in various States all over the country as on 30.6.2006 is given in the Statement enclosed. The location-wise information is not readily available and is being compiled.

(b) No, Sir. All FCI owned godowns including those in the backward areas are constructed scientifically as per ISO Code 607-1971 and are maintained properly.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement

The details of the storage capacity (owned/hired and covered/CAP) as well as stocks held/available with FCI

As on 30th June, 2006
Capacity in lakh MT

Sl.No.	State	Storage Capacity (Covered & CAP Owned and Hired)	Stocks Held
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	5.23	2.54
2.	Jharkhand	1.24	0.97
3.	Orissa	6.48	4.60
4.	West Bengal	10.08	4.11
5.	Sikkim	0.11	0.06
6.	Assam	2.50	1.96

1	2	3	4
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.11
8.	Meghalaya	0.30	0.26
9.	Mizoram	0.18	0.06
10.	Tripura	0.34	0.12
11.	Manipur	0.20	0.09
12.	Nagaland	0.30	0.13
13.	Delhi	3.70	1.37
14.	Haryana	21.81	13.83
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.26	0.11
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.17	0.60
17.	Punjab	68.81	50.87
18.	Chandigarh	1.17	0.98
19.	Rajasthan	9.05	2.06
20.	Uttar Pradesh	25.22	4.66
21.	Uttaranchal	1.70	1.07
22.	Andhra Pradesh	34.72	20.38
23.	Kerala	5.33	2.16
24.	Karnataka	5.98	2.91
25.	Tamil Nadu	8.11	6.06
26.	Pondicherry	0.53	0.39
27.	Gujarat	5.66	2.54
28.	Maharashtra	15.52	4.58
29.	Goa	0.15	0.09
30.	Madhya Pradesh	5.34	1.99
31.	Chhattisgarh	9.35	7.48
Total		250.72	139.14

[English]

Community Radio Stations

2231. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Community Radio Stations are allowed to generate their own revenue through advertisements and sponsored programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereabout;

(c) whether the Government contrarily has sent this issue / proposal to a Group of Ministers (GoM) to study the whole issue;

(d) if so, whether the GoM has submitted its recommendations;

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

(f) the changes proposed by the Government in the guidelines for Community Radio Stations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The proposal to review the policy is before the Group of Ministers.

**Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation
at Namrup**

2232. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation at Namrup was hit by serial of explosions/ blasts in the area;

(b) if so, whether the production work of the said plant was affected as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the loss of production caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The pipeline of Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL) carrying Natural Gas to BVFCL's Fertilizer Units was blasted on 9th June 2006, which adversely affected company's fertilizer producing plant and caused production loss from 9th to 12th June 2006 as detailed below.

Namrup-II	969 MT	Rs. 72.41 Lakhs
Namrup-III	2705 MT	Rs. 149.34 Lakhs
Total	3674 MT	Rs. 221.75 Lakhs

[Translation]

Marketing of Items of Archives of Film Division

2233. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for marketing the items available in the Archives of the Film Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage producers for making documentaries on Film Division and to modernize and digitalize its Archives?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Since its inception, Films Division is marketing the items available in its archives through out the world by selling stock shots, prints betas, VHS, VCDs, DVDs or through telecast by Doordarshan Kendras and other private satellite channels by receiving royalty payments. To get a further reach to its customers. Films Division since 2003 has encoded 550 hrs. of its archival items, of which 220 hours are streamed on official website www.filmsdivision.org. The users of this website place orders for purchasing VHS, VCD and film clippings online through e-mail.

(c) There is no proposal for production of documentaries on Films Division itself. However, Films Division has produced and preserved more than 8100 films including documentaris, news reels, news magazines, short fiction films, instructional and educational films, cartoon films etc., over the 58 years of its existence. These films are being digitalized under a Plan Scheme of 'Web casting and Digitalization of Films Division films'.

The archives of Films Division have been categorized as most precious, precious and normal depending upon the historic and archival importance and the same are being digitized and digitally restored in the order of their merit. The entire process is targeted for completion by March 2007.

[English]

Expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant

2234. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for further expansion and modernization of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost involved therein alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) The Steel authority of India Limited (SAIL) has prepared Corporate Plan 2012, under which the annual capacity of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is proposed to be increased from 1.671 MT of saleable steel to 2.548 MT of saleable steel. To attain this production level, it has been envisaged that an investment of Rs. 4,590 crore will have to be made in the various units of RSP which are planned to be completed by 2012 progressively.

Compensation to Victims of Bhopal Gas Disaster

2235. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the disbursement of compensation to the victims of Bhopal Gas leak disaster till 2005;

(b) the number of appeals and review petitions lying with the Welfare Commissioner at present;

(c) whether there was any direction of the Supreme Court recently for the expeditious payment of compensation to the victims; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to adhere to the directions of the Supreme Court?

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) Till 31.12.2005, a sum of Rs. 1542.36 crore had been disbursed among 5,72,266 claimants, as original compensation.

(b) As on 31.7.2006, 353 appeals and 26 review petitions are lying with the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal.

(c) and (d) No sir, does not arise.

[Translation]

Population of Marginal Farmers

2236. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of marginal farmers is constantly increasing due to division of land holdings among families owing to increase in population;

(b) if so, the number of marginal farmers in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to redistribute the land rendered surplus after ceiling among the farmers so as to decrease their number;

(d) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any action plan for its actual implementation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to make the farming remunerative for the marginal 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) The number of marginal operational holdings, as per different Agriculture Censuses, have increased from 36.20 million in 1970-71 to 71.18 million in 1995-96.

(b) A statement showing the number of marginal holdings as per Agricultural Census, 1995-96 is enclosed.

(c) to (f) The State Governments on their part implement different schemes to assist small and marginal farmers including re-distribution of surplus land. Government of India also implements schemes which enable the farmers to supplement their income by diversifying into the dairying, fisheries and poultry sectors.

Statement

Number of Marginal operational holdings in India, 1995-96—State-wise

Sl.No.	State	Number of operational Holdings (in Thousand)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6300
2.	Assam	1669
3.	Bihar	11344
4.	Gujarat	1034
5.	Haryana	815
6.	Himachal Pradesh	556
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1041
8.	Karnataka	2610
9.	Kerala	5918
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3878
11.	Maharashtra	4266
12.	Manipur	69
13.	Meghalaya	72
14.	Nagaland	9
15.	Orissa	2145
16.	Punjab	204
17.	Rajasthan	1611
18.	Sikkim	24
19.	Tamilnadu	5951
20.	Tripura	247

1	2	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	16237
22.	West Bengal	5003
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	21
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7
26.	Delhi	21
27.	Goa	57
28.	Mizoram	28
29.	Pondicherry	26
30.	Lakshadweep	9
31.	Chandigarh	1
32.	Daman and Diu	3
All India		71179

Note: Total may not tally due to rounding off.

Domestic Income and Expenditure of Farmers

2237. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average domestic expenditure of the rural farmers is much higher than their average income;

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

(c) the details of the average domestic expenditure and income of the farmers living in rural areas for 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) to (c) A Statement showing the average monthly consumption expenditure and income of the farmer households in major States of India as per the 59th round survey of National Sample Survey Organisation pertaining to agricultural year 2002-03 is enclosed. From the

annexure it can be seen that the average monthly consumption expenditure of the farmer households varies from Rs. 1697.00 in the State of Orissa to Rs. 4840.00 in the State of Punjab. The consumption expenditure includes, besides consumption expenditure out of purchase, the imputed value of consumption expenditure out of (a) home-grown stock; (b) receipts in exchange of goods and services; (c) any other receipts like gift, charity, borrowing, and (e) free collection. The average monthly income of the farmer households ranges from Rs. 1062.00 in the State of Orissa to Rs. 5488.00 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This monthly average income excludes rent, interest, dividend.

The Government is making concerted efforts to improve the conditions of farmers. The steps taken by the Government for making agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity with resultant increase in income of farmers include (i) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (ii) promoting farmer friendly, agriculture extension system; (iii) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture; (iv) enhancing institutional credit flow to farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (v) strengthening infrastructure and supply chain; (vi) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (vii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Further, to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices, Government has been announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for important crops based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While recommending MSP, the CACP, *inter alia*, takes into consideration cost of cultivation/production, trend and spread of input use, production and productivity of crop concerned and market prices. The Government also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural commodities that are not covered under MSP.

Statement

Average Monthly Consumption Expenditure and Income of Farmer Households as per 59th Round Survey of NSSO

State	Average Monthly consumption expenditure (in Rs.)	Average Monthly income from all sources per farmer house hold* (in Rs.)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2386	1634
Assam	2714	3161
Bihar	2459	1810

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	2045	1618
Gujarat	3127	2684
Haryana	4414	2882
Jammu and Kashmir	4109	5488
Jharkhand	1897	2069
Karnataka	2608	2616
Kerala	4250	4004
Madhya Pradesh	2339	1430
Maharashtra	2689	2463
Orissa	1697	1062
Punjab	4840	4960
Rajasthan	3288	1498
Tamil Nadu	2506	2072
Uttar Pradesh	2899	1633
West Bengal	2668	2079
All-India	2770	2115

*Excluding rent, interest and dividend.

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

[English]

Ban on Fishing

2238. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued a ban on fishing by all deep sea fishing vessels in the five coastal States from June 10, 2006 to August 15, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka, Kerala and Goa has already imposed ban till July 31, 2006; and

(d) 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 (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India *vide* Order No. 30035/15/97-fy(T-1) Vol.II dated 17.3.2006 has ordered ban on fishing by all deep sea fishing vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone on the west coast from 10th June, to 15th August, 2006 (both days inclusive).

(c) and (d) In compliance of the recent orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa have issued ban orders up to 15th August, 2006.

Shortage of Godowns

2239. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation is facing an acute shortage of storage space for the storage of mustard and wheat crops in various parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the warehouse rentals have soared up on the build-up of the new harvest; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to create more storage capacity immediately?

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

(b) No, Sir in view of (a) above.

(c) CWC is creating additional capacity at Deoli (5,000 MT), Baran (2,500 MT), Jhunjhunu (5,000 MT), Sitapura (25,000 MT), Bikaner (5,000 MT) and Bharatpur (5,000 MT).

Encroachment of Tsomo Lake

2240. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lake Tsomo-Ri-Ri located in Ladakh is considered ecologically fragile and has been encroached upon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Lake Tso Morari is considered ecologically fragile. The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has set up its post and camps on the banks of Tso Morari.

(c) The process of shifting of ITBP post and camps to an alternate site is on.

Employment Opportunities in Organised/ Unorganised Sector

2241. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the employment opportunities in organised and unorganised sectors in the country have been decreasing continuously for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the projections made by the Planning Commission, employment in the organised and unorganised sectors taken together on current daily status basis has gone up from 344.68 million in 2001-02 to 362.64 million in 2004-05.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Techniques for Harvesting of Crops

2242. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed suitable techniques for reducing the wastage during harvesting of crops by the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of farmers benefited so far from the said techniques; and

(d) the efforts being made to streamline the work being done in this regard?

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

(b) The details of various techniques of harvesting of crops are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) About 25% wheat and paddy farmers have been benefited so far from the improved harvesting techniques in India.

(d) The emphasis is towards developing techniques of harvesting which are more cost effective and precise. Steps have been initiated for development of harvesting machines for cotton, sugarcane and horticultural crops. Frontline demonstrations and multi-location trials of the already developed harvesting techniques are being conducted.

Statement

The harvesting machines developed and being used so far include simple hand operated sickle to combine harvester. The sickle is most widely used tool for harvesting. Self-sharpening serrated sickle has been developed with better material and design that requires less frequent sharpening. Fruit harvesters that prevent fruits from falling on ground have been developed. Clippers for safe harvesting of know, strawberry and capsicum have been developed. Reapers operated by engine, power tiller and tractor have been developed and introduced for harvesting wheat, paddy, soybean and similar other crops. Combines and other harvesting machines are being produced commercially and used by the farmers. The harvesting tools and equipment developed and their number in use are given in Table No.-1. The annual volume of production for self-propelled and tractor operated machines are estimated to the 15,000 and 5000 respectively. About 700-800 combines are sold annually which are mostly used for custom hire service.

Table No 1 : Harvesting tools and equipment developed and their number in use

Sl.No.	Name of Equipment	Power source	centre where developed	Work capacity ha/h	Units available
1	2	3	4	5	6
HARVESTING EQUIPMENT					
1.	Improved sickle	One person	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal	0.018	17,00,000
2.	TNAU animal drawn groundnut digger	Bullock pair	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore	0.10	300
3.	Udaipur animal drawn groundnut digger	Bullock pair	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology (MPUA&T), Udaipur	0.16	150

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Birsa Animal drawn potato digger	Bullock pair	Birsa Agricultural University (BAU), Ranchi	0.030 0.035	1300
5.	PAU Animal drawn single row potato digger	Bullock pair	Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana	0.12	1800
6.	Self propelled vertical conveyer reaper	Engine	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal	0.20-0.33	5000
7.	Self propelled rice harvester	6 hp diesel engine	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad	0.120- 0.175	1400
8.	Riding type self propelled vertical conveyor reaper	6 hp engine	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) Bhopal	0.28	160
9.	Tractor front mounted vertical conveyer reaper	35 hp tractor	Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana	0.3-0.4	25,000
10.	Tractor mounted groundnut digger	35 hp tractor	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad	0.256	5000
11.	Tractor mounted potato digger-elevator	35 hp tractor	Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana	0.14	7000
12.	Automatic potato digger	35 hp tractor	Commercial	0.25	35000
13.	Combine harvester	75 kW diesel engine	Commercial	1	15000

Recommendations of Bachhawat and Manisana Wage Boards

2243. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Governments which have implemented the recommendations of the Bachhawat and Manisana Wage Boards for journalists/non-journalists attached to newspaper industry and the name of the States which have not yet implemented the said recommendations;

(b) the date of the constitution of monitoring Committee at central level alongwith the details of the achievements made thereunder, so far; and

(c) the dates on which the Union Government requested the State Governments for setting up of special cells, Committees to monitor the progress of implementation, activating State labour enforcement mechanism and sending quarterly report of progress to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A Statement showing the implementation of the recommendations of the Manisana Wage Boards, State-wise, is enclosed. After notification of the recommendation of the Manisana Wage Boards, the implementation of the recommendations of the earlier Wage Boards, namely the Bachhawat Wage Boards, is not required.

(b) A Central Level Monitoring Committee was constituted on 11th January, 2002. The Committee has since held five meetings in New Delhi and have undertaken visits to the States of Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himchal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Kerala to monitor the implementation of the Manisana Wage Boards recommendations.

(c) All States/Union Territories were requested on 16th February, 2001 for creation of Special Cells and constitution of Tripartite Monitoring Committees to oversee the progress of implementation of recommendations of Manisana Wage Boards as well as gearing up the State Labour Enforcement Machinery to ensure speedy and prompt implementation of recommendations of Manisana Wage Boards and furnishing of Quarterly progress reports.

Statement

State-wise Statement showing the Implementation of the Manisana Wage Boards Recommendations

Sl.No.	State/U.T	No. of Estt.	Which have implemented		
			Fully	Partially	Not implemented
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37	8	29	—
2.	Assam	91	6	2	83
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	—	—	6
4.	Bihar	7	6	—	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	1	—	3
6.	Goa	7	6	1	—
7.	Gujarat	19	16	—	3
8.	Haryana	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	22	—	16	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	62	—	62	—
11.	Jharkhand	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
12.	Karnataka	103	17	28	58
13.	Kerala	46	5	6	35
14.	Madhaya Pradesh	126	35	10	81
15.	Manipur	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
16.	Maharashtra	136	114	—	22
17.	Meghalaya	⊙ ⊙	⊙ ⊙	⊙ ⊙	⊙ ⊙
18.	Mizoram	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
19.	Nagaland	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
20.	Orissa	19	7	5	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Punjab	10	7	—	3
22.	Rajasthan	*243	5	1	237
23.	Sikkim	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
24.	Tamil Nadu	90	85	1	4
25.	Tripura	18	—	—	18
26.	Uttar Pradesh	260	67	1	192
27.	Uttaranchal	+149	4	—	145
28.	West Bengal	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
30.	Chandigarh	3	—	—	3
31.	Delhi	36	28	—	8
32.	Daman and Diu	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
34.	Lakshadweep	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙	⊙⊙
35.	Pondicherry	13	6	—	7
Total		1507	423	162	922

*207 estts. are one man estt. +143 estts. are one man estt. NR—Net Reported, —NIL

⊙—The recommendations are not applicable in these States/UTs, as the newspaper estt. are very small.

⊙⊙—There is no newspaper establishment in these States/ UTs.

Goods Sold after Expiry Date

2244. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether complaints regarding sale of consumer goods, both Indian and imported, after the lapse of their expiry date have been received by the Government;

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

(c) the details of rules regarding such violations alongwith the nature of action recommended thereunder against the violators; and

(d) the number of cases registered against such violators alongwith the action taken thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No such specific complaint regarding sale of consumer goods after lapse of expiry date has been received by the Central Government.

(c) In case of food products, the date of expiry is required to be mentioned on the label as per Rule 32 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Violation of the above provision is punishable under section 16 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. In case of

Drugs, labeling requirements are mentioned in Rule 97 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Violation of these provisions is punishable under section 27 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Greenfield Plant by SAIL

2245. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the meaning/objective of Greenfield plant;

(b) whether Steel Authority of India Limited proposes to set up Greenfield plant at Bokaro;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Greenfield Plant is a new steel plant in a particular location beyond the boundaries of an existing steel plant.

(b) to (d) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has prepared a Corporate Plan which envisages capacity increase to 22.5 MT of hot metal by 2012. In addition, SAIL plans to enhance its production capacity to 43 MT by 2020 so as to retain its present market share. A number of Greenfield projects are contemplated out of which Greenfield expansion at Bokaro in Jharkhand is one possibility. The details are being worked out.

Failure of PDS in North East

2246. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System has failed in the North Eastern States particularly Arunachal Pradesh due to non release of payment of the Hill Transport Subsidy;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of PDS in the North Eastern States particularly Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The offtake of foodgrains under TPDS has been uniformly high in all the North Eastern States during the last 4 months.

(c) The responsibility of Central Government is to make available foodgrains for the TPDS to the State/UTs. Further lifting, movement and distribution of the stocks through the fair price shops is the responsibility of the respective States/UTs. The FCI has been asked to keep adequate stock of foodgrains in the North Eastern Region to meet the entire requirements under TPDS. With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit. The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS. Under the Area Officers Scheme senior officers of the Government visit their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT Administrations for taking necessary action. In the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments including the conference for North Eastern States held in Guwahati on 31st January, 2006 the issue of diversion of foodgrains has been discussed at length and State Governments have been asked to take steps like door delivery of foodgrains, involvement of Self-Help Groups of stakeholders in distribution, computerization of PDS beneficiaries, etc.

[Translation]

Cattle Research Centres

2247. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Cattle Research Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the existing centers are not functioning properly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the action taken thereon; and

(f) the new breeds developed in these centres 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) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

(f) No new breeds have been developed during the last three years.

Increase in Child Labour

2248. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether in view of present manpower and the assessment made by the Planning Commission, the number of child labourers in the country has increased manifold by the year 2005; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the information received from the Planning Commission, they have not made any assessment on the number of child labour in the country.

(b) In view of the above, does not arise.

[English]

Visit of Farmers Delegation to Israel

2249. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of farmers and experts visited Israel recently;

(b) if so, the details of participants;

(c) whether India proposes to follow and adopt some of other technologies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to the country 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) to (e) The Union Agriculture Minister accompanied by high level official delegation and a large business delegation coordinated by FICCI visited Israel in May 2006 to participate in Agritech-2006. The official delegation comprised three Chief Ministers and seven Agriculture Ministers from Indian States (Compositions of the official and business delegations are placed at Statement I & II). This visit was followed by the visit of a delegation from Rajasthan led by the Agriculture Minister of Rajasthan from 27th June-3rd July, 2006 for exposure to Israeli agricultural practices and technologies (The composition of the delegation is given in the enclosed statement-III)

Israel has made impressive progress in agriculture and has acquired leadership, particularly, in the field of water management and conservation and creating infrastructure for smaller farms; dry land desert condition farming; precision and protected farming; post harvest management and value addition for vegetables, fruits and dairy products; agriculture marketing and processing units; dairy development through genetic improvements, etc. Cooperation with Israel in the field of agriculture may be useful particularly for states having agro-climatic conditions as exist in Israel. A Work Plan has been signed recently to give effect to cooperation in the field of agriculture between the two countries.

Statement I*Composition of the Indian Official delegation to Israel Agritech 2006*

1. Hon'ble Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
2. Mr. Vimalendra Sharan, Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
3. Mrs. Radha Singh, Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) Ministry of Agriculture
4. Dr. Mangla Rai, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research
5. Mrs. Upma Choudhary, Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries
6. Hon'ble Mr. H.S. Chatha, Agriculture Minister of Haryana
7. Mr. R.K. Khullar, Director, Government of Haryana
8. Hon'ble Ms. Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister of Rajasthan
9. Mr. Tanmay Kumar, Special Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan
10. Mr. Parvinder Singh, Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan
11. Hon'ble Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat
12. Mr. V. Thiruppugazh, Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat
13. Dr. M.C. Varshneya, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Agriculture University
14. Hon'ble Mr. Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister of Nagaland
15. Hon'ble Mr. Kukzholuzo, Minister of Agriculture of Nagaland
16. Mr. Rothihu Tetseo, Officer on Special Duty to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland

17. Hon'ble Mr. Balasaheb Thorat, Minister of Water Conservation and Agriculture, Maharashtra
18. Hon'ble Mr. Ajit Pawar, Minister of Irrigation, Maharashtra
19. Mr. J.S. Saharia, Principal Secretary (Water & Soil Conservation) Government of Maharashtra
20. Mr. Mukesh Khullar, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Maharashtra
21. Hon'ble Mr. Surender Nath Naik, Minister of Agriculture, Orissa
22. Mr. H.S. Chahar, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Orissa
23. Hon'ble Mr. Bandeppa, Kashempur, Minister of Agriculture, Karnataka
24. Hon'ble Mr. B. Nagaraja Shetty, Minister of Horticulture, Karnataka
25. Dr. S.C.V. Reddy, Additional Director (Horticulture), Government of Karnataka
26. Hon'ble Mr. N. Raghuvira Reddy, Agriculture Minister, Andhra Pradesh
27. Prof. C. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore.

Statement II*FICCI Business Delegation for Agritech-2006*

1. Dr. Amit Mitra
Secretary General, FICCI
2. Mr. Vivek Bharti,
Advisor, National Policy, Programme
And Projects, FICCI
3. Mr. Abhiram Seth,
Chairman-Water Committee, FICCI
Executive Director,
Pepsi Foods India Pvt. Ltd.
4. S. Sunanda
Joint Director and Team Leader
Agriculture, Water and Rural
Development FICCI
5. S. Bhaskar Reddy
Assistant Director
Water and Rural
Development FICCI

Business Delegates:

6. Shri T. Balakrishanan IAS
Principal Secretary (Industries) &
Chairman, KINFRA
7. Mr. K.S. Money
Chairman, APEDA
8. Mr. Venkat Chari,
Chairman
Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd.
9. Mr. Anup Banerji
Chief General Manager,
State Bank of India
10. Mr. Vikram Puri
Chief Executive Officer
Mahindra Shublabh Services Ltd.
11. Mr. Ajit Jain
Joint Managing Director
Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.
12. Mr. Narendra Gupta
Chief
National Commodities and Derivative
13. Brig. J.S. Oberai
Advisor—Horticulture Business
ITC Limited
14. Mr. Kalyan Chakravarthy
Country Head—Food and Agri Business
Yes Bank Ltd.
15. Dr. Subodh Shishodia
Head—Farmer Services
DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd.
16. Mr. Sanjiva Rishi
Vice President—Brand &
Satnam Overseas Ltd.
17. Mr. Tushar Pandey
Vice President,
Yes Bank Ltd.
18. Mr. K. Kumar
Managing Director
Septu India (P) Ltd.
19. Mr. Sundeep Kumar Gupta
Managing Director
VT Impex Limited
20. Mr. Jayanti Patel
Chairman & Managing Director
Meghmani Organics Ltd.
21. Mr. M.S. Sudhakar
Senior Manager
Jain Irrigation System Pvt. Ltd.
22. Mr. Satish Ghatpande
Vice President
Plastro Plasson Industries India Ltd.
23. Mr. Rahul Garg
Chief Manager
ICICI Bank Limited
24. Mr. Anant Shukla
General Manager—Horticulture
ITC Limited
25. Mr. T.C. Kothari
Chair-man & Managing Director
Noble Horticulture Farm
26. Mr. Anil Harlalka
General Manager
Noble Horticulture Farm
27. Ms. Madhavi Soman
ICICI Bank Limited
28. Mr. Suresh Singla
Director
Titan Biotech Ltd.

Statement III*Composition of delegation from Rajasthan to Israel*

Sl.No.	Name	Office/Designation/Place
1	2	3
Hon'ble Speaker		
1.	Sumitra Singh	Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly
Hon'ble Ministers		
2.	Saini, Prabhoo Lal	Agriculture Minister
3.	Rathore, Surendra Singh	State Irrigation Minister
Hon'ble Members of Assembly		
4.	Mahadeo Singh	MLA, Khandela

1	2	3
5.	Mirdha Richh Pal	MLA, Degana
6.	Gurjant Singh	MLA, Balabhanagar
7.	Khan, Zubair	MLA, Alwar
N.G.O.s		
8.	Laxman Singh	Gram Vikas Navvyuk Mandal
9.	Bhim Singh Yaduvanshi	Lupin Foundation Bharatpur
Journalists		
10.	Shekhawat, Pradeep Kumar	Rajasthan Patrika
11.	Sharma, Mahesh Chandra	Dainik Naviyoti
12.	Rohira, Shyam Swroop	Rashtradoot
Officers		
13.	Ahmad, Salalhuddin	Principal Secretary Agriculture
14.	Sharma, Vipin Chandra	Administrator Raj. State Marketing
15.	Sharma Manoj	Director, Agriculture
16.	Chauhan, Prakash Mohan	M.D. RSSC
17.	Chauhan, Ashok	Jt. Director (Plan), Directorate of Agri.,
18.	Choudhary, Mana Ram	Dy. Director (Ext.), Sirohi
19.	Jat, Sita Ram	A.D. (Hort.), Directorate of Horticuture
20.	Sunil Kumar	A.d. (Ext.), Bhilwara
21.	Singh Keshar	Secretary, K.U.M.S. (F & V), Jaipur
Farmers		
22.	Patidar, Ratanji	Dungarpur
23.	Kulmi, Banshi Lal	Jhalwar

1	2	3
24.	Lodha, Bharat Singh	Dholpur
25.	Tyagi, Bahadur Singh	Dholpur
26.	Khandelwal, Santosh Kumar	Kota
27.	Sikarwar, Naresh Singh	Baran
28.	Naurang Lal	Churu
29.	Choudhary, Pukhraj	Jodhpur
30.	Ramawatara Sharma	Sikar
31.	Pareek Radhey Shyam	Dausa
32.	Vashisht, Jai Prakash	Jaipur
33.	Deora, Suraj Pal Singh	Sirohi
34.	Rathore, Chandra Veer Singh	Bhilwara
35.	Sinsinwar, Om Parkash	Bharatpur
36.	Rajak Khan	Bharatpur
37.	Sharma, Kanti Lal	Banswara
38.	Duli Chand	Jhunjhunu
39.	Singh Mohar	Jhunjhunu
40.	Meghwal, Manju Devi*	Jalore
41.	Yadav, Prem Lata*	Sawai Madhopur
42.	Gulab Singh Singh Rajpurohit	
43.	Ram Singh	
44.	Jat, Bhanwar Lal	Tonk
45.	Yadav, Kishan Lal	
46.	Bhartiya, Badri Lal	Tonk
47.	Jhala, Bhagwati*	
48.	Tipu Devi*	

* Women Farmer

[Translation]

Privatisation of Zoological Parks

2250. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to privatise Zoological Parks;

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

(c) whether representations have been received against this privatisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The Union Government is not proposing to privatise Zoological Parks.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No representations have been received against privatisation of Zoos.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Land Fertility

2251. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the impact of continuous cultivation of wheat and paddy crops only on land fertility has been conducted;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote crop diversification to prevent soil infertility; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

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

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are instances of micro and secondary nutrient deficiencies, falling soil organic carbon contents impairing soil health in the major rice-wheat regions of the country especially Punjab and Haryana due to continuous imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without organic manures.

(c) The Government is encouraging soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management envisaging conjunctive use of both inorganic fertilizers and organic manures including green manures, biofertilizers, etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is also promoting crop diversification from cereal based cropping to high value and low water requiring crops like oilseeds, pulses, fruits, biofuels, medicinal and aromatic plants, etc. under macro management scheme keeping in view the national food security.

[Translation]

New Agricultural Policy

2252. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the draft resolution of new agricultural policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which the new agricultural policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to farmers therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) National Commission on Farmers has in its Fourth Report included a chapter on Draft National Policy on Farmers. The Commission is at present engaged in holding wider consultations with the State Governments and other stakeholders to further concretize their views in the matter. The Commission has indicated that the revised chapter on Draft National Policy on Farmers shall be included in their Fifth and Final Report which has not yet been submitted.

*[English]***Utilisation of Water Resources**

2253. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/plans being implemented to utilize the available water resources in order to meet the projected requirements of water for various purposes;

(b) the estimated cost of projects under construction;

(c) whether any foreign assistance have been obtained to implement some of the schemes or there is

any proposal to seek the foreign assistance in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects rests with the State Governments. However, Government provides central assistance to the State Governments for completion of ongoing irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

(c) and (d) There are at present 11 ongoing projects in the water resources sector being funded by external agencies and the details thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Externally Aided ongoing projects***World Bank**

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Type of Assistance	Cumulative Disbursement upto 30.06.2006 Million US\$/SDR (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project CR. 3635-IN	06.06.2002 31.1.2009	SDR 80 Revised SDR 63.420	Credit	SDR 21.626 Rs. 141.567
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN 4750-IN	30.11.2004 31.3.2011	US\$ 394.020	Loan	US\$ 22.436 Rs. 98.162
3.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	15.3.2002 31.3.2008	SDR 100.02	Credit	SDR 41.608 Rs. 271.393

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3602-IN	08.3.2002 31.10.2007	SDR 90.471	Credit	SDR 21.277 Rs. 138.599
5.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project-LN4796-IN	19.8.2005 31.03.2012	US\$ 325	Loan	US \$ 31.816 Rs. 143.332
6.	Hydrology Project-II	Multi-State*	19.1.2006 31.1.2012	US\$ 104.98	Loan	US\$ 0.525 Rs. 2.343

JBIC Japan

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Yen	Cumulative Disbursement upto 30.6.2006 Million Yen (Rs. in crores)
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernization of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal	25.1.1996 26.2.2005 31.3.2004 22.3.2009	(Tranche-I) 16049 (Tranche-II) 4773	15728.655 Rs. 670.679 1843.363 Rs. 72.235
8.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	12.12.1997 4.1.2005 31.3.2004 31.12.2009	(Tranche-I) 6844.227 (Tranche-II) 6342	6844.227 12.12.833 Rs. 48.675
9.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project	31.3.2005 31.3.2013	11555	0.00

KfW Germany

10.	Maharashtra	Minor Irrigation Project**	31.12.1998 30.12.2006	EURO 23.008	EURO 6.293 Rs. 32.630
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Minor Irrigation & Rural Water Supply Project***	31.10.2002 31.12.2005	EURO 2.659	EURO 0.00

*participating states : Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Pondicherry, Punjab.

**Proposal for extension till December, 208 under consideration.

***Proposal for extension till June, 2007 recommended to Department of Economic Affairs.

Techno Park for Ornamental Fish Production

2254. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for setting up of techno parks for ornamental fish production and export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The proposal of Government of Kerala received in Ministry of Commerce was examined in consultation with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and they have communicated their observations to the State Government to revise the proposal suitably so that its commercial feasibility is established.

Implementation of IFPS

2255. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) whether the Government had formulated Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) during the Ninth Five Year Plan:

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been implemented in all States and Union Territories;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the States who have not implemented the said scheme;

(e) whether the Government provides/proposes to provide compensation to the States in proportion to the forest cover/area under national afforestation programme and integrated forest protection scheme;

(f) if no, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme had been formulated for implementation during the Xth plan. The area of operation of scheme includes all States & Union Territories. The scheme has been implemented in all States & Union Territories except New Delhi, Lakshadweep & Pondicherry. The reasons are as follows:

Pondicherry: No proposal under the scheme has been received.

Lakshadweep: No proposal under the scheme has been received.

Delhi: Proposal for the financial year 2004-05 was received towards the end of the financial year and hence funds could not be released.

(e) to (g) There is no provision under IFPS and National Afforestation Programme (NAP) to provide compensation to the States having larger proportion of forest cover/area. Details of central assistance provided to States and Union Territories under IFPS during last four years are at statement enclosed.

Statement

Funds released to states/UTs under integrated forest protection scheme period 2002-03 to 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	129.00	100.00	290.00	175.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	118.62	128.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chhattisgarh	150.00	100.00	482.24	104.31
4.	Goa	49.42	70.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	75.00	50.00	209.44	192.00
6.	Haryana	70.00	59.22	139.62	75.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	57.40	75.00	57.85	180.186
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	74.25	109.78	193.84	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	81.17	130.00	409.10	75.00
10.	Karnataka	77.00	75.00	60.00	119.63
11.	Kerala	83.50	150.00	225.00	125.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	158.50	140.00	444.75	125.00
13.	Maharashtra	188.92	50.00	64.17	0.00
14.	Orissa	100.00	100.00	40.44	110.00
15.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	101.20	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	55.00	0.00	15.27	100.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	110.00	295.52	150.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	80.00	140.00	156.69	49.25
19.	Uttaranchal	98.07	150.00	429.81	150.00
20.	West Bengal	120.00	100.00	266.43	140.00
21.	Assam	376.60	130.00	70.00	400.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	426.02	0.00	141.68	274.66
23.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	154.30	128.80
24.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
25.	Mizoram	574.12	267.78	422.13	300.00
26.	Nagaland	407.47	200.00	282.03	54.00
27.	Sikkim	358.63	102.00	80.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	692.13	0.00	168.55	16.00
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	40.00	8.26
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Grand Total		4582.20	2408.78	5406.69	3260.976

Assistance for Development of Fisheries

2256. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the assistance provided to each state for the development of fisheries under centrally sponsored schemes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): A sum of Rs. 1544.95 lakh has been released to various States UTs for development of fisheries under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the current financial year (2006-07) till 31st July, 2006. A statement giving state wise details is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Development of Fisheries during the current financial year (2006-07) till 31.07.06

(Amount in Rs. lakh)

SI.No.	State/UTs	Amount Released in 2006-07 Till 31.07.2006
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	7.25
5.	Goa	109.00
6.	Gujarat	5.25
7.	Haryana	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.15
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00
10.	Karnataka	0.00
11.	Kerala	397.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	118.75
13.	Maharashtra	390.15
14.	Manipur	10.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.00
18.	Orissa	0.00
19.	Punjab	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	41.80
21.	Sikkim	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00
23.	Tripura	28.87
24.	Uttar Pradesh	77.60

1	2	3
25.	West Bengal	200.00
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00
27.	Daman and Diu	0.00
28.	Lakshadweep	0.00
29.	Pondicherry	0.00
30.	Chhattisgarh	91.68
31.	Uttaranchal	0.00
32.	Jharkhand	50.00
Total		1544.95

Issue of Levy Sugar

2257. SHRI P. KARUNKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Kerala for the issue of levy sugar by sugar mills wherefrom allocation has been made by the Directorate of Sugar;

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

(c) whether any proposal for allocation of sufficient quantity of sugar from a single mill to facilitate economic utilisation of a complete railway rake has been received from the said State; and

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

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) No representation for issue of levy sugar by sugar mills wherefrom allocation has been made by the Directorate of Sugar has been received from Kerala in recent months. The monthly levy sugar quota of Kerala State is 4103 M.T. The allocation of levy Sugar for the state of Kerala is being made on rake load basis from the sugar mills situated in the neighbouring States of Karnataka & Tamil Nadu to the extent feasible, as per the levy obligation of the respective sugar mills. No representation from Government of Kerala for release of

their entire levy sugar quota from a single sugar mill has been received in recent months.

Forest Tribal Rights Bill

2258. SHRI M.K SUBBA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Commission has raised objections to the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 due to its possible adverse impact on the existing forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the Forest Commission; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

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

(b) The main objections raised by the National Forest Commission in its recommendations no. 340, 341, 343 and 345 are as follows:

(i) The proposed Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill would be harmful to the interests of forests and to the ecological security of the country. It would be bad in law and would be in open conflict with the rulings of the Supreme Court.

(ii) The proposed legislation should not apply to national parks and sanctuaries.

(iii) There is ambiguity in the Bill about applicability of laws. If the laws of the land pertaining to forests and wildlife are to apply to all tribals and non-tribals, this must be clearly stated and the current confusion about duality in the application of law to tribals and non-tribals, be done away with.

(iv) The claims of tribals on forest lands should be finalized by quasi-judicial or judicial bodies and not by Gram Sabhas.

(c) The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill 2005 has been introduced in Parliament and is under consideration.

Profit of SAIL

2259. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has drawn up a programme for increasing its profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target set for the next three years; and

(c) the efforts made so far to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In the resurgent Indian Steel Market, SAIL has drawn up a Corporate Plan-2012, which envisages enhancing output and competitiveness for maintaining its leadership in the Indian Steel Market.

The Corporate Plan envisages a growth in production to 22.5 million tones of Hot Metal (from the current level of 14.6 million tones) at an investment of about Rs. 37000 crores. To bring down the costs of production, various technological interventions like augmenting concast route, 100% Basic Oxygen, Furnaces, introduction of auxiliary fuels usage and oxygen enrichment are planned to be introduced. Also, extensive plans have been made to improve quality of products across the value chain and to make value added steel. These steps are likely to further enhance the financial performance and profitability of the company.

Production of Hot Metal, envisaged in the Corporate Plan for the next three years *i.e.*, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as under:

Hot Metal Production	
Year	Quantity (MT)
2007-08	16.5
2008-09	17.2
2009-10	17.4

(c) The company has laid thrust on capital investments in order to achieve its new target of producing 22.5 million tones of hot metal. Projects of over Rs. 17000 crores are at various stages of process and implementation in the company.

*[Translation]***BIS Norms for Fire Safety**

2260 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations regarding precautionary measures related to fire safety in construction of temporary structures and pandals have been made by the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the said rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. BIS has published Indian Standards 8758:1993 'Recommendations for Fire Precautionary Measures in Construction of Temporary Structures and Pandals'.

(b) This standard covers the fire safety in respect of construction, location, maintenance and use of temporary structures including pandals used by public for fairs, festivals and such other outdoor assembly. It lays down general requirements relating to the materials, design, construction, fabrication of structures or devices and specific requirements for location, means of access, capacity, enclosures and exits, electrical arrangements, fire protection measures and fire fighting arrangements in such structures besides permission from the concerned local authorities.

(c) Fire Safety is a state subject and BIS standard is voluntary in nature. However, BIS has requested Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, Heads of Fire Services and all District Magistrates to consider enforcing this standard in public interest, through their Municipalities, Corporations, Fire Service Departments, etc.

*[English]***Research to Store Mango**

2261. SHRI L. RAJGOPAL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of mangoes in the country and inspite of having this advantage it is not able to export mangoes to various destinations of the world and even within the country since there is no proper technology to store mangoes for a longer period;

(b) if so, whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) or any other agricultural research institute has carried out or is carrying out any research to store mangoes for a longer period so that they can be exported to other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Agriculture Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) to the States including Andhra Pradesh for storing, exporting and marketing of mangoes within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of mangoes in the country with about 28% share in the total production. Mangoes including those from Andhra Pradesh, are being exported regularly to various destinations.

(b) Technology for better post harvest management and longer shelf life (upto four weeks) of mangoes has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Efforts are being made to increase this shelf life further to enhance exports.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

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

Statement I

The following technologies for storage of different mangoes varieties for longer period have been developed by the ICAR, which could be practised individually as well as in combination.

1. Maturity indices indicate that the Dushehari and Langra mangoes are mature and ready for harvest after 12 weeks of fruit set while Mallika and Chausa are ready for harvest after 15 weeks from the fruit set.

2. Mature fruits of mango should be harvested with 8 to 10 mm stalk during morning hours in order to reduce post harvest losses including spoilage.
3. At low temperature of 12°C, 85-90% Relative Humidity, Dashehari, Amarpalli and Mallika can be stored for 21 days in green condition and subsequently 6 days under room condition. Like wise, Langra can be stored for 15°C, 85-90% Relative Humidity. Similarly, Chausa can be stored for 27 days at 10°C with 85-90% Relative Humidity.
4. Packaging of Dashehari fruits in 0.5% ventilated CFB boxes after individual tissue paper wrapping of fruits is an ideal packaging for mango.
5. Hot water dip treatment at 52 ± C with 0.025% carbandazim for 5 minutes has been found most effective to control post harvest diseases.
6. Optimized controlled atmosphere storage requirements for Alphonso are 5% O₂ + 4.5% CO₂ at 13°C and the shelf life is 30 days. The conditions for banganapalli are 5% O₂ + 3% CO₂ at 13°C and shelf life is 35 days.

Statement II

Apeda assistance for storing, exporting and marketing of Mangoes within outside the country

APEDA has several schemes for promoting mango exports, which include the following:

SCHEME OF MARKETING DEVELOPMENT

A. Packaging Development

1. Activity for development of packaging standards and design
2. Assistance to exporters for use of packaging materials as per standards and specifications developed or adopted by APEDA.
3. Assistance to exporters producers, growers, service provides, Co-operative organizations, etc. for purchase of "Intermediate Packaging Material" for domestic transportation of produce.

B. Feasible Study Service, Consultancy and Database Upgradation

1. Development and dissemination of market information database on products, infrastructure, markets and pre-feasibility surveys/study, etc.

2. Assistance to exporters, grower organizations, trade associations for conducting surveys, feasibility studies, etc.
3. Assistance to Semi-Government, State Government, Public Sector Undertakings for Conduction Surveys, feasibility studies, etc.

C. Export Promotion and Market Development

1. Supply of material, samples, product literature, development of website, advertisement, etc. for publicity and market promotion for fairs/events organized/sponsored by APEDA
2. Publicity & promotion through preparation of product literature, publicity material, advertisement, film, etc. by APEDA.
3. Brand publicity through advertisement, etc.
4. Export promotion by APEDA undertaking activities like buyer-seller meet, product promotion, exchange of delegations, participation in exhibitions/fairs/events, etc.

SCHEME FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Part-I

- (A) Establishment of common infrastructure facilities by APEDA or any other Government of Public Sector agency like Airport Authority of India or Port Trust, etc.

Part-II

- (A) Assistance for purchase of specialized transport units for animal product, horticulture and floriculture sector
- (B) Assistance to exporters/producers/growers/ Cooperative organization and federations for horticulture and floriculture sector for—
- (i) Mechanisation of harvest operation of the produce.
 - (ii) Setting up of sheds for intermediate storage and grading/storage/cleaning operation of produce.
 - (iii) Setting up of mechanized handling facilities including sorting, grading, washing, waxing, ripening, packaging & palletisation, etc.
 - (iv) Setting up of pre-cooling facilities, etc. with proper air handling system

- (C) Providing facilities for preshipment treatment such as fumigation, X-ray screening, hot water dip treatment, Water softening Plant.
- (D) Setting up of integrated post harvest-handling system (pack houses/green house with any two or more of the above facilities)
- (E) Setting up of vapor heat (treatment electronic beam processing or irradiation facilities)
- (F) Assistance for setting up of environment control system e.g. pollution control, effluent treatment, etc.
- (g) Setting up of specialized storage facilities such as high humidity cold storage deep freezers, controlled atmosphere (CA) or modified atmosphere (MA) storage, etc.

Plantation of Mangroves

2262. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a project for coastal afforestation through plantation of mangroves and other associated plants along Kerala coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has submitted the Management Action Plans for conservation and management of mangroves at Kannur and Vembanad in May, 2006.

(c) The Management Action Plan for Kannur has already been sanctioned by the Ministry at a total cost of Rs. 49.21 lakh and that for Vembanad for Rs. 51.25 lakh for implementation by the State Government during 2006-07.

[Translation]

Co-operative Societies

2263. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the co-operative societies in the country are sound enough to take on the challenges of globalization;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to grant more autonomy to these societies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have endorsed the decision of the Union Government to grant more autonomy to these societies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Government is aware that cooperatives will have to face the challenges of open economic policies and globalization of the economy. Therefore, to provide an appropriate policy and legislative frame work to these institutions, in order to enable them to face these challenges, the Government has taken several measures, *inter-alia*, enunciation of a National Policy on Co-operatives, enactment of Multi State Cooperatives Societies Act, 2002. Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006 has also been introduced in Lok Sabha addressing the key issue for empowerment of the cooperatives through their voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management. Government has also approved a financial package to revamp and strengthen the cooperative credit institutions in the country.

(d) and (e) These policies and legislative measures to strengthen the cooperatives have been taken in consultation with State Governments through various fora.

Functioning of CWC

2264. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives behind setting up of the Central Water Commission;

(b) whether the commission has failed to achieve the desired results;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all the works of the commission have not been completed or are not going to be completed within their scheduled time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Central Water Commission is an apex technical organization in the field of water resources development in the country and is the main technical arm of the Ministry of Water Resources. Central Water Commission (CWC) is involved with the tasks of resource assessment; macro level planning; project planning including hydrological studies, designs, environmental and rehabilitation & resettlement issues; project evaluation; extending advice on planning and design problems, execution of water resources development projects and project monitoring; operational flood forecasting & dam safety aspects in operation of water resources projects; research and development; standardization and documentation; guidance/advisory role in report of committees, boards, etc. and technical support to different Ministers.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The works of the Commission are of continuing nature.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in Labour Force

2265. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in manpower in the country during the year 2005 as compared to the year 1995; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the projections made by the

Planning Commission, labour force in the country on current daily status basis has gone up from 378.21 million in 2001-02 to 399.00 million in 2004-05.

[English]

Fish Production

2266. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for production of fish from marine and inland sources and achievements made during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is a gap between targets and achievements;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the financial assistance provided to the States for the purpose during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The primary responsibility for the development of Fisheries and increasing fish production rest with the State/UTs as fisheries is a State subject. The Department therefore, does not set a target of fish production. However, the marine and inland fish production during 2004-05 was 27.78 lakh tones and 35.26 lakh tones respectively.

(e) A sum of Rs. 31041.34 lakh has been released to various States/UTs during Tenth Plan till 31st July, 2006 for development of fisheries in the country. State-wise details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of financial assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Development of Fisheries during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2005-06 and the current financial year (2006-07) till 31.07.06

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 Till 31.07.2006	Total release during 10th Plan till 31.07.06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	269.93	267.59	506.57	353.54	6.45	1404.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.72	38.00	98.26	54.79	0.00	220.77
3.	Assam	4	12.30	98.18	20.08	0.00	134.56
4.	Bihar	34.1	0.00	118.89	10.00	7.25	170.24
5.	Goa	14.6	15.00	70.73	278.47	109.00	487.80
6.	Gujarat	10.26	179.44	1293.20	870.17	5.25	2358.32
7.	Haryana	108.29	101.70	149.89	169.50	0.00	529.38
8.	Himachal Pradesh	54.21	22.23	90.49	78.72	11.15	256.80
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	48.68	20.30	244.76	263.01	0.00	576.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Karnataka	383.69	164.96	1071.07	1269.38	0.00	2889.10
11.	Kerala	485.49	352.50	377.08	1568.95	397.00	3181.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38.87	52.55	354.14	226.84	118.75	791.15
13.	Maharashtra	91.67	3.60	898.26	621.43	390.15	2005.11
14.	Manipur		0.00	96.37	34.00	10.00	140.37
15.	Meghalaya		50.00	14.02	0.00	0.00	64.02
16.	Mizoram	63	7.60	38.53	177.00	0.00	286.13
17.	Nagaland	102	147.56	241.31	166.06	0.00	656.93
18.	Orissa	284.63	326.48	482.99	349.89	0.00	1443.99
19.	Punjab	60	0.00	13.80	0.00	0.00	73.80
20.	Rajasthan	4.25	1.85	34.10	50.69	41.80	132.69
21.	Sikkim	10	0.00	4.50	4.50	0.00	19.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	876.2	784.73	1265.61	1260.06	0.00	4186.60
23.	Tripura	72.39	88.00	124.15	86.25	28.87	399.66
24.	Uttar Pradesh	134.26	258.00	597.85	714.96	77.60	1782.67
25.	West Bengal	403.18	229.31	1179.91	1430.23	200.00	3442.63
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	170.24	100.00	7.02	103.82	0.00	381.08
27.	Daman and Diu		0.00	127.00	65.00	0.00	192.00
28.	Lakshadweep		0.00	20.00	4.60	0.00	24.60
29.	Pondicherry	138.22	130.00	308.76	550.00	0.00	1126.98
30.	Chhattisgarh	15.17	100.71	116.03	144.02	91.88	467.61
31.	Uttaranchal		12.00	93.30	343.72	0.00	449.02
32.	Jharkhand	20	121.85	149.38	425.25	50.00	766.48
Total		3927.05	3588.26	10286.15	11694.93	1544.95	31041.34

Foodgrains for SC/ST/OBC Hostels

2267. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC/ST/OBC Hostels of Kerala included in the scheme for supply of foodgrains by the Government; and

(b) the per capita quantity of foodgrains being provided under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There are 179 SC/ST/OBC Hostels in Kerala for which Department of Food and Public Distribution is allocating foodgrains under the scheme "Foodgrain for welfare Institutions/Hostels (5% of BPL allocation)".

(b) Fifteen Kilogram of food grains per resident per month is provided under the scheme.

Decentralised Procurement

2268. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) the name of the state that have adopted decentralised scheme for procurement of foodgrains;

(b) the subsidy provided to these States to cover the difference between economic cost and sales realisation of foodgrains during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps taken to persuade other States to undertake decentralised procurement; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The State Governments of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Anandaman and Nicobar Islands, Karnataka and Gujarat have adopted the decentralized scheme for procurement of foodgrains.

(b) A Statement showing the amount of subsidy provided to the States undertaking decentralized procurement of foodgrains during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Due to encouragement given by this Department to States to adopt the Decentralized Scheme, the number of DCP States have gone up from 3 in 2001-02 to 11 in 2005-06.

Statement

Amount of food subsidy released to the States undertaking decentralized procurement during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Chhattisgarh	89.94	628.87	350.40
Madhya Pradesh	66.74	118.75	219.71
Orissa	NIL	40.96	70.49
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

Job in Organised Sector

2269. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the pace of growth of jobs in the organised sector as well as private sector has decreased significantly;

(b) if so, the extent to which the objectives of Tenth Five Year Plan has been achieved during the first four years; and

(c) the measures suggested/formulated by the Government in the approach paper of Eleventh Five Year Plan to increase the pace of growth of jobs in the organized sector as well as in the private sector including unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the projections made by the Planning Commission employment (both organised and unorganised taken together) on current daily status basis has gone up from 344.68 million in 2001-02 to 362.64 million in 2004-05.

(c) The approach paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been finalized till date.

[Translation]

Recruitment under SC/ST Categories

2270. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts reserved for SC/ST under all categories in the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam, have been filled as per the reservation quota:

S.No.	Categories of Posts	Total Strength	SC	SC percentage 15*	ST	ST percentage 7.5*
1.	Executives (including Jr. officers)	4605	764	16.59	210	4.56
2.	Non-executives			15*		6*
	(i) Highly skilled	1567	272	17.36	104	6.64
	(ii) Skilled	8653	1463	16.91	599	6.92
	(iii) Unskilled	1647	230	13.96	116	7.04
	(iv) Sweeper	40	14	35.00	1	2.50

*as prescribed by the Government.

The shortfall for ST representation in executive category is mainly on account of non-availability of suitable personnel belonging to ST category. In respect of unskilled category the shortfall is on account of separation and promotion of the officials to the higher category. The short fall in all the categories will be made up in the future recruitments.

Agriculture Technology Research Programme

2271. SHRI HANSRAJ. G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made under the Agriculture Technology Research Programme for development of agriculture in the country during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon by the Government;

(c) whether the Government make adequate allocation in view of the pitiable condition of the farmers in the country; and

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill all the posts in the said Nigam according to the reservation quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) The details of the posts filled under SC/ST categories in various posts in the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are given as under:

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken/proposed in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Agricultural Technology Projects has made significant progress in the implementation of the diverse activities planned under its components *viz.*, (i) Organization and Management System, (ii) Agro-ecosystem Research, and (iii) Innovation in Technology Dissemination. Major achievements particularly in the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Rs. 328.97 crore for the last three years.

(c) and (d) The new initiatives like National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research, Network Project on Seed Production

in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries, Indo-US Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture, Application on micro-organisms in Agriculture are all efforts to address technology related issue facing the farmers in the country.

Statement

Major Achievements

Component 1 (Organization and Management System): ICAR implemented a series of organizational reforms. Financial delegation to project leaders has been substantially increased and pre-audit requirement up to expenditures of Rs. 3 lakh abolished. A simple yet effective system for project peer review and monitoring was developed through NATP. In 32 institutes (38% of the candidate institutes) Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) cells were established to strengthen priority setting, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment work within and outside the NATP project. An Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) cell, led by an ADG, has been established. Guidelines for increasing revenues have been disseminated to the ICAR institutes. The newly established Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) generated Rs. 99.5 million as revenue.

Human Resource Development for Research Management: A total of 80 administrative staff were trained within the country and 9 from outside. Two retreats for ICAR top management (40 participants) and one management development program for comptrollers of SAUs were organized. In addition, training programs were conducted (total 255 participants) mostly at NAARM for directors, administrative, finance and account officers of ICAR institutes, and for comptrollers and directors of research of SAUs.

Information Systems Development: In 70% of the institutes, 50-100% of scientists now have a computer. A total of 310 units in the system have local area networks and 280 are linked to the internet. Very effective and substantial improvements in ICAR's library system were made. 128 libraries were strengthened, of which 39 were fully computerized.

Component 2: (Agro-Ecosystem Research): This component supported 4 modes of research: **Production Systems Research (PSR):** These were location-specific research projects that focused on production systems improvement, rather than single commodity or discipline, reinforcing the emphasis on sustainability and an

integrated approach. A total of 264 research projects in five main agro-ecosystems (namely irrigated, rainfed, arid, hill and mountain and coastal) were implemented. The PSR research projects have had a major impact on farm incomes and rural development. The impact analysis of zero tillage programme has clearly illustrated the high returns. A total of 70 research projects were also implemented under Institute village linkage program. Farmer training received priority attention here.

Cross-Cutting Mission Mode Research (MMR): These research activities spanned more than one agro-ecosystem and were designed to generate critical outputs needed to back-stop location specific PSR projects in more than one production system. The main objective has been achieved through the implementation of 43 well defined multi-institutional, inter-disciplinary projects. Notable results from MMR include: household food and nutritional security, collection, characterization and conservation of agro-biodiversity (plant, animal, fish); production of hybrids of maize, sorghum, rice, millet, sunflower, castor, cotton, tomato, chili and brinjal; production of transgenic phenotypes of rice, cotton and brassica; development of diagnostics for emerging plant and animal diseases; validation and promotion of IPM technology in different crops; improvement of watersheds; and development of prototypes of farm machines. Six improved technologies have been released for commercial production, 52 scientists received international training and 837 scientists were trained locally in the thematic areas covered by the component. More than 86,000 farmers received training at MMR implementing institutions. Two projects on "Conservation of Biodiversity" and "Household Food and Nutritional Security" were priority 1 & 2 programmes of 21 science and technology missions supported by GOI.

Strategic Research through Teams of Excellence (TOE): TOEs were created to conduct strategic and upstream research, provide technical assistance to PSR and HRD. The objectives were achieved through the implementation of 31 projects. Notable achievements were: (i) molecular characterization of major viral diseases of rice, banana and papaya; (ii) isolation of full gene sequences from banana mosaic virus; (iii) identification of very virulent pathotypes of bursal viral disease; (iv) identification of efficient rhizobacterial isolates for nitrogen fixation in rice; (v) development of farm machinery for grading fruit, soil tillage and chemical crop spray; and (vi) establishment of four referral laboratories for pesticide residues, meat products, fish products and cotton textiles. In addition, 218 short to medium term specialized trainings

were conducted for 3,311 scientists. Long-term training was provided to 235 scientists in priority areas such as molecular diagnosis, cloning, virus identification and molecular markers. TOE research has generated 83 promising technologies.

Properties of CWC

2272. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ownership of all the properties, land and godowns under the possession of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has been transferred to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the value of the said properties and losses suffered by it due to non transference;

(d) whether any lapses on the part of the department have been noticed in the non transference of said properties; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the officers held responsible?

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

Bonded Labourers

2273. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bonded labourers in the country have been liberated during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the new schemes to rehabilitate these bonded labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme is in operation since 1978 and modified in May 2000. Under this scheme grant is provided to the State Governments/UTs for survey of bonded labour, awareness

Competitive Grants Program (CGP): The objective of CGP was to improve research efficiency in the country by promoting innovative research and also to provide an incentive for research partnerships and collaboration to maximize complementarities among research providers. The projects provided funds to mobilize the best scientific expertise in the country, including NGOs and the private sector, to fill critical research gaps. A total of 120 technologies were developed/refined under the CGP, including diagnostics and vaccines, bio-control agents, farm machinery and equipment, processed foods and products.

Component 3 (Innovations in Technology Dissemination): The primary goal of this component was to develop models that improve the effectiveness and financial sustainability of the technology dissemination system with greater accountability to, and participation by farming communities. This goal was fully achieved. The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA-a registered society) model was established in all 28 project districts to facilitate the programmatic convergence of line departments and to link research and extension activities with the rural farm households within each district. ATMAs are viewed as the "bridge" to link research and extension (R-E) institutions within each district. Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) procedures were used to develop a Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP) for each district which provided a framework for the development of annual work plans at the block and district level in consultation and with the approval of stakeholder groups. State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) were established in 7 participating states to help train and support the implementation of the ATMA model; particularly in the 3rd and 4th phase districts. In addition, the ICAR's Division of Extension including headquarters and 8 Zonal Coordinating Units (ZCUs) were strengthened. 53 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARSS) were remandated (transformed) into KVKs to provide "farming systems research" and training capacity that could link with extension institutions and stakeholder groups. Finally, 44 ATICs were established to provide a "single window" delivery point at each of the 28 SAUs and 16 ICAR institutes.

generation and evaluatory studies, with a view to identify the bonded labour. A matching contribution on 50:50 basis subject to Rs. 10,000/- maximum is also provided to the State Governments/UTs under the said scheme for

rehabilitation of freed bonded labourer. The number of identified and rehabilitated bonded labourers for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 (year-wise/State-wise) is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated year-wise/state-wise

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Haryana	Karnataka	M.P.	Orissa	Rajasthan	U.P.	Jharkhand	Uttaranchal	West Bengal
2003-04	1699	314	0	0	0	39	10	398	0	5	0
2004-05	0	281	0	64	265	19	0	41	196	0	0
2005-06	0	141	31	0	38	0	0	149	0	0	32

[English]

Expected level of Agriculture Production

2274. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture production in seven years had not been at the expected levels as reported in the 'Hindu' dated January 8, 2006;

(b) if so, the expected and actual levels of agriculture production recorded during the said period;

(c) whether the Union Government has prepared any

document to increase the agriculture production in the country in five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A perusal of the 'Hindu' dated 8th January 2006, Delhi edition does not show the report mentioned. However, the targets and achievements of major agricultural commodities for the past 7 years, i.e. from 1999-2000 to 2005-2006, are given in the table below:

T: Target in Million Tonnes
A: Achievement in Million Tonnes

Year	Foodgrains		Oilseeds		Sugarcane		Cotton*		Jute#	
	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A
1999-2000	210.00	209.80	28.00	20.71	305.00	299.32	15.00	11.53	9.26	9.42
2000-01	212.00	196.81	28.00	18.44	325.00	295.96	14.50	9.52	8.92	9.32
2001-02	218.00	212.85	28.00	20.66	325.00	297.21	14.50	10.00	9.75	10.58
2002-03	220.00	174.77	27.00	14.84	320.00	287.38	15.00	8.62	10.68	10.27
2003-04	220.00	213.19	24.70	25.19	320.00	233.86	15.00	13.73	10.68	10.25
2004-05	225.10	198.36	26.20	24.35	270.00	237.09	15.00	16.43	10.60	9.40
2005-06§	215.00	208.30	26.58	27.73	237.50	278.39	16.50	19.57	10.12	9.89

§ Achievements as per 4th Advance Estimates.

* Million bales of 170 kgs. each.

Million bales of 180 kgs. each.

It may be seen from the table that although the achievements have been less than the targets in many cases, yet they are higher than targets in some cases.

(c) and (d) In order to increase productivity and production of cereals and pulses under specific crop based systems, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are under implementation from October 2000 in the country a Centrally sponsored scheme. Under this scheme assistance is provided for inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems, etc. To increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, Integrated Pest Management, etc. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology efforts among the farmers.

For cotton, Government of India launched technology mission since February 2000. Under the scheme, subsidy on the components like distribution of certified seeds and sprayers has been increased besides the rationalization of subsidy on other components.

USAID Collaboration with NIAM

2275. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently visited/proposes to visit India to impart training for strengthening of agricultural marketing system as part of a collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM);

(b) if so, whether NIAM has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the USAID for technical assistance in the field;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the benefits accrued 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) Yes, Sir.

(c) The collaboration and cooperation between Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to access relevant United States Government Agencies, Universities and related institutions in order to provide technical assistance to NIAM for capacity building and manpower development in training, research, consultancy and education.

Subjects for collaboration may include developing new and modifying existing agricultural commodity grades and standards, identifying and accessing United States training modules and resources available for grade and standards, including inspection and other areas such as certification/accreditation, warehousing, cold storage, cold chain management and food safety, and enhancing the existing Marketing News Information System. Collaboration may lead to identification and pursuit of institutional linkages such as faculty exchanges, library support, documentary material developments support and short term training, video conferencing, support and collaboration from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES), National Agricultural Statistic Services (USDA/NASS) and other relevant agencies.

Priority areas for collaboration and assistance may include but are not limited to grades and standards development, market information systems and related Information Technology application development, certification/accreditation, systems for enhancing farmers' participation in commodity future markets; price forecasting techniques; and enhancing competitiveness for Indian Agricultural Commodities. NIAM, under the supervision of the Development of Agriculture and Co-operation and USAID for the United States Government intend to collaborate and cooperate under this agreement through the Joint Working Group. Each Party to this agreement will bear its own expenses for activities on which the Parties collaborate.

The duration of this agreement is for three years from the date of signature, subject to extension or early

termination by the Parties upon 90 days written notice to the other party.

(d) The collaboration would enable capacity building of NIAM in the marketing related issues such as grades and standards, certification and accreditation and market news information system.

Workers in Construction Sector

2276. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey to access the total number of workers engaged in construction sector;

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

(c) whether any step is being taken to save these workers from exploitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The approximate number of construction workers in the country, State-wise, as per the 2001 Census, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Government has enacted the Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. A cess of 1% is levied on every construction project costing more than Rs. 10 lakh and employing ten or more workers. The Cess thus collected from the corpus of the Welfare Fund, which is used for welfare measures for workers viz. medical and health care, immediate assistance to the beneficiary in case of accident, pension benefits, premium for Group Insurance Scheme, loans and advances for construction of house, assistance for education of children, medical expenses and maternity benefit to female beneficiaries. The cess is collected by the respective State Government.

These Acts also contain elaborate rules and provisions for safety and health of construction workers.

Statement

The number of construction workers (State-wise) as per 2001 Census (Provisional)

Sl.No.	States/UTs.	No. of construction workers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,095,380
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30,078
3.	Assam	197,420
4.	Bihar	412,270
5.	Jharkhand	327,430
6.	Goa	47,977
7.	Gujarat	850,300
8.	Haryana	370,000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	129,710
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	135,220
11.	Karnataka	947,000
12.	Kerala	1,007,180
13.	Madhya Pradesh	661,200
14.	Chhattisgarh	182,540
15.	Maharashtra	1,616,790
16.	Manipur	14,360
17.	Meghalaya	19,510
18.	Nagaland	17,201
19.	Orissa	595,640
20.	Punjab	450,380
21.	Rajasthan	1,066,780
22.	Sikkim	13,602
23.	Tamil Nadu	1,134,370
24.	Tripura	27,130
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1,330,760

1	2	3
26.	Uttaranchal	162,860
27.	West Bengal	864,180
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17,874
29.	Chandigarh	32,675
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4,919
31.	Delhi	352,830
32.	Daman and Diu	4,065
33.	Lakshadweep	1,837
34.	Mizoram	16,579
35.	Pondicherry	26,993
INDIA		14,165,044

*[Translation]***Fund for Drip Irrigation Scheme**

2277. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds to the States under the Drip Irrigation Scheme during the last two years and the current financial year; and

(b) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of funds allocated to the States are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise allocation of funds under Drip Irrigation during last two years and current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	2004-05 Allocation	2005-06 Allocation	2006-07 Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.80	5380.72	—
2.	Bihar	—	—	2877.70
3.	Jharkhand	6.00	—	—
4.	Gujarat	—	1760.95	—
5.	Goa	0.60	—	13.44
6.	Haryana	0.70	—	196.86
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.00	—	—
8.	Karnataka	300.00	3318.49	—
9.	Kerala	10.00	2800.00	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10.00	547.89	862.22
11.	Chhattisgarh	13.00	—	2091.26

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	50.00	3772.37	4506.79
13.	Orissa	32.50	—	519.55
14.	Punjab	—	513.50	549.68
15.	Rajasthan	—	437.12	297.73
16.	Tamil Nadu	1.25	4217.60	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	30.50	1205.45	—
18.	West Bengal	8.80	—	252.27
19.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.97	—	—
Total		476.12	23954.09	12167.50

Sugar Mills in Private Sector

2278. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from private sector companies to set up sugar mills in the sugarcane producing areas;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received till-date;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers as a result of the setting up of the sugar mills by private companies;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the affect of establishment of sugar mills by private companies on the co-operative sugar mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the importance of private sector sugar mills in making India a sugar exporting 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) After de-licensing of sugar industry in August, 1998, the entrepreneurs are now required to file Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandums (IEM) only with

the Central Government. The number of IEMs received by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for manufacture of sugar from 01.09.1998 to 30.06.2006 is 2576.

(c) The sugarcane farmers are expected to receive the better cane price when a sugar mill is set up in their area whether by a private company or by a cooperative society.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has not carried out any study to assess the affect of establishment of sugar mills by private companies on the cooperative sugar mills.

(f) The private sector mills do play an important role in export of sugar.

[English]

Norms for Soft Drinks

2279. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has not notified the norms for the permissible limit of pesticide residue in soft drinks so far;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed against the officials for delay in notification of the said norms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the notification of the norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Setting of norms for permissible limit of pesticide residues in soft drinks comes under the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder, which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was, therefore, considered appropriate to await prescription of the permissible limits of the pesticide residues in soft drinks under the said Act by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare before the same could also be reflected in the relevant Indian Standards for Carbonated Beverages.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Guidelines for Sting Operations

2280. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines regarding "Sting Operations" so that operations spreading baseless and sensational news may be stopped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government has taken or proposes to take against those violating the guidelines.

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance in Agriculture Sector

2281. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI V. K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is getting any financial or other assistance from foreign countries in the promotion of Indian agriculture during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which agriculture has been boosted from the said assistance?

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

[English]

Regulation of Tele-shopping

2282. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether presently there is no law regulating tele-shopping and tele-marketing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact any legislation to protect the interest of the consumers opting for the tele-shopping;

(c) if so, the time by which the said legislation is likely to be enacted; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interest of the consumers in the intervening period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. At present, the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act 1930, Indian Contract Act, 1872 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 regulate the sale of goods or services including tele-shopping and tele-marketing in the country. The Consumer Protection Act 1986 covers sale of all goods and services. If the consumer is aggrieved by the action of the provider of goods and services advertised through tele-shopping and tele-marketing, he can file a complaint in any consumer fora, established under this Act.

(b) No sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hanumant Rao and Mohan Dharia Committee Reports

2283. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hanumant Rao Committee and Mohan Dharia Committee constituted by the Government have submitted their reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, the Hanumantha Rao Committee submitted its report in 1994 and the Mohan Dharia Committee submitted its report in 1995.

As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources the Hanumantha Rao Committee was constituted to examine the manner of implementation of Drought Prone Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). The Committee identified the blocks to be included under DPAP and DDP. The Committee also recommended that these programmes along with IWDP and other land development programmes should be implemented through peoples' participation by adopting watershed approach.

The highlights of the Mohan Dharia Committee as reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land resources are as under:

- Master plan for development of degraded and wastelands
- Central Land Use Authority and Similar Authorities at the State or Lower Levels.
- Creation of a Department of Land Resources
- Integrated Scientific Approach and Co-ordination.
- Involvement of people, Gram Panchayat and NGOs.
- No constraints of funds.

- Protection of Forests and Soils.
- Protection of non-degraded forests and agricultural land.
- Waterlogging and salinisation.
- Better resource management key to poverty alleviation.
- Supply of quality seeds and plants.
- Decentralisation for effective implementation.
- Employment to millions, care of environment and sustainable development.
- People's movement for national programme.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources accepted the recommendation of Hanumantha Rao Committee and consequently the 'Guidelines for Watershed Development', popularly known as common guidelines were framed and made effective from 01.04.1995. All three programmes, *viz.* DPAP, DDP, and IWDP are since being implemented in accordance with provisions of the common guidelines on watershed development.

Following action have been taken by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land and Resources on the Mohan Dharia Committee:

- (i) A separate Department—Department of Land Resources has been put in place to deal with all the area Development Programmes, *viz.* Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme.
- (ii) States have been requested to prepare 10-15 years' Perspective Plans for proper land use and wastelands development.
- (iii) The Common Guidelines have been modified to provide for one-third of the membership of Watershed Committee to women.
- (iv) For reclamation of water logged and saline soils, pilot projects have been sanctioned for Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- (v) Creation of a Watershed Development Fund for post project maintenance of assets has been included in the Common Guidelines.

Contract Labour in Cement Industry

2284. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether getting work done by the contract labour other than the construction work in cement industry is prohibited according to the cement wage board award;

(b) if so, whether only 174 permanent labourers are working in the production, maintenance, cleaning and packing at La Farge Cement Plant in Jamshedpur out of nearly 800 contract labourers employed there;

(c) if so, whether contract labourers are being exploited by paying them lower wages in the production, maintenance and cleaning work; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to liberate these contract labourers from economic exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) First Cement Wage Board Award recommended that the Contract System in the cement industry should be abolished in all operations connected with the manufacturing process (including quarrying operations) except loading and unloading operations including packing.

(b) There are about 291 permanent employees employed by the company. There are 9 licensed contractors having licence to employ 995 contract labourers in the jobs of loading/unloading and packaging, civil maintenance, house keeping, etc.

(c) No such incidence has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

New Trades in ITI

2285. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:

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

(a) whether the curriculum, syllabi of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are under the control of the Government;

(b) if so, whether vocational training under Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE & T) being provided by ITI/Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) is not commensurate with the present needs of the industry;

(c) if so, whether DEG&T has reviewed the trades in which training is being given in these centres;

(d) if so, the number of new trades introduced in these centres and the number of trades deleted from the curriculum;

(e) whether the trades being taught and training being given in these sectors are employment friendly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by DGE&T to give training in the changed scenario and liberalization of market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), a Tripartite advisory body have been set up by Government of India, in M/o Labour & Employment to advice it in formulation of training schemes, prescribing course curricula of trades, introduction & deletion of trades under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) implemented through ITIs. Representative of Central & State Government, Employers & Employees organization are its members. Training under CTS is being offered in 107 trades to meet the skill manpower requirement of industry. The course curricula of the trades are developed/reviewed regularly with approval of NCVT to take care of technological changes taking place in the country. During the last five years 47 new trades were introduced & course curricula of 18 trades revised. Eleven trades not relevant to industrial need were deleted since 1997.

(e) and (f) Trades in ITIs are introduced as per skill requirement of industry. Multi skill courses on modular pattern catering to the need of Seventeen industrial sectors have been introduced in ITIs since 2005. Course Curricula for these modular courses have been developed in consultation with industry.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4735/06]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-05, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4735A/06]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules, 2006, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 452(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4736/06]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No 4 Shri Chandra Sekher Sahu.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, let it be known that the hon. Minister in whose name the papers are listed has been absent in the House persistently.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You have permitted it, quite well. But he is persistently keeping himself absent from the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri K. Chandasekhar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 117 in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4737/06]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISER AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri B.K. Handique, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 2004-05 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4738/06]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4739/06]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4740/06]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Appointment, Terms and Conditions of Service of Director General) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2006, under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4741/06]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 526 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2006, containing Order banning sale of drug 'Osetamivir Phosphate' in open market, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4742/06]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2004-05.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4743/06]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Stores Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Stores Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4744/06]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 834 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 728 (E) dated the 21st July, 1987, issued under sections 12 and 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1207 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 93(E) dated the 29th January, 1998, issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4745/06]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 2006 agreed without any amendment to the Actuaries Bill, 2006 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd August, 2006."

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

(i) Launching of Doordarshan's Urdu Channel by Prasar Bharati

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Urdu is an important language. Millions of people have accepted it as their mother tongue. The actual number of people who can speak and understand Urdu is even more than these figures. The Urdu speaking people are spread all over the country. Urdu is spoken in south from Kamataka to Andhra Pradesh and in North from Uttranchal to Laddakh, in west from Gujarat to Rajasthan and upto Jharkhand and Bihar in the east and it is the official language of Jammu & Kashmir. It has the status of the second language in the states of Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The tradition and literary relevance of Urdu is very old. The Urdu couplets and sufi literature alongwith Urdu language enriched the academic and literary history of Hindustan. With the advent of Cinema and drama, the Urdu Cinema became very popular among film viewers, film critics as well as radio listeners.

Doordarshan presents many of its programme in Urdu through its many channels but there is not a single channel at the national level which is fully devoted to development of Urdu language. Presently, the Urdu programmes and news being broadcast are not sufficient for informative, academic and social needs of the Urdu speaking people.

Keeping in view the urgent need and concern for launching for such a channel and the request I made to hon'ble Sh. Jaipal Reddy Ji, he assured the people on

23.08.2004 that a Urdu channel of Doordarshan would be launched. I am proud to declare in this forum that inspite of lack of resources and funds the Prasar Bharati is executing its promise on 15 August, 2006 by launching DD Urdu Channel

It is not only a milestone in the history of Prasar Bharati but it would also make a new addition to the over-all information scenario in the country. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is inaugurating DD Urdu Channel. Initially it will have seven hours transmission only but later on it will serve the people 24 hours. The software development has been in different stages for the purpose presently. For the time being, Urdu channel will be made operational from CPC Delhi, because the uplinking facility is available there only. It will be transferred to Akashwani Bhavan in due course. During this period, it will be uplink through INSAT 38 transponder. Shortly DD will have space on 4A INSAT. Urdu channel will be placed on this new INSAT. Alongwith extension upto 50 to 100 channel of DD direct plus DTH service of Doordarshan, extra lot will be allotted to DD Urdu Channel. DD Urdu has been launched as a heritage channel. It will present entertainment, general information, social issues as well as important news based programmes. To start with Transmission, there will be a news magazine of half an hour. Thereafter an hour programme prepared by DD Mumbai will be presented. We hope that people of all categories will enjoy it and it will bring people together and they will come to main stream. The aspiration of Urdu loving people will get recognition. They will get a medium of expression. We hope that the need of agencies to develop software for this channel will create employment and solve this problem to some extent.

12.05 hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

observations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-second Report (13th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha) (2005-2006) was laid in Lok Sabha on 8.12.2005. The report related to the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-second Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Conditional Access System (CAS)'.

In the 21st Report, the Committee made six recommendations/observations in all. The present status report, on the issues on which these recommendations/observations have been made, has been furnished to the Committee on 14.06.2006 seeking extension of time up to nine months for submitting action taken report. These recommendations mainly pertain to the implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS).

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.06 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Reported telephonic conversation by Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs with a jail inmate in Bulandshahar jail, Uttar Pradesh

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you wanted to say something?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, who is the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I have given a notice of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I shall look into the matter.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have received a copy of the Statement. Hon. Minister wants to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is ready to make a statement. I am going to permit him to make a Statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The conversation between the Minister of the State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Sunder Singh Bhati, a notorious mafia don regarding the revocation of the Jail Superintendent, who was supposed to be posted there and a dispute about a piece of land was witnessed by billions of viewers on television. Gavitji will give a statement on the matter in this House. Will he file a defamation suit, if these charges are found baseless? Another issue which should be investigated is whether the telephone numbers mentioned belong to him or not? This is a very serious issue. The incident of a jailed mafia using a mobile phones while locked in jail is a serious offence and his talk with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is more serious than that. He should give a statement in this regard and we can discuss the issue only after that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has offered to make a statement. Since he is making a Statement...

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker Sir, I know the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs personally since 1991. His face and the style of conversation give an impression of a good natured gentleman. But, I am also perturbed and concern after I heard that news. But, all of us should keep in mind the fact that presently a campaign has been launched to malign and degrade the politics and politicians. I would

like the government to investigate the matter so that truth is revealed. If the hon. Minister is found responsible, he should be punished for that, and if it is not so, then a counter-campaign should be launched against those who are indulging in such a vilification campaign so as to put an end to this evil process.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, a senior member wants to say something on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now a days, I am not feeling well. But yesterday, as a matter of chance, I switched on my T.V. set and was shocked to view the treatment given by the media to a person who has been elected as an M.P. for eight time by the people and is also a Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. I think such kind of treatment is not given even by an S.H.O. to a petty criminal. I was so enraged by their behaviour that I wanted to smash my T.V. set. Who has given the media the right to act in such a manner in a democratic system. Who gave the power to police to media to insult a public representative and a Union Minister. The Government of India is answerable for that incident. The Government should explain whether it has given the media the power of police.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, we will see.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I only want to say that Media has its very important position in our set up and I am sure, they are also responsible. There may be occasions and I do not wish to make any comment on that. But we should not criticize the Media.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, ten members were expelled only on the basis of media reports and today about media *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I am associating with him. I only want to say that the Government should also respond to this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the time come. Hon. Minister is going to make a statement.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): So far as this particular matter is concerned, it is only after the Minister has made the statement that one could say something. But basically while the role of Media is very important, in many countries of the world, the sting operations are not permitted; there are laws to regulate sting operations. It is only the Government and those whom the Government authorizes which can undertake sting operations.

In this particular case, according to the agency, it is said that this was not a sting operation. This is an official surveillance on the basis of which they are making it. All these things would have to be inquired into and should be taken into account... *(Interruptions)* My only submission to the Government is to examine the possibility of legislating an Act in respect of sting operations. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has come forward to make a statement; let us hear him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRĀO HODLYA GAVIT): As all of you know that my parliamentary constituency Nandurbar has been affected by floods at present and due to this I was on visit to my parliamentary constituency from 9th August, 2006 and returned to Delhi only on 18th August, 2006. I was feeling tired due to engagements in my constituency and I was also not feeling well. I came to know through television channel in evening that I have talked to some mafia namely Sunder Singh Bhati on telephone who is lodged in jail in district Buland Shahar, Uttar Pradesh. This telephonic conversation was being taped. In that conversation I reportedly talked to him regarding purchase of land for my son-in-law and he requested me to get the transfer of jailor of the jail cancelled by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. During the conversation I supposedly used the words like code, limit, reference and polite. You may check the past proceedings of Lok Sabha as to whether I have ever used such language?

[Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

As all honourable Members of parliament know that I have been elected to last eight Lok Sabha consecutively and marathi slang reflects in my language. All honourable Members of Parliament have been listening to my speech for the long time and you might have listened to the language spoken on that television channel. From which telephone number this call was made to whom to this telephone number belong. Whether all the things have been investigated. You can take decision yourself after listening to all these things.

I belong to scheduled tribes community and represent scheduled tribes constituency. I never committed any illegal act in my life. Neither I know anything about Buland Shahar district nor I have ever met any mafia namely Bhati. The voice on that telephone is not mine. If these conversations were being taped then whose voice is this and from which telephone number calls were made. In addition to this I also feel as to whether the concerned television channel at least should not have ascertained the fact from me, before telecasting these tapes.

I also think that this should also be confirmed from the honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to say while rising above party line that if I am found guilty even a bit then I am ready for any punishment and I am ready for any type of investigation. I promise this House that I will give up politics, if I am found a little bit guilty in this matter.

At last I request you that action should be taken against the channel responsible for defaming me without any concrete evidence because this channel has tarnished my image of clean, honest and noble person by initiating propaganda against me without any concrete evidence. I regret to say why this channel resorted to all these things when it was in a position to ascertain the facts within 10 minutes at its own level. I am also ready to get this matter investigated by Lok Sabha Committee. This investigation should be completed expeditiously so that report comes out before the current session is concluded. I will not take part in any official parliament business till the investigation is completed. In addition to it, I would accept the decision to be taken by any party in this regard. ... (Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call all the hon. Leaders.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the hon. Minister's Statement, I will call a meeting of all the Leaders.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. From the Chair also I should appreciate hon. Minister's effort in saying that he will not participate in any official parliamentary work and that the Parliamentary Committee may inquire into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think all sides will appreciate it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon'ble Minister of state in the Ministry of Home Affairs has said that he would not participate in the sittings of the House and parliamentary committee till the investigation is completed, the government should respond to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would invite all the hon'ble leaders to a meeting. Let us decide in that meeting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Leader of the House is present. Let him respond to it.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I can assure you. ... (Interruptions) As the concerned hon. Minister has clearly stated that he is ready to face. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this ? Why don't you understand. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As the hon. Minister himself has suggested that he is prepared to face any form of inquiry and as you have decided to call a meeting of all the Leaders and decide the mode of inquiry. I have no problem. From the Government side also, we can order to conduct an inquiry but as you have decided to

consult the Leaders of various Parties in the House, let us wait for that meeting which you are going to call.

12.18 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of applicability of the
Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 in
the context of observations made by
Judicial Authorities**

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Urban Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Applicability of the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 in the context of observations made by Judicial Authorities."

"THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Members would recall, the Delhi Laws Special Provisions Act, 2006 was passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 12th May and 15th May, 2006 respectively. It received assent of the President of India on 19th May, 2006 and was notified on the same date.

This Act has been challenged in three writ petitions filed in the Supreme Court of India. The main grounds challenging the legal validity of the Act are that it is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution, is beyond the legislative competence of the Parliament and that it is intended to override the order of the courts to take action against unauthorised developments in Delhi.

In its hearing of this matter on 1st August, 2006, the hon. Supreme Court admitted the writ petitions and in order to consider the question of stay/interim directions to the given in the matter, granted time of 10 days.

The matter was heard again on 10th August, 2006. Hon. Court took note of the submissions made by the Government of India, *amicus curie* and the counsels for petitioners as well as the report of the Monitoring

Committee and stayed two directions issued by the Government of India on 20th May, 2006 under the provisions of the said Act. These two directions read as follows:

- "(1) The premises sealed by any local authority in pursuance of a judgement, order of decree of any court after the 1st day of January, 2006, shall be eligible to be restored, for a period of one year, with effect from the 19th day of May, 2006, to the position as was obtaining as on 1st day of January, 2006.
- (2) All commercial establishments which are required to cease carrying out commercial activities at their premises by the 30th day of June, 2006, may continue such activities at such premises, as they were being carried out on the 1st day of January, 2006 for a period of one year, with effect from 19th day of May, 2006."

The hon. Court has, however, not stayed the application of the Act.

The Court has further issued directions that properties earlier sealed under its directions will have to be resealed and commercial establishments which had given undertakings pursuant to its orders will have to cease the misuser. It has also been directed that compliance of the undertakings will now have to be completed by 15th September, 2006 and in case the misuser is not stopped by the, resealing will commence from 16th September, 2006. In view of this order of the hon. Court, directions issued by the Ministry on 20th May, 2006 will also be suitably amended.

I would like to inform the hon. Members of the House that in fulfillment of the obligation cast under Section 3(1) of the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 the Government has already initiated action to finalise norms and policy guidelines to deal with the complex problem of mixed and use land unauthorised construction. For this purpose, the Government has already issued two public notices on 21st July, 2006 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Khanna Committee Report, proposing modifications in the Master Plan 2001 in respect of development control norms for residential plotted development and mixed land use policy. The Government is making all possible efforts to complete the statutory process for finalizing these amendments to the Master Plan 2001. Suitable directions have also been issued to the concerned local authorities to take all necessary

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

preparatory and consequential action to give effect to these proposed amendments.

I am confident that these amendments would prevent avoidable hardship to the people while ensuring planned and sustainable development of Delhi keeping in view the interests of all the sections of the society.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir we do not get even a slight inking of enormity and severity of the situation that is going to emerge in Delhi from the statement delivered just now by the Minister. He has stated that they are initiating action in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court. The sealing operation will commence from September, 15 in respect of 41 thousand shops which were de-sealed as per the Supreme Court judgement. After sealing of these 41 thousand shops, sealing operations in respect of remaining four lakh shops operating from houses will be undertaken as per the Supreme Court judgement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please let me explain the whole position. I will come to your point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, after this the notices for demolition of those 22 thousand houses with unauthorized constructions issued as per the High Court order, will be implemented. Just now to the Minister stated that the Supreme Court had neither annulled nor stayed the legislation.

[English]

I would like to read the Supreme Court judgement on that date.

"The Bench of Chief Justice, Shri Y.K. Sabharwal and Justice C.K. Thakker told the Solicitor-General, G.E. Vahanvati." ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Are you quoting from the judgement or from the Newspaper cutting?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am quoting the judgement.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: I would again like to ask whether you are quoting from the judgement or newspaper cutting?

12.27 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am reading a cutting of the judgement.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please listen to me.

"The legislation is wholly invalid, void, because it is an attempt to overrule this Court's order. We will stay the operation of the law. However, the Solicitor-General requested the Court to grant time for filing a reply and not stay operation of the law until then as there was always the presumption of constitutionality. To this, the Bench said, "This Court's order has been given a go-by and yet, you cite the rule of presumption and constitutionality. Parliament cannot direct any authority not to comply with the Court's order. This is pure and simple legislation aimed at overruling the orders of this Court."

Then the Bench says:

"First you file an application seeking a moratorium on sealing operations for six months. Then you withdraw the application. We do not know whether it is part of the strategy. The Bench, however, relented and granted some time for about ten days."

This is what happened then.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: My friend, Shri Ajay Maken, was trying to say that ...*(Interruptions)* You are not reading from the judgement of the Supreme Court. You are reading from the reported observations in the press. They are all non-binding observations. Therefore, you are not quoting from the Supreme Court judgement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All the papers are here. These say what happened in the court. I warned you that this is going to happen. ...*(Interruptions)* Again I am coming to that point. You are trying to befool the people of Delhi. You are trying to cheat the people. You are trying to deceive the people of Delhi.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not talk to each other.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Subsequently he stated that the next hearing will be on July 31. What happened later on? See the High Court order "Law enacted to perpetuate fraud".

[Translation]

The High Court says that you are enacting a legislation to perpetuate the fraud.

[English]

"The Supreme Court says that this kind of legislation has been passed only in this nation. It says all the orders and the law to be obeyed by citizens are suspended." This is what I said on the other day when the Bill was being passed. Then they said, "Was Government sleeping?"

[Translation]

The Supreme Court asks whether the Government was sleeping. Now here the Supreme Court have asked whether the Parliament was sleeping, it reprimanded the Government in that regard... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They not only reprimanded the Government but the entire House or the Parliament also.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I'm coming to that also.

[English]

Sir, I'm coming to that.

[Translation]

They did not reprimand the Parliament rather they reprimanded the Government. They said that this law... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They reprimanded the Parliament.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Supreme Court said, "Get the bulldozers rolling again."

[Translation]

I am saying that these people have got this House and the Government insulted and gave the court an opportunity to say so. I am not expressing any satisfaction in it. I had cautioned these people for this at that time. I had told that if you approach the court, this case would not stand there. I am reading the extracts of my that day's speech for you. I had said, 'I am cautioning you that if you move the court and say that it is unauthorized construction, unauthorized misuse of land and encroachment, it will not stand in the court.

[English]

"It will not stand the judicial scrutiny."

[Translation]

I had then said, it would again be the same situation. Last time replying to me you had said that the court would not say 'no' to us, it would accede to our point. But I had said that the law which you are enacting, would not stand in the court. I quoted it 10 times that such a law should not be enacted. At last I had to say that I do agree with the law and vote for the same but you are doing an illegal job. You have given the court this opportunity and the court has reprimanded you so much. Mr. Minister, Sir, you should have really resigned after getting reprimanded so badly. You are failing in imagining the result of what you have done with the public of Delhi. You have yourself written to them. They have themselves submitted in written to the court as to what they are going to accept. If anybody does not himself or herself occupy a shop, you may seal or demolish it or do whatever you want.

There are four lacs of small shops in Delhi dealing in confectionary etc. 3.5 lacs of them are rented shops about which you say that the shops running from the houses not occupied by the concerned persons could be demolished or sealed. This is what you have given in writing to the court and the court accepted it. These shops are running in each and every small slum and slum clusters. People have taken them on rent for Rs. 50, Rs. 100 per month. Your own order to prove to demolish them. You have given it in writing to the court, whatever things you are going to accept.

I admit this and I myself asked you last time to prepare a negative list not allowing wine shops, pubs and other injurious activities. But you have yourself prepared a long list asking them to close these shops and you have no objection to it. You include them in this order. You have stated last time also what you are stating this time that

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[English]

"Mr. Malhotra has also tried to portray an alarmist scenario."

[Translation]

You had stated that your entire speech was based on the point that the court would not accept it but the court would accept it, we are enacting such laws. You are continuously enacting illegal laws. You first enacted the I.M.D.T. Act, raised the issue of terminating Shri Venugopal. You are continuously providing an opportunity to courts to interfere in the proceedings of the Parliament. I had said that no court would accept the mindset of taking no action against the unauthorized construction. Why do you not make it authorized.

[English]

Make it authorized.

[Translation]

You say that it is unauthorized, but do not take any action against it for a year. You say it is not an offence, but do not take any action against it for a year. The court asks if it is an offence then how can you prevent them from taking any action against the same. How can even the Parliament prevent, if it is an offence. You may say that it is not an offence, we have made it legal. You say that you have issued a notification in July 21.

I will conclude within just 2-3 minutes, I would like to say that the notification was issued by you on 21 July, two days before the Election which was to be held on 21 July. Maken Ji is sitting here. The notification, said that you had implemented the Khanna Committee's Report. To do so two days before the Election was an election strategy of yours and the people did not trust you during that Election and you were defeated by five thousand and hundred votes. The Congress party's seat belonged to the Scheduled Caste category and was reserved for woman. The public of Delhi responded to you for the same. You have told that you are going to accept all the decisions of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Reddy has written in his statement that we shall accept the directions of the Supreme Court. This will result in the sealing and demolitions of lakhs of shops. Even your notification is not going to save them. What you are going to do will result in the bulldozing of thousands of houses. Have you made any tenement for slums? The court has ruled that all the encroachments, all the grocers and vendors be removed away. Have you

opened up hawking zone; have you provided plot for rehabilitation of the residents of slums? Have you constructed even a single tenement? No action has been taken in this regard. In fact, you are playing fast and loose with the people. You have reiterated the same things in your statement that have been repeated five times by Mr. Reddy. He said that he was fully confident and wanted to assure the House that the hardships of the people would come to an end. Is it the result of the efforts made to remove the hardships? The result is going to be very dangerous. Once again I am repeating the same thing that no other solution is left except granting amnesty. Neither your notification nor any other things are going to save them. You should declare that everything except a few negative things out of negative list such as wine shops and structures upto a certain height will be treated as regularized. The solution to this problem lies only in the execution of amnesty scheme as was proposed by Chidambaramji. If you have objection to the fact that this is the report of Malhotra Committee, the amnesty scheme was proposed even in that very report. If you think that the acceptance of Malhotra Committee Report and the demand of amnesty will go to our credit, then you may frame your own scheme, if you so desire. If you want to save Delhi, please bring an amnesty scheme. Once again I warn you, as I have done four-five times earlier, that your statement is going to create perilous situation in Delhi. This will lead to law and order situation from bad to worse and none but you will be responsible for this. When you have not registered even after so many reprimands, then you will have to resign. Please think on all these things.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, earlier I wanted to speak on this issue only but Malhotraji did not leave this opportunity to play politics on this issue. So, I would like to say a few words on this issue. Last time also, Malhotraji has told this to us. The hon'ble Minister is working on the modifications in the Master Plan, which should have been put in place in 2001 itself. The situation which prevails today that existed in Delhi even in 2001. The NDA which barely failed in framing the Master Plan is making a mountain out of a molehill regarding the implementation of the same; whereas we got only two years to work thereon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this problem was there in Delhi for a long time. At that time the minister was from their alliance who did not want to implement such Master Plan. That is why such a situation has arisen here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Sir, I am asking question. He has given such a long reference and hence I, too, would like to make a little bit reference, and so I seek your protection here. Your own ministers have rejected the Malhotra Committee report which has categorically been mentioned last time by Mr. Reddy and the same is being stated by Malhotraji himself. The report submitted by Malhotraji was good. What were the reasons behind the non-acceptance of the report by their own ministers? Such a problem would not have arisen today, if any of the provisions of the said report had been put in place by you. Gradually, during the last two years the situation has taken this turn as the court started taking action in this regard. I would like to urge the minister that the recommendations of the Khanna Committee, which have been announced, may, please, be implemented. Again it is also requested that same be implemented at the earliest. The modifications which were likely to be brought about in the Master Plan may also be expedited. Before concluding I would like to say one more thing through an example, which is being raised time and again in this House, that in which areas and to what extent the judiciary should intervene in the designated jurisdiction of the executive. We accept that there are lacunae on the part of government in certain matters but we have observed that the judiciary has crossed its limits and is gradually encroaching the jurisdiction of Parliament.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am elected to the Parliament for the first time. Perhaps, I should not say but I feel that this House committed a mistake in 1993-94. At that time a motion was moved against a judge of the Supreme Court in this House but by exhibiting our sensitivity and judiciousness that the impeachment proceedings should not be carried out against a judge as this will create face off between the judiciary and the legislature; the impeachment motion was not passed. So in my mind, we had to bear the brunt of that mistake committed by the Parliament. I have never seen that the Executive has been put into the dock while doing anything for the benefit of the influential people or the capitalists. But whenever we do something for providing benefit to the underprivileged and helpless people of the country, we feel that some objections or the other is put on such scheme or works by the judiciary. It is said that we are working politically and we are indulging in populism. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are also politicians. We do half of our works to meet the political requirement. People send us here to get their rights restored to them. We feel that the law should be amended wherever it impedes the fulfilment of the interest of the people. Wherever we feel that we have to fight for the welfare of the underprivileged and the helpless people of the country, we should enact such a law. To my mind, Delhi Laws Act was very facilitative. It protects the interests of the people of Delhi by any means. The Supreme Court has raised two or three points in respect of this Act and hence I would like to request the government to plug the loopholes and implement the Master Plan.

I would like to raise one more thing that Malhotraji is trying to depict the situation in which there will be trepidation and thousands of shops will be closed down in Delhi, he himself is wrong. I would like to tell him to go through the entire judgement and to clarify as to what have been said to be closed down and don't create a panic situation in Delhi. They had already played the politics but our government came forward and not only defused their game of politics but also send the right message to the people of Delhi. I would like to tell the Government to work with the same spirit.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji has tried to raise a very important issue. But it seems that in the House he says one thing and out of House he says something else. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister the name of the institutions that has filed this PIL? Whether that institution is not related to the person who fought elections against Makan Ji and is now the member of Rajya Sabha? His father was founder member of this institution. If it is so then the Minister may tell this House about it...
(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is a wrong statement.

[Translation]

the person who contested election is not here...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I have taken name of Ajay Makan Ji. The second thing that I would like to say

[Smt. Krishna Tirath]

is that he is adopting double standards. In the House he says one thing and out of the House he says something different. In the House he talks of saving them and outside the House he talks of demolishing them. Now it is being talked about to demolish or save Delhi. So, the Master Plan which was to be brought in the year 2001, for that planning should have started four years back. Whether he was not there in the NDA Government four years back? Whether he has not seen such things...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just ask your question to the Hon'ble Minister... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I will ask question to the Minister after giving reply to issue raised by him. Whether they have not seen the rising population, unemployment in Delhi and the people who were coming from outside during the preparation of master Plan 2001. Some among them are hawkers, some are jhuggi clusters and some are slum areas. They have not appeared all of sudden or in two years tenure of this government. When they were in the government they did not think over it. Now, they are blaming that Judiciary has eroded the authority of Executive and Legislature during the tenure of the UPA Government.

The third thing that I want to say is that ABCDEFGH categories that have been created the government has not said anything about A and B categories and even otherwise only rich people are living in the areas under these categories. These people do not require anything like small shops for which Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji has asked to clarify. If the welfare associations of C and D categories agree then petty works for giving employment to the people can be run there. I think all these things are required in my constituency. They are in a position to work with them. In the same way, there is no need of any change in EFGH categories. The works, which are required to be done, will be done. There are hawkers, shops, mixed land use almost all things are there. All the residents work together in this regard.

I would like to say one thing more and it is that court has never said to remove or bulldoze slums or clusters or close shops there. Only those who have given affidavit they are being asked to close their shops. Whether it is true or not, only Hon'ble Minister will be able to tell about it? The Government said that the buildings having height more than 15 metre or 50 feet should not be included. It is perfectly right because it

falls in seismic zone and there are many other problems including fire hazards. So, we should not built buildings beyond four to five storeys. After all, we are not to build another Qutub Minar. We have to see where the land is available, where is the land of DDA, MCD and of other institutions so that we could build houses and shops for people there. The Hon'ble Minister may tell as to whether the Government has any proposal to build small houses and small shops for poor or to provide space to hawkers? Along with this in the residential areas where we propose mixed land use and where there are temples, mosques, gurudwaras and parks, the people also utilize them for marriage ceremonies and other social functions there in the parks. Such things are needed very much in our society. Can small banquet halls be constructed in such areas, where people can perform marriage ceremonies etc. because presently this is done only in a few parks of the colonies. Whether you will grant permission to build banquet halls in these areas or not? The poor have not so much money to perform social functions like marriage ceremonies in the big hotels. If you have given permission to build banquet halls in industrial area then would you also grant permission to construct small banquet halls in residential areas as per the norms and conditions, where there is separate parking space, no sound pollution caused by the bands etc. With these words I conclude and expect from the Hon'ble Minister that the question regarding construction of banquet halls in the areas must be replied by them.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is good that members who spoke prior to me have said all what I wanted to say and it has made my task easy. But I would like to draw attention of the House towards three points.

First thing is that there are 2025 colonies in Delhi which are categorized in one, two, three categories. There are 28 colonies in first category, 390 colonies in second category and rest 1650 colonies in the third category. As the hon'ble member was saying just now that third category comprises of E, F, G and H categories of colonies. If you read the Supreme Court order properly, then you will find that it will effect first category of colonies, while in case of other categories if the residence welfare associations so desire or the house etc. in such colonies which are non confirming buildings they are left untouched. The Supreme Court in its judgement has stated that they have given partial stay. That too is not something which is likely to create heavy commotion in Delhi. There is nothing like that in the above judgement

the reason for this is that the law that had been enacted and about which the Supreme Court had made its observation why that law was enacted. We had to enact that law keeping in view the interests of the people and we knew that if this law will not be enacted, there would be great commotion in Delhi and lacs of people will be rendered jobless.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask question only because Mr. Minister has to reply.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Thus it was in the interests of the people. When the law stands enacted, the Supreme Court does not understand what is in the interests of the people and what not. It just interferes into whatever decisions are taken by the executive or the legislative. It considers it a right to interfere as Shri Sandeep has just now said. Therefore a limitation should be imposed upon it. I am very sorry that I have to comment on the Supreme Court. When there is a proposal to appoint a judge as a Chief Justice, then someone gives application under the Right to Information Act asking the basis for appointing the Judge as the Chief Justice and the entire process is stopped. Why this happens? We have come to know that in the collegium, there were three judges... *(Interruptions)*. It is a matter of dignity of the house. That if the House has enacted the law, that has been done after due consideration. If any matter about judiciary arises, then it is the duty of the judiciary to understand its dignity and take any decision accordingly. Two out of the three judges told that they would not accept the appointment of a parilianar judge as Chief Justice and then why the number of judges in the collegium was increased to five.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please come to the subject that is not concerned with it.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I am coming to the topic, why it interferes in our working? ... *(Interruptions)* A similar case is of Kishan Gupta *Versus* J and K special Tribunal and others. I just read it in brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You better come to the topic.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: It is very essential.

[English]

"The land shall be used solely and exclusively for residential purposes and the lease shall, within three years of the execution of the lease deed, erect....."

[Translation]

This property was located at B.C. Road Jammu.

[English]

"...Although B.C. Road was shown as residential zone in the Master Plan, factually, predominantly, most of the properties situated at B.C. Road were being used for commercial purposes."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, these properties should have been demolished. Authority issued the orders for demolition but tribunal banned it and told to compound them. Ultimately demolition orders were upheld by the bench of single judge in the High Court, and the Bench of the divisional Judge and all. But when the same matter reached the Supreme Court, then they stayed the demolition orders and told to compound them. What is it, why the Supreme Court issued such different judgement from ours while it intends to tell that it wishes the Executive and the Legislature to follow the law. The partial modification judgement will not create any great commotion in Delhi. The lacs of shops that are expected to be demolished soon are centered in 28 colonies of Category (1) and it is to be seen as to what will be the number of such shops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly spare something for Minister to speak.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: They have presently not made any amendments in the master plan. It is must to amend the master plan of 1962 which is still continuing. It should have been formulated in 2001. Why it has not been amended so far and still there is time to amend it and it is really necessary to do so to give relief to people of Delhi. It should be amended and relief be provided to people of Delhi.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to have the clarification about limits prescribed for the judiciary, the executive and the legislature. Whether the limits prescribed are correct? The Supreme Court has appointed a Monitoring Committee and a Court Commissioner monitor the demolition and it has also taken over the job of appointing the M.C.D. Commissioner in its own hands. It has assumed the executive powers and the job of the M.C.D. and the

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

corporation in its own hands. I want to know whether the salary of the Committee Members has also been fixed through the judiciary and orders have been issued to provide vehicles to all of them. Orders have been issued to set up an office in All Indian Habitat Center.

Sir, I would like to know as to how much lumpsum pay has been fixed in there case because lower grade staff of M.C.D. have not been paid their salaries in time and questions are being raised about it. Whether the fixation of salaries and appointment of Commissioners and Monitoring Committees has come under the purview of the judiciary. A new precedent is being set up.

Secondly, I want to know that what ever salary might have been fixed, a PIL had been filed and Malhotraji strongly took up the matter that the recommendations of Malhotra Committee had not been followed. Which Government did not follow them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Minister will reply to that.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Today they are talking about master plan. I want to know as to which Government did not accept the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, who was the Minister in power at that time when recommendations of this Committee were not complied with.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been sent in writing that they don't accept the recommendations...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister will reply to that.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, a discussion on Delhi is being held in the House. Delhi is the capital of the country. Hon'ble Members of both ruling party as well as the Opposition Party have put forth their views on the matter. Poor labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar migrated and settled here. Today we are talking about shifting them somewhere else. As told by Shrimati Krishna Tirath, the Congress Government had formulated a special component plan for poor people and in particular, for the poor people belonging to Schedule Castes and Scheduled tribes. Under this plan they were allotted shops and flats. But what are the reasons that the places where shops and flats were allotted, there are high rise buildings now? Whether the present Government or any of the previous Governments had ever thought as to where those

shops and flats have disappeared and where are those poor people? How these high rise buildings have come up at those places?

Sir, I would like to make another demand that recently Delhi Rent Act has been enforced in Delhi, which has curbed the independence of people. They can do anything on their own. The Government should repeal this Act also so that at least the people can have some facility and are able to retain their source of employment and can build their houses according to their needs.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am grateful to the hon'ble Members who have expressed keen interest in the problem that is there in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): Sir, the hon'ble Minister is very good at Hindi also.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I agree that this is a huge problem. It involves lakhs of families in Delhi. Therefore, we need to attend to the problem with keen urgency and also in a nuanced manner.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji, who knows Delhi inside out, has not been able to resist the temptation of politicizing the problem. He has chosen to score political points but I may say that he has been myopic in his approach because all this would recoil on him.

Why are we facing the problems? It is because Master Plan, Delhi 2021 was not completed in time by NDA Government.

13.00 hrs.

If the MPD-2021 had been completed in time, these problems would not have arisen at all. I should, in all conscience, say that this problem has been created by the gigantic failure of the NDA. Government *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This has nothing to do with the Master Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

These things can not be included in the Master Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the Minister. Please do not disturb the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This will not take place in future also....(Interruptions)

[English]

You will face the same problem until and unless you bring some other legislation.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No.

Mr. Malhotra, I certainly do not know so much about Delhi as you do. But Master Plan has a lot to do with Land Use Policy. These problems are primarily arising from Land Use Policy, which could have been attended to as part of the Master Plan-2021.

Sir, Mr. Malhotra is stuck with one thing, that is, amnesty. I want him to rise above this one point obsession. The Committee headed by him did recommend general, sweeping and indiscriminate amnesty. How was that amnesty dealt with by the NDA Government? I said this before, and I must repeat for repetition necessarily to put the record straight. If the NDA Government, which rejected his plea, the Report of the Committee... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is again a wrong statement. It was rejected by Mr. Swaroop, Secretary, Delhi Government; and Mr. Jagmohan wrote to them that: "because Delhi Government has rejected it, I cannot do anything."

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Malhotra, why are you putting questions to me? It is because I am a Minister for Urban Development dealing with land in Delhi; and the Delhi Government does not deal with Delhi. You know it fully well. There is no point in covering it up... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What are the future plans, please tell us about that also.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The first thing, I will do is to see that the panic that you are creating is not spread. You are exaggerating size of the problem which is resulting from the Supreme Court Judgement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What about 40,000 shops?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I will come to that. I am determined to deal with each aspect.

Sir, he was good enough to refer to bye-election results. I would like to tell him that: "One swallow does not make a summer." It is said: "A statesman is one, who deals with next generation; a politician is one who deals with next General Elections." Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and his friends are only bothered about the next Bye-elections... (Interruptions) Even in 2004 Lok Sabha General Elections, when the Congress Party won six out of Seven Lok Sabha seats, in that particular area BJP secured majority votes. So, there is nothing new about this particular Bye-election result.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We lost the Corporation elections.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, quite apart from slogan-mongering, which all Opposition Members are tempted to indulge in, let me concentrate on silver linings. There are many bright features even in today's difficult situation.

First of all, the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act passed by this House has not been stayed. Please note that. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, while voting for the law, was praying in the heart of his hearts that the law should be stayed. His prayers have not been answered.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We supported it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You supported it but look at the kind of curses that visited your support. You were trying to question the legislative competence of Parliament. This point was raised in the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court has not stayed the law. I must also point out that you are reading from the newspapers which quoted the observations made by the Bench. I wish you had a copy of the Supreme Court's judgement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have a copy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Supreme Court's judgement does not contain the observations you referred to.

Second, I admit, although the law has not been stayed, two directions, which the Government gave in pursuance of the law, have been stayed. Only two directions have been stayed. What do those two directions relate to? One, it relates to those shopkeepers whose

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

premises were sealed. Two, it relates to those shopkeepers who gave undertakings.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is the number?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In the case of first category, it is more than 5,000. In the case of second category, it is more than 40,000.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is 41,000.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is more than 40,000. I am quite impressed by Prof. Malhotra's mathematical precision.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a small number. The total number is 46,000 shops.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No, I am not saying that. I admitted in the very first place that the problem is monumental and multi-dimensional. It does not admit of any simplistic approach. But the Supreme Court has been chosen not to stay the directions we gave in pursuance of this law in regard to slum dwellers, jhuggi jhompri dwellers. It chose not to stay our direction in regard to street vendors and hawkers. Of course, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra would not even refer to these sections but the Supreme Court was slightly more kind than Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Sir, after the law was passed, we did not sit idle. Earlier, we were alert enough to have appointed an Expert Committee headed by none other than a former Lieutenant Governor, Tejindra Khanna. That Committee comprised two eminent experts, one MLA from BJP and one MLA from the Congress Party. That Committee did commendable job and produced the report within three months. It did not seek extension. The recommendations of the Committee have been widely welcomed. We immediately proceeded to act on the recommendations of the Tejindra Khanna Committee.

We, therefore, issued two public notices on July 21, 2006 to propose amendments to the Master Plan, 2001, 2001. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra also could not find fault with these amendments. The amendments were such as to provide relief to a very large number of shopkeepers and others. It is important for us to note that the Supreme Court has not only chosen not to stay the Act but it has also taken cognizance of these two public notices. The

Supreme Court is fully alive to the implications of these two notifications. We are making all efforts to complete the statutory process for finalising these amendments to the Master Plan, 2001 at the earliest possible. Suitable instructions have been issued to MCD in this regard to take all preparatory and necessary steps to give effect to these amendments.

More seriously, I would like to refer to the proposal for amnesty. If you look at the two notifications which we issued, you will find huge elements of the amnesty you are asking for. I am certainly not among those who will allow Delhi to be demolished. It is not easy to build a city of this kind nor will any demolitions be permitted beyond the minimum. On the contrary, we are determined to liberate the huge sections of Delhi from this irritating process of sealings, de-sealings and re-sealings.

But our notifications were based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee. They are not based on political convenience nor are they intended to pander to populist pressures. They are based on logic and rationality. They are meant to ensure planned development of Delhi in a sustainable manner.

Many hon. Members like Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shrimati Krishna Tirath, Shri Nikhil Kumar have referred to the various implications of court judgements. I wish I had the freedom of the hon. Members. I think that both Parliament and Supreme Court, as supreme constitutional organs, should observe restraint, try and operate within their orbit. But I want to make one thing very clear. While we are pursuing a planned policy to tackle this problem, should any problems arise I will come back to you for a mandate. I will be more than willing not only to amend the law but also to amend the Constitution. I want the BJP to put their vote where their mouth is. We will not hesitate to go in for legal, if necessary constitutional, measures to save the people of Delhi from any crisis.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we have been telling the same since long, why does not

SHRI. S. JAIPAL REDDY: We have been doing the job.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will they do it at the need of the hour? Today 40 thousand shops have been sealed and further they are talking about sealing 10 lakh houses... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please conclude now.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are saying that we will support you. We are giving the blank cheque to do it, but you are not doing it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I must thank the BJP for the *carte blanche*. I will encash it as and when the time arises. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has referred to the number of Monitoring Committees and the Court Commissioners that have been appointed by court, not only by the Supreme Court but also by the Delhi courts. I am obliged to give him an answer. Nine Court Commissioners have been appointed. Five Monitoring Groups have been appointed. In all 24 members are operating. Of course, they have been given salary and perks, like cars. I do not bear any grudge, but I would like to make one point. I do not mind courts' monitoring our activity, but our machinery, at the end of the day, is limited in its range. As a Minister, I see how our machinery is bursting at the seams, how all this monitoring by so many groups and commissioners is causing a strain on our machinery. Now, that is a problem which needs to be taken care of.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has raised a question whether such things are constitutionally valid or not. I am not the best man to comment on that. That is a larger question. However, I am sure, everybody concerned should take note of the burden that such monitoring at different level is imposing on the whole system.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is not a question of monitoring burden. You have to monitor. The Ministers must monitor, not the Court Commissioners. It is not a question of money alone; it is a question of the authority. If the Court Commissioners are to monitor, what will you do, what will the Commissioner, MCD do? That is the point. It is not a question of monitoring. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am very happy to note that Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav's doubts and caveats are being eloquently shared by Prof. Malhotra. I wish I had the freedom to share those caveats, but this is, however, a question for us to address as a polity.

Our public notices are such as to provide relief to the largest number of people and it is very important to note, as Shri Nikhil Kumar has rightly pointed out, that Supreme Court does not deal with all categories of houses. It deals with only A & B categories and they are only 79 colonies. It does not deal with E, F & G category colonies, whose number is huge. These categories have 1651 colonies. So, we shall deal with them.

I would like to tell all the hon. Members here that we are on the alert. It shall be our endeavour to see that we follow a middle path. I must say in fairness to the Supreme Court that the Supreme Court has also been striving to discover a middle path. That is the reason why it has not chosen to stay all our notifications, let alone our law. Therefore, I do not think that there is a need for us to get scared. If we pursue the procedures that we have decided to follow, I am sure almost all the problems will have been largely resolved by 16th September.

This will be the time when the orders of the Supreme Court in regard to sealing and re-sealing would be operative. We are trying to expedite the process. We cannot substitute our judgement for that of the DDA. All the legal processes will be adhered to scrupulously, but if there are people whose problems are specific -- as not to be covered through a broad approach -- then they can, of course, approach the court for specific relief. However, it will be our endeavour to see that Parliament and the Government help all the people.

We have submitted a negative list to the Court because we do not want liquor shops or shops that are polluting the residential areas to be there. We have tried to take note of the aspirations and apprehensions of the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) also. Therefore, I have said that we are adopting a middle path, and I am sure the middle path that we are adopting is both practical and legal. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotra Ji, now the reply has been given and it has been more than an hour's discussion on this issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, House will not sit on the 16th December and they

[Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

will be responsible for the situation that will arise thereafter
.... *(Interruptions)* They will realize when there will be
great hue and cry *(Interruptions)* One lakh shops will
be sealed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has made his point
and you have also made your point.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, with the co-operation
of the BJP and other parties, we will call a Parliament
Session especially for this even if Parliament is not in
Session.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we want to take up some
other important issues for discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir will
the Chair allow this.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are certain other issues which
are as important as this one.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I
would like to say that the banquet halls which are located
inside the colonies, the stalls which are put up around
temples, masjids, gurudwaras and parks, will these and
banquet halls will be allowed to function as lakhs of
people are involved in this kind of employment.....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Krishna Ji, discussion on this topic
has been concluded now.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In our reply to the Supreme
Court, in our notification, we have not permitted banquet
halls in the residential areas.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They want that
the banquet halls should remain, otherwise where will
the marriages take place? ... *(Interruptions)* Marriages will

not be allowed even in parks and temples, if they are
not allowed at these places then where can we solemnize
them...? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you are speaking will not
be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have
also given notice on a very important issue...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman,
Sir, a large part of the country is affected with naxalism.
This grave issue has been discussed in this August
House, but action in this regard has not been initiated as
expeditely as it should have been and as a result of this
approximately 160 districts of 21 states are badly affected
by naxalism. On 31st March, 2006, hon'ble Minister of
Home Affairs had held a meeting with the higher officials
but it did not yield any fruitful result as was expected.
Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are two such states where
naxalite incidents keep happening very frequently.

On the 17th of July, nearly 800 naxalites attacked
the relief camp (CRPF camp) as well as police station
situated at Airobore in Dantwada district of Chhattisgarh.
In this incident 31 people were killed, 90 were injured,
more than 100 people were kidnapped and hundreds of
people are still missing. This is a very serious problem
and it is severely threatening the internal security of the
country. Recently Shri K.P.S. Gill was appointed as the
advisor to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh who
recommended that extra police force should be deployed
there and arrangements for helicopter should also be
made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the things which were mentioned
by Shri K.P.S. Gill, have not been provided with so far.
Some people from Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand met me
recently. I spoke to them and I was told that the most
concerning aspect was that in the name of naxalism poor
and innocent villagers are being harassed. Police
personnels visit the affected places and falsely claim that
naxalites had come to that village on the previous night
and on this pretext they detain any person they want. In
Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand State... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hazaribagh is not there in
Chhattisgarh.

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. I would like to mention an incident in this regard. There was a person by name Jagdish, who was living in a village on the river bank, he was arrested and put behind the bars by the police on 22nd July inspite of the fact that he was having no link, whatsoever, with Naxalites. Through you I would like to urge that the Government should look into this matter serious. It is not just the problem of the States, rather it is problem of the nation. Therefore, a discussion should be held in the House on this issue. Since this problem is concerned with unemployment, destitutes and regional imbalance, therefore, the Government should view this problem in this context and deliberate on it seriously. After deliberations, some positive action should be initiated so that the increasing naxalite activities can be checked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform all the hon. Members that the House will not adjourn for lunch today. I request you to ask your questions of special importance in brief and thereafter discussion on Cantonment Bill, 2006 will take place in the House.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the subject concerning social justice. As I am committed and in principle dedicated to the cause of social justice, I am asking this question. Last year before the beginning of the academic year it was passed in the Parliament unanimously that there is unprecedented delay in providing 27 percent reservation to the other backward classes under article 15 (5) of the Constitution of India in the academic institutions of the country as announced by the Government. It should therefore, be expedited. The new academic year has commenced but no decision has been taken so far in this regard. Therefore, there is lot of apprehension and doubt among the OBC students all over the country. I would therefore, like to request the Government to immediately take concrete and positive steps, so that their apprehensions could be removed.

Sir, it was indicated that a decision in this regard will be taken by the Government in the Monsoon Session and to implement it either a Bill will be brought or it will be implemented all over the country through an executive order of the Government. I am sorry to say that only seven working days are remaining and still the Government has not given any indication regarding implementation of OBC quota in the educational institutions. After all what Government has decided in this regard and what is its policy.

Sir, people belonging to SC and ST have been given reservation under article 15(4) of the constitution, this is good, this is a welcome step and this step of the Government is very helpful to them, but on the same ground there is a provision in the article 15(4) of the Constitution to provide reservation to the OBC classes of this country for their advancement. This provision was even passed in the Supreme Court in the year 1992, but 27 per cent reservations has not been provided yet. 14 years have passed since the implementation of the Mandal Commission report, but these classes have not been provided reservations so far. Even Lord Rama's *vanvas* ended after 14 years, but the *vanvas* of the OBCs of this country has not ended even after 14 years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject is being discussed a lot and it is being suggested that OBC reservation should be implemented in a phased manner. I would like to ask whether SCs and STs were given reservation in a phased manner under Article 15(4) of the constitution, if not, then why it is being talked so regarding OBC? If it happens, I, for one believe that there will be lot of practical difficulties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I would like to say that if the reservation is implemented in a phased manner, OBCs will never get reservation in the educational institutions. Further if it is implemented in this way then it will get diluted, it will be placed in the cold storage and there will be an iron filter gate in its way as reservation in higher posts for these classes has reached so far the level of 13 or 14 per cent only. In the 14 years they have only got only 13 per cent reservation instead of 27 percent. I would like to say it is implemented in a phased manner, even 2 percent will not be implemented in the educational institutions. This is my practical experience, that is why I want to raise this question. I would like to submit whether the Article 15(5) enacted by both the Houses will again be diluted? Whether after the implementation of Article 15(5), the reservation chapter has been closed or whether they will get it. There is no scope to reopen it now. Whether the mandate of both the Houses will be reopened, whether the Bill passed by both the Houses will be reopened? I, therefore, would like to say, this is our demand that either the Government should bring a bill or it should be implemented through an executive order. The Government can do it through executive order, there is no problem in it. As the academic year has already been commenced,

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

the Government should expedite it, otherwise this session will also be over, the last session has already passed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has passed, you please conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Two years have already passed, therefore we would like to request that the 27 per cent reservation be implemented in one go in this very year...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you have been associated now please take your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government is intentionally creating a situation of confusion, it should be implemented in this very session. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we associate with what Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has said.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take your seat please. The names of Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Ashok Pradhan, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Anirudh Prasad *Alias* Sadhu Yadav, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Santosh Gangwar and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have been included with their consent. Now allow the proceedings of the House to run and you please take your seat.

Basu Deb Acharia Ji, you have to raise the next issue, don't you want to raise your next subject?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Government is intentionally trying to create confusion, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government has got your point now allow the proceeding to run.

13.32 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the need for taking urgent and time-bound steps for bringing to book the culprits behind the heinous crime of murder of the priest Father Job Chittilappilly, Vicar of the Thuruthiparambu Church of Irinjalakuda diocese, Kerala inside the church compound on 28th August, 2004. Even after about two years have passed, no progress has been achieved in identifying and punishing the culprits involved in the murder. The Government of Kerala had already requested the Central Government on 14th October, 2005 to entrust this sensitive case to the CBI for investigation and subsequent necessary action. The matter has since been followed up by the Government of Kerala with the Central Government on 7th April, 2006. In view of the sensitivity of the murder case, the delay in cracking it and the repeated requests of Government of Kerala, I would request the Central Government to entrust this case to the CBI without further loss of time.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Nambadan on this issue. Almost two years have passed and there has been no progress in the case. I would request the Central Government to take immediate steps. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your name has been associated. Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Maharashtra Government has issued a directive to the State Police to thoroughly investigate every Muslim who travels abroad.

Senior Executives in multi-national companies are being visited at their residences by the Police Inspectors asking questions, demanding to see the copies of passports and insisting on letters from the employers of the Executives certifying their travel. This is a very serious issue. Muslims are being discriminated. Why is this discrimination meted out to Muslims? Muslims who want to travel abroad are being inspected and asked to produce their passports. Thousands and thousands of innocent Muslims are also arrested after Mumbai blasts. I would like to demand that the Central Government should take

*Not recorded.

up this matter with the Maharashtra Government so that innocent Muslims are not persecuted and are not being discriminated. If such orders have been issued by the Maharashtra Government to harass the innocent Muslims, the same should be withdrawn forthwith.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): I would like to associate with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government about the plight of the unorganised labourers in the country. These labourers constitute agricultural labour, who are almost 7.4 millions, forest labourers, who are self-employed; and contract labourers, who are in fact not covered by social legislation. It is very unfortunate that these labourers do not have any remedies when they question their employment, payment or wages and so on and so forth. The minimum wages are low as far as these labourers are concerned. For example, minimum wage for agricultural labourers in a number of States is Rs. 50 or Rs. 52 or Rs. 55 or Rs. 56. It is only in some of the States, including your State, Punjab, where the agricultural wages have been higher. But they are being harassed by the authorities and police. They do not have any place to work. They have to migrate to other States. Wherever they go in search of work, they are harassed by police and others. Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and request the Government that it should come out with a very comprehensive law and cover the social security of these labourers. It should also include regulation of their employment conditions, besides, increasing their minimum wages.

The Central Government have already decided to constitute Sixth Pay Commission for the Central Government employees but as far as the minimum wage of these millions and millions of labourers are concerned, a number of State Governments is acting on a very *ad hoc* basis. Hence, I would request the Central Government to call a meeting of the Labour Ministers' of the States to at least revise the wages periodically. Not only that, but also to tone up the entire labour machinery to see that these labourers get justice as far as their employment conditions are concerned and their payment of minimum wages are concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth—not present.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madhusuan Ji, when you were speaking, I didn't allow anyone to speak from this side. So, you please don't interrupt, where the Members from this side speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the Constitution of India, education is a fundamental right and it should be imparted to all. But today it is seen that throughout the country, parents of the children are facing a lot of difficulties in getting their children admitted in educational institutions, whether it is primary education or higher educations. You can witness the same by observing the huge rush at the gates of all educational institutions. The most important thing is that parents are being interviewed. I think, it is the last stage of bargaining in admission. In interview, parents are asked how much donation and building fund, they would provide. I am of the view that interview is not a parameter to assess the talent of the children. The hon'ble High Court has imposed a ban on taking interviews of the parents. The members of Management Committee of all educational institutions moved to Supreme Court against this decision. The Supreme Court has sent the petition back to the High Court. Now, the High Court, has said that a consensus should be evolved so that all children should get admission whether they belong to a poor or rich family.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government through you, that at least the practice of taking interview at the time of admission of the children be stopped and all children belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward class or higher class should be given admission in primary and higher education according to their talent.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the drought situation in Assam. For the first time in the history of Assam, Assam is facing a drought situation, probably due to the effect of global warming. The climate change has shifted floods from Assam to Gujarat and Maharashtra which were normally facing drought. This time, more than 3.5 lakh farmers' families are suffering and there is drastic reduction in the normal rainfall; it is about 60 per cent reduction than the average normal rainfall. The major crop of Assam is rice and the entire

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

rice production will be affected this time. If timely action is not taken by the Government, there will be starvation deaths in Assam.

So far, the Government of India has not released any fund under NCCF or CRF to help farmers. Irrigation facilities in Assam are not properly developed in Assam because Assam was normally getting good rainfall in the past.

So, I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to immediately send an expert team to Assam to assess the situation and to grant adequate relief to Assam Government so that farmers are given relief. It is estimated that an amount of more than Rs. 100 crore is required immediately to tackle the present situation.

I hope that the Government of India will take the matter very seriously and help the State of Assam at this hour of crisis.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, I associated myself with what Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma has said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government of India to the matter relating to grant of ST status to six tribes, namely Tea and Ex-Tea Tribes, Tai-Ahoms, Chutias, Koch-Rajbongshis, Moran and Mattaks of the State of Assam and pray for kind and early intervention in this regard.

These tribes, namely Tea and Ex-Tea Tribes, comprising of 97 tribes, Koch-Rajbongshis, Tai-Ahoms, Morans, Mattaks and Chutias during the last several years individually as well as collectively made several representations before the Government of India and also met the hon. Prime Minister of India, hon. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and other hon. Union Ministers with the prayer for granting ST status (Plains) to these backward tribes of the State, but to no avail. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that the Government of Assam has also recommended inclusion of these tribes in the list of ST (Plains) on several occasions since 1993.

The Parliamentary Select Committee, which was constituted in relation to Bill No. 21, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, the then

Member of Parliament presented its report on August 14, 1997 to Lok Sabha recommending inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi, Tai-Ahom, Moran, Mattak, Chutia and various tribes belonging to Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes of Assam after their several field visits to Assam and in-depth study into the subject.

I take this privilege to draw the kind attention of the Central Government through you, that even after the said Select Committee of the Parliament recommended to the Government of India for scheduling of these communities, the Government of India, however, has not taken any concrete steps after submission of the report and the draft Bill.

The Memorialists are of the firm view that scheduling of the six tribes of Other Backward Classes in the State of Assam would not in any way affect the status of the existing Scheduled Tribes people of Assam. The Select Committee of the Parliament has, on its own, recommended increase of the reservation quota for the Scheduled Tribes in the State and stated that the Government may explore the possibility to increase adequate quota of the Scheduled Tribes without disturbing the original quota of reservation, when these tribes recommended by the Select Committee are ultimately added to the List of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Assam.

In view of the above, I strongly demand the Central Government to consider the inclusion of the above-mentioned tribes in the List of Scheduled Tribes (Plains) by introducing a Bill in the current Session of the Parliament without any further delay.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Sonowal has just now said.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year the hon'ble Prime Minister had given assurance in this House to give compensation and assistance to the sikh families of 1984 riot victims. In pursuance of Prime Minister's resolution, the Ministry of Home Affairs had directed the Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Delhi to sanction rehabilitation package to the victims of 1984 riots vide letter No. U/1318/46/2006 Delhi N.C. dated Jan. 16, 2006. It is surprising that the name of Rajasthan has not been

included in the list. Unfortunately, the sikh families living in Rajasthan were also affected by the riots. In my parliamentary constituency, Alwar 150 sikh families were affected by the riots, but they have not received any assistance till date. Rajasthan, Shiromani Baba Jeevan Singh, Najrool Sikh Vikas Samiti, Alwar and Singh Sabha Gurudwara Rajgarh, Alwar has forwarded their representations. They mentioned in their representations that FIR is registered in Kotwali, Alwar and also in Rajgarh a charge sheet is registered under FIR No. 211/24. I would like to request the hon'ble Home Minister to include Rajasthan in the list of states which are likely to get rehabilitation package so that our Sikh brothers who unfortunately got affected by the riots, may get some relief.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a human problem. In Rajasthan there has been a ban for several years on mining in areas having no tree just for the sake of forest conservation. In my parliamentary constituency about 500 mines have been leased out but the Government has imposed a ban on mining and as a result of which 10,000 people have been rendered jobless. Thousands of workers alongwith two lakh truck owners have also been rendered jobless. Besides, machinery worth crores of rupees is lying idle. Also the incidents of theft is on increase due to closure of mines. The shopkeepers have stopped selling their goods at credit to the jobless workers. They are of the view that when the mines have been closed how would they be able to repay since they are not able to get any work. I urge upon the Union Government to immediately lift the ban to solve this human problem as early as possible so that people do get jobs and the unemployment prevailing in Jaipur and Alwar can be removed. The right to do this should be given to State Government instead of Union government so that State Government could taken decision quickly in this regard. The Government should lift the ban immediately so that the people of Jaipur and Alwar who have been rendered jobless could get work and the machinery lying idle there is also brought in running condition.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with these views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a powerful bomb explosion took

place in the house of Makool Khan, a person belonging to minority community at about 12:30 pm on 11.8.2006 in Kathua-Samthar area under Moth Tehsil in district Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh. About half a dozen people have died and more than one and half a dozen have got injuries. The explosion was so powerful that the dead body of a woman was found about one km. away in a field. The dead body of Makool Khan struck against the pole and fell down and his clothes remain hanged on the wires of that pole. RDX was used in the blast. What are the things that were being made in that house? According to the people, the vehicles came there from outside and people used to stay there whole night. Certainly, things using RDX were being produced there and a conspiracy was being hatched to explode it somewhere. When I got this information on the next day...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a state matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: When I reached there on the next day, at least eight to ten bags of explosives were thrown into water from the nearby house... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pratapji, nothing is going on record. Sit down please.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: The hand, head and legs of different people were clearly visible on the roofs, houses and in pond water. The administration was seeing all this as a mute spectator. The administration swung into action after 28 hours and the houses of such people were being sealed from where explosives had already been cleared. I urge upon the Union Government to conduct a CBI inquiry in this regard. Keeping in mind the repeated information that we should keep a watch on the surroundings to see that no terrorist activities are taking place on the occasion of Independence Day. I,

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma]

therefore, urge the Union Government to conduct a CBI inquiry of this powerful blast because people from Mumbai used to visit that house. It should also be inquired into as to how many people have been killed in blast and from where they belonged to.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Though it is a state matter, I have allowed it to come on record, now nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ashok Pradhan Ji, I associate you with the subject raised by Shri Bhanu Pratap.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the alarming situation prevailing in this country. It has come to light that taking advantage of a large population, diverse gene pool, prevalence of many diseases and low cost, global pharmaceutical companies have made our country an attractive destination for testing their new molecules. Less talked about is the scope for unethical trials arising from the large number of poor and uneducated poor. The pharmaceutical companies are carrying out such trials in India and other developing countries in devious ways which underline the need for a mechanism to protect the poor from being exploited. "Access to information is especially important for people in the developing world where the potential for exploitation is the greatest." Notes an editorial published in the British Medical Journal. A survey conducted by ICMR earlier this year brought out the scant regard Indian Institutional Committees have for the guidelines on ethics and only 40 out of 179 committees were found to follow the guidelines.

There is a need therefore to start a registry. Apart from bringing about order and transparency, registration will help in strengthening clinical trial research. While human clinical trials are crucial to assess the safety of drugs, it is imperative that the issue of safeguarding the

interests of people who knowingly or unwittingly become involved in such studies is accorded the highest priority.

Therefore, registering trials will help in making available information about their positive and negative outcomes. Today, even children below the age of ten months are being provided drugs of foreign pharmaceuticals and the information is not being shared with anyone in this country. It is prevalent in many States. This is very alarming. I urge upon the Government to regulate it and start a registry at the earliest and take stringent action against those who are treating our people as guinea pigs.

Accountability of clinical trials is necessary. Would Government take steps in this regard immediately?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are approximately 1,55,300 post offices in the country. Out of these about 1,36,000 branches of post offices are run by Gramin Dak Sevaks in the rural areas. Those who were called as Extra Departmental Employees earlier, are now called as Gramin Dak Sevaks. But it is regretted that these approximate three lac Gramin Dak Sevaks catering to the needs of 80 per cent people of the country and operating the Gramin dak Services in India are still being victimized due to neglect, step motherly and discriminatory treatment and exploitation by the Government despite discharging their duties while suffering the sun, rain and cold. These Gramin Sevaks have almost 15 lakhs people as dependent members of family. The recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee constituted earlier to address their problems have not been accepted so far despite staging dhama, Satyagrahs and strike and assurances by different Governments which is very unfortunate. In an important judgement of 1977, the Supreme Court has termed these Extra Departmental employees as Civil post holders. That means they are employees under administrative control of state. From this point of view, it is Government's duty to regularize their recruitment, service conditions, facilities etc. and bring about improvement in these things. The Government have misconstrued this judgement. These people have not been covered even under social security scheme. Discrimination persists in case of leave benefits and maternity leave to women etc. These employees are deprived of CPF, HRA, CCA, LTA, TA, promotion gratuity, advance allowances etc. Merger of 50 per cent DA with their pay like other employees has also not been implemented in their case.

*Not recorded.

Despite a considerable hike in DA, their pay is not like other employees who are having DA merged with their pay.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to accept justified and legitimate demands of these three lakhs Gramin Dak Sevaks and dispel widespread resentment amongst them and include the category of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the terms and references of Sixth Pay Commission.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been a post man. Therefore, I am aware of their problems. I also want to associate myself with him.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I would also like to associate with what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has said.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His name should also be associated.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, atrocities and trafficking of women are on the increase. It has become difficult for women, particularly young girls, to venture alone specially in big cities. Women rendering night duties are the most vulnerable in the country. Incidents of rape and atrocities have brought shame and disgrace to our country.

14.00 hrs.

Even foreign women tourists are not spared from rape, atrocities and loot by anti-social elements. A country would be great only when the women are respected and protected.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take effective and stringent measures to protect women from rape, trafficking and exploitation.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you. Sir, you also have a background of a farmer and you are aware that during this very session this House could not function for a day over the

problems of farmers relating to paddy prices. But I want to bring to your kind notice as to how the present Government is making mockery of farmers. The price of sugarcane has raised only 75 paise per quintal. I think which joke can be bigger than that of it made with farmers. It is a thing to be thought upon. The NDA Government had increased the prices of sugarcane by Rs. 20 during the last five years and the present government has increased it this year by only 75 paise. This indeed is a very unfortunate. It reflects the policy of Central Government towards farmers. I do not want to speak in a narrating way but I want to bring this to your kind notice because it is not sure whether discussion on this problem will be held on Monday or Thursday. I urge upon the Government, through you, that Government should not make mockery of farmers of this country this way. Sir, this all is happening when a formula has been given by Rafi Ahmed Kidwai in this regard and according to that formula the state Government's sugar mills should give Rs. 200 per quintal as prices of sugarcane to the farmers. We want that the Government should ensure that the farmers should get a price of atleast Rs. 200 per quintal for sugarcane and this should be done in synergy with the State government because a dual policy in which the Union Government fixes the prices and the State Government increases it and provides some incentives will not work in this regard. I think if the condition of the farmers is to be improved, the Central Government should sit together with the state governments and fix the prices in such a way so that the peasants could get the remunerative prices for the same. The sugar mills earned profit last year and this year also and it will be very unfortunate if farmers do not get remunerative prices in return and this will be injustice with farmers of the country as well.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijaywada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Government of to a tragic situation that is being witnessed in the State of Andhra Pradesh because of floods. It has inundated more than thirty lakh people in sixteen districts. It has affected more than 450 mandals and more than 6,500 villages. It started on August 2 and is continuing till now.

All the major rivers of the State of Andhra Pradesh, like Nagavali, Vamshadhara, Godavari, Krishna and

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

Tungabhadra, are overflowing. In fact, more than two and half a lakh families have been severely affected because of these floods. More than seven lakh people have been shifted to rehabilitation centres and more than 100 people have died because of these severe floods. More than, 6,500 cattle have died in the process. More than 17,000 houses have been damaged in this entire exercise. More than three lakh hectares of crops, both paddy and commercial crops, have been damaged. These floods have caused havoc in 16 districts out of 23 districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In fact, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, have visited the State. Our Chief Minister had taken all possible measures immediately to attend the situation. The only thing that we expect from the Centre is the financial assistance because these floods have caused a great damage, ranging from Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000 crore. I am happy and I thank the Central Government, especially the hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, for immediately granting Rs. 200 crore to the State. We have to declare this natural calamity as a "National Calamity" immediately.

We have to ensure that henceforth such calamities do not occur. Even during the floods, enough storage capacity should be created so that water could be stored in the reservoirs. In fact, the Andhra Pradesh Government is investing Rs. 50,000 crore to store this water. We need to invest more and more. The Centre should come to the rescue not only to tackle the flood victims and flood relief but also to ensure that more amount is spent on Andhra Pradesh to store this water and use it for the betterment of the farmers and villages.

14.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item number 12 – Matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only seven hon'ble members are there who want to raise matters under Rule 377. They can do so if they want.

[English]

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Sir, let them speak. Only seven members are there. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Francis Fanthome – not present

Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh – not present

(i) Need to open Railway Ticket Booking Counter in Kandi Municipality area of Murshidabad district, West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Railways have been considered as a potent component of infrastructural development and amenities of passengers should be the integral part of railway Development as have been pronounced in the Budget also. But large parts of district Murshidabad comprising a population of 58 lakh have been left outside the ambit of railway services, i.e., passengers used to buy ticket well in advance keeping in view of their scheduled date of journey by travelling 42-50 kilometers to the nearest railway station. A proposal was mooted by Kandi Municipality in Murshidabad district to open a ticket-booking counter in its area for the local population of Kandi sub-division who are frequently availing railway services. Even the Kandi Municipality in its proposal has expressed its desire to provide the required land, accommodation, and charges for electricity, but so far no action has been taken by railway authority, reasons best known to them.

So, I would request the Ministry of Railways that a railway booking counter should be established in the same Municipality which may ultimately help to mitigate the sufferings of the local population as they will no longer be required to collect tickets by travelling long distance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Pratibha Singh not present

(ii) Need to provide better Railway passenger services and amenities in Palanpur, Banaskantha parliamentary constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Sir, there is an ample demand of railway services and amenities at Palanpur Headquarters in my Parliamentary Constituency,

Banaskantha and the train passengers are not getting amenities as per demand. An EMU train service should immediately be introduced between Ahmedabad and Palanpur. A direct train service should be introduced between Palanpur and Mumbai to fulfil the increasing demand. Approval has been given to make Palanpur a model railway station but this work has not been done so far. The height of railway over-bridge at Palanpur railway station is proposed to be increased which has not been done so far. This work is still pending. It should be done in public interest.

I urge upon the Government through this House to issue immediate instructions for execution of above mentioned works.

(iii) Need to remove the ban on low cost diesel used by farmer in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the farmers in the districts under my parliamentary constituency, Amreli and in its surrounding districts, are facing many problems in irrigating their fields. Farmers are not getting electricity for irrigation because of shortage of power in the country and the price of diesel has risen leading to escalation in cost of farming for farmers using diesel and farming has not remained beneficial profession for farmers. Earlier, the farmers used to use an oil called 'kud' which is better than kerosene and inferior to diesel in quality. The government has put a ban on it and the Government has stopped selling this 'kud'. If this 'kud' is provided to the farmers again, then they can get rid of the irrigation problem.

I urge upon the Government through this House, to remove the ban imposed on kud immediately so that the farmers can have irrigation facility for their fields at a low cost.

(iv) Need to expedite the grant of subsidy on solar Energy project proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the consumption of electricity is more than its production and almost every state is facing this crisis and also making efforts to remove the deficiency. The Union Government is extending the support to such various energy related projects. More over, there is a need to exploit the non-conventional energy sources

among which the wind energy and solar energy are important.

Several such places have been identified in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where wind energy can be produced and that can at least contribute a little to meet the power shortage. Similarly, there is lot of scope in the field of solar energy also. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are such state where there is lot of scope in the field of solar energy and work in this direction has also been done. Various State Governments have made arrangements to the non-conventional resources in view of the production of energy. The work pertaining to solar energy has also been started in those states for which assistance from the centre is also being provided.

But the situation is that the schemes or mini projects pertaining to solar energy etc. chalked out and sent to the centre by the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are not being provided subsidy by the centre at the earliest or are getting delayed. Therefore, the hurdles are coming in the way of supplying of power through these scheme to the rural areas as small villages. Presently it is all the more necessary to exploit the alternative energy for averting the power crisis. The Union Government should provide its subsidy or assistance expeditiously to those states particularly Madhya Pradesh and adjoining state of Rajasthan so that rural areas as well as urban areas could get benefit of power on the implementation of such schemes.

[English]

ME. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan – not present

Shri Manjunath Kunnur – not present

(v) Need to accord clearance to the proposal for generation of electricity from Gas at C.I.L. near Miranagar, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the additional data was collected by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) by drilling bore holes in the Lignite Block of Merta Road in Rajasthan during December, 91 to February, 92 and by additional hydrogeological data collection during January-February 95 on the advice of Soviet Specialists under the Science and Technology (S&T) grant of the

[Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas]

Ministry of Coal on underground Gasification of Coal (UGC). Though Merta Road Lignite Deposit was found technologically feasible for pilot project studies for techno-economic evaluation but keeping in mind the possibilities of contamination of Acquirer lying above and below the layers of lignite, the S&T project suggested that it should not be pursued as the whole population of this area is dependant on the underground water. Therefore the project was not further pursued.

I had sent a letter 17-03-2006 alongwith the report of the experts regarding the contamination of water to the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy and Coal.

Therefore, it is requested that after going through the report of experts sent along with the letter, this project should immediately be started.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Punnu Lal Mohale – not present

Shrimati Manati Sen – not present

(vi) Need for widening of NH-47 and NH-17 in the Angamaly-Mannuthy and Mannuthy-Valayar sectors in Kerala

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the matter concerning widening of NH-47 in the Angamaly-Mannuthy and Mannuthy-Valayar sectors in Kerala. I request that action to acquire land should be completed and construction initiated at once. In the NH-17, land was acquired more than 25 years ago to widen the road. In this sector also construction activity should be taken up at the earliest. On NH-47, the bridge over Chalakudy River is in a very dangerous and dilapidated condition. Its repair work should be taken up urgently and at the same time a new bridge constructed in its place. I also request that while acquiring land, the land owners, tenants and shopkeepers should be given adequate compensation.

(vii) Need to include Kaushambi in Uttar Pradesh in the Tourism Map of India for its all-round development.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Deputy Sepaker, Sir, Kaushambi in my Parliamentary constituency

has got an important place from historical and religious point of view. It is situated between the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. It is known for 'Ram Gaman Path' 'Buddist Places' the dwellings of Jain Rishis the capital of King Udayan and the empire of Kada Mughals. 'Maa Shitaladham Mandir' Kurai and Sandipan Ghat are among the other historical places. There is a big lake which is spread over 4000 acre of land and is known by the name of Alwara Lake.

Sir, it is a matter of sorrow that in spite of repeatedly writing and raising it in the parliament the said places have not been included in the tourism circuit. I demand from the Tourism Ministry of Central Government that by including the Kaushambi district in the tourism map of the country all round development of this area be undertaken.

(viii) Need to provide a special economic package for infrastructural development in Bihar

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is a backward state. It is known to all that Late Rajiv Gandh Ji visited Bihar when he was the Prime Minister of India. Seeing the situation and circumstances over there, he declared after arriving at Delhi that a special package in the area of infrastructure would be provided to Bihar. I am happy that the present Government in its Common Minimum Programme has announced to provide a special package to the state as announced by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But even after two and half years no concrete steps has been taken in this regard.

Sir, keeping in view the backward poverty, unemployment, helplessness and diseases of Bihar, if the Government does not fulfilled its promise then Bihar will have to face a lot of difficulties in becoming a developing state like other states of the country.

Therefore, I urge that a special package in the field of infrastructure for Bihar should be given.

14.19 hrs.

CANTONMENT BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 13.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the administration of cantonments with a view to impart greater democratisation improvement of their financial base to make provisions for developmental activities, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This is an old Bill. This Bill was passed in 1924 and after that certain amendments were introduced over the years. If I remember, even the first Cantonment itself was established in Barrackpore after the Battle of Plassy some time in 1765. The second Cantonment was established in Danapur in the same year itself.

As it is today there are 62 Cantonments, of which 56 Cantonments were established during the British days and six Cantonments have been added after Independence. When the Cantonment Bill was introduced in the then Central Legislative Assembly in 1924, the definition of the Cantonment was given as 'the temporary residence of troops'. But later on the temporary residence became the permanent residence.

During these long years, the Cantonment also acted as some sort of urbanisation and wherein in the Cantonment, the urbanisation process began to maintain the health of the troops and certain essential civic amenities were being provided by the Cantonment authorities. That is the story of the past.

So far as the current Bill is concerned, it was conceptualised earlier and the Standing Committee on Defence of the Twelfth Lok Sabha considered the Bill. The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December 2003. But after that, as the Lok Sabha was dissolved, the Standing Committee of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha also considered this Cantonment Bill. They made a large number of recommendations.

One of the important recommendations of the Standing Committee was accepted by the Government. In the original Bill it was suggested that there should be a chapter in this Bill, which will deal with the Defence lands other than those which are situated in the Cantonment areas. Apart from the Cantonment land, which amounts to roughly about two lakh acres, the Defence Ministry has in its possession of about 17 lakh acres of land, of which two lakh acres comes within the Cantonment areas and 15 lakh acres plus are Defence lands.

The Standing Committee's recommendation was that this will require a comprehensive look and consideration, therefore, it would be better not to bring an appendage of the Cantonment Act about a separate Bill should be brought. We accepted the suggestions and recommendations of the Standing Committee. Shortly, we will ring in another Bill as to how to deal with the Defence lands.

There are some important features and I do not like to go into the details of them. In the course of discussion, the hon. Members will make their contributions and in reply to that I will answer to some of the issues. But the important parts of these are that we have divided the Cantonments in four categories. Originally, there were three categories, depending on the population. Up to 50,000 plus is Category I, from 10,000 to 50,000 is Category-II and from 2,500 to 10,000 is Category-III and the lowest level of population which will be up to 2,500 is Category-IV.

Accordingly we have selected the number of elected representatives. From the present level of the elected representatives we have increased the number and we have brought parity with the elected members and nominated members.

The second objective is that apart from increasing the numbers and giving more opportunities to the elected members, under the Seventy-fourth Amendment certain special responsibilities had been entrusted to the municipalities in respect of the social development. Now, Cantonments, being in the urban areas, were not extended, and as it was the Central territory, the local municipal laws were not extended to the Cantonment. Therefore, to have better municipal services to the troops who are residing in the Cantonment and also to the civic population, some of these facilities are being provided in the Cantonment area. In this connection, while we are increasing the numbers, we have also provided that the local MLAs and MPs should be associated with the Cantonment Board. Of course, they will not have the voting right.

Another provision that we have made is that we have provided reservations for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women among the elected category of the members of Cantonment Board, and Centrally-sponsored schemes, as I mentioned, which are now being implemented by the various local bodies and municipalities, would also be available to the Cantonment Board.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

The scope, duties and functions of the Cantonment Board would also be enhanced, Precisely, the objective is more demoralisation and extending the responsibilities to provide better services but at the same time, we shall have to keep in view that the Cantonments are primarily meant not to create new city but to provide the houses for the troops. Therefore, it will have to be under the Army control. It cannot be converted into a full-fledged municipality. For that, there is no need for the Cantonment Bill because the municipalities can be created by the State Government within their authorities which are there but we are extending certain facilities to discharge the municipal functions. That is why, it will be construed as deemed municipality.

With these few words, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the administration of cantonments with a view to impart greater democratisation, improvement of their financial base to make provisions for developmental activities, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" (Almora):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen to speak on Cantonment Bill 2006. In the first place let me submit that I am presently associated with the Cantonment as I belong to Ranikhet Cantonment. That is my place of birth. I received education from primary to intermediate levels there only, I also stayed there in rented accommodation. The subjects of building tax etc. have been included in this bill to be imposed on the owner of the houses. I was elected MLA from Ranikhet legislative assembly constituency and have been elected MP four times in a row from that area. Ranikhet Cantonment also falls within the same territory. Not just that Almora Cantonment is also located there in my Parliamentary Constituency.

Incidentally when the 12th Lok Sabha was formed in the year 1998, a Standing Committee on Defence was constituted. The issue of bringing in fresh legislation for Cantonment, Defence estate, Defence land was raised before this committee first of all, I too got an opportunity to participate in the discussion. I also held the office of Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence and got an

opportunity to look into the matters concerning Cantonments. Thus I was able to know the intricacies and difficulties related to the functioning of the Cantonments both directly and indirectly.

14.29 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

Since I have been closely associated with this issue. I would very much like to bring the same into the cognizance of the Hon'ble Minister. Now I will further explain it. It is true that at the time of British Rule in India, wherever British troops were deployed. Washermen, Barbers, traders, shop keepers also accompanied them to extend their assistance. Wherever Cantonments were established, they too found their abode in those places however they were named followers camp from the beginning to end as they virtually followed their lifestyle and ways of living. Somewhere down-the-line these Cantonments got transformed into a permanent entity. As a result, there are 62 Cantonments in our country today since the independence of India. Rest of them is Army and Military stations. They are in hundreds but we are limited to the Cantonments only. The civilians residing in Cantonments do hold the view that those living to the Municipal or Civil areas enjoy all the rights whereas they are deprived of those rights. They feel like living under a kind of military regime where their civil rights are curtailed and that they are reduced to second-rate citizens. We have to face this problem from time to time.

Many times and with the direct experience of Ranikhet Cantonment, I have seen that Station Commanding Officer has to be Chairman of the Cantonment Board. Even today, the same proposals have been made and a bill is supposed to be passed tomorrow. Whosoever is commanding officer of the station has to be the President of the Cantonment. The Military officers of different backgrounds who are often at the stage of retirement gets posted there. They are equipped with their military attitude. On the other hand, there are civilians. The Diaspora of Civil population is so vast that it covers Degree Colleges, Inter-Colleges and so many other activities. As a result they carry the impression that they have more Civil rights and this also leads to tension. Huge all concerns have been included therein and I associate myself with them. I don't mean that Hon'ble Minister is not interested. He is very much concerned and has a good intention. However, the bill that has been referred by me was duly recommended in 1998 by the 12th Lok Sabha, thereafter, the bill was drafted in 2003, Subsequently, it was introduced and once again it

was referred to the Standing Committee to elicit public opinion, take care of the representations of the people but sadly, the bill lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in February, 2004. Then moving forward we come to the fourteenth Lok Sabha, the bill was introduced again, after introduction it has referred to the Standing Committee on Defence which is Chaired by Hon'ble Bala Sahib Vikhe Patil who is from the Treasury Bench itself. Several meetings of the Committee are Chaired by him and recommendations are made on their part. In the existing title Hon'ble Minister has made provisions of certain items which is called the subject of more democratization and we are keen to offer it the status of deemed Municipality giving the reference of the Constitution. Today I would like to make a Special Mention of according the status of a municipality. Be it only the Government-Grants, Central Grants or the Grants made for the programmes being run under social sector or the other schemes slated to be implemented by the State Governments. All these issues are covered under Deemed Municipality, but the Scheme made under Cantonment Act does not cover the rights of expression and the right of taking decision by the elected representatives on certain issues. To that end, I would like to mention certain instances clause-wise. I can only say that we have limited ourselves to saying only rather than ensuring the status of more democratization. Since the population is on its rise. Earlier it was broadly divided into three categories— one category covered the population up to 5 thousand and the other one was meant for the population over 10 thousand. Ranikhet Cantonment *viz.* the Cantonment tolling within my parliamentary constituency comes in the first category. Now it shall be marked under category No-2 as its population is perhaps below 50 thousand. At the same time there are several big Cantonments. They are only bigger by one category. This apart, no material change has taken place.

Relating to the second issue it has been expressed by you as well as on the part of the Government that there has been increase in the number of members. However, Concomitantly, apart from increase in the strength of members the *ex-officio* members, nominated members, their opinions and voice are not considered important against President, the Commanding Officer. In case of any controversial issue whether it should be decided in favour of the public or in favour of the military personnel, ultimately the decision shall be taken in the interest of the military rather than being in favour of the public. Not just that, there are some other clauses that I am going to throw light upon.

In the first place, I have proposed a few amendments also in my speech. Now the amendments shall be moved at the time of consideration over them but I have proposed an amendment on my part into it. If the Hon'ble Member aggresses to it, there shall be virtual democratization of the Cantonment Bill. The Commanding Officer should not be made the President but it should be elected from amongst the elected members that means one of the members should be given an opportunity to assume this position. Then this will be a real democratization. I have proposed an amendment in this regard. There are Municipalities; Panchayats, District Panchayats, their Chairman and Mayor of the Municipalities are directly elected. In that case, we have fair reasons to term it democratization. Here, they are nominated and the person concerned is an Army official. Now Vice-President shall be elected from amongst the public but will discharge his functions as President only in the absence of the President. In the presence of the President, he has no role to play.

In clause 12 a charge has been affected in the Constitution of Cantonment Boards. Earlier, the CEO (Cantonment Executive Officer) *viz.* Cantonment executive officer was conferred with the responsibility of implementing all the decisions of Board, But currently powers have been conferred upon him rather than the responsibilities. He is the CEO but now he has been elevated as the Chief Executive officer in place of Cantonment Executive Officer. Besides conferring powers on him, he has also been made a member,

On the one hand he is the executive he is Secretary who is responsible for the execution, on the other hand he has also become the Member of that Board, wherein the Members are elected from within public. Members elected by the public therein executive officers are also members. Being Members, they have a say in the making of rules, passing of resolutions and proposals and also taking decisions. Not only this, I will mention about their powers later. There happens to be provision of assessment which is mentioned in clause 76, Earlier, there used to be Civil Area Committee which assessed the property. Assessment was done by a Committee, constituted from within the Members of Board. Clause 77 relates to authentication. That too was also done through them. Now, all the powers are vested in the CEO, He will collect tax from the property after making an assessment. The powers of assessment and imposing penalty for mistakes if any, vests with the Chief Executive Officer. Thus it cannot be said that there has been any

{Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'}

issue of democratization involved in this regard, I had mentioned that what were the views held by the concerned Standing Committee. The Committee received about 300 representations. Several persons appeared before the Committee. Several suggestions were received. Several delegations from the residents of cantonment area also appeared before the Committee, The Committee came out with important recommendations after taking all these into consideration. I would like to mention clause 12, I quote clause 3.9 on page 13, of the Report of the Standing Committee.

[English]

"3.9 The Committee have received various views from Cantonment Citizen Associations/Cantonment Boards/ individuals on the provisions of this clause. It has been generally mentioned that in the guise of achieving greater democratisation, almost absolute powers are being vested in one individual appointment i.e. Cantonment Executive Officer being re-designated as Chief Executive Officer. As per democratic norms legislature is the supreme governing body and the executive is accountable to the legislature. By being Member Secretary, the CEO will assume all three roles of legislature, executive and judiciary, which is against the spirit of Constitution."

[Translation]

This is the view of the Standing Committee in para 3.9 at page 13. Standing Committee consists of Members from both houses of Parliament. After eliciting the views of the public, correct attention has not been paid. He said that he would like to quote their recommendations contained in para 3.10 and 3.11.

[English]

"3.10 The Committee after carefully examining the suggestions given by various Organisations/ Associations/individuals are also of the view that CEO should not be made the member of the Board."

[Translation]

That means the CEO should not be its member, Para 3.11 says:

[English]

"3.11 The Committee feel that CEO should act only an Executive to carry out legislative instructions of the Board and should be accountable to the Board."

[Translation]

It has not been given any effect, Perhaps, it did not come to the notice of the Minister. I request the Hon'ble Chair to give a decision. Now-a-days, several Bills are introduced, almost all of them are referred to the Standing Committee. The Members of the Committee go through it. People are invited to appear before the Committee. After all this, the recommendations of the Committee are generally accepted. It is all right to incorporate them in the Bill. However, the recommendations of the Committee which are not accepted should be circulated separately. This may be done later. But, we should get such information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude. You have taken 15 minutes.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I would like to mention the contents of clause 66, 67 and 68. Thus I want to explain clause 67 refers to the imposition of licence fee on licence for vehicles. The RTO is also doing this, be it in the states capitals or elsewhere. But, that will be taken up at the amendment stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have your say at the amendment stage.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The fine which can go upto Rupees one lac, is too steep. I belong to Ranikhet. Since the past many years, we have been demanding to give us the status of municipality, as we constitute a separate civil population.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have settled in 'Rani Ke Khet'.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': There is one degree college, one intermediate college, a polytechnic and a big bazaar. In 1989, a consensus had been reached. The State Government is also working on the proposal. We desire a separate municipality there. We have raised this demand vociferously. We have agitated and sat on dharmas as well. The Minister has been magnanimous in taking several decisions, If Ranikhet gets a municipality, the people there would benefit and it would

open up immense opportunities for expansion. The amendment is of secondary importance. If attention is paid and if you accept the amendments at the consideration stage in future, we would make further improvement. There is always a scope for improvement, the old Act would be repealed. The amendments, to be introduced later should be accepted to do justice.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Mr. Chairman. Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support this Bill. After long years this amendment has been proposed in this Bill which was urgently required. There are three or four important points in this Bill. It has been proposed to build Self Financing Institute in Cantonment. This is to make these cantonments economically strong and the cantonments which are already economically well off and whose earnings are satisfactory for the time being, efforts are to collect the money for these cantonments whose earning is less and which are running in loss. It is for the first time, as mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister, that the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women have been provided a place in it and a strong platform have been made available for their selection. There were altogether 95 recommendations and out of those 42 recommendations have been accepted...*(Interruptions)* This is a democratic system. There is no question of honour or dishonour here. This is an ongoing process. For you, it may be a question of honour or dishonour, I would like to say as there is Social Economic Development Schemes of the State Government for resource mobilization, there is no scheme being implemented by the Government of India. Same thing is regarding MPs and MLAs funds. For them, it is very difficult to utilize the funds. Whereas they are the sole custodian to these funds. In the same way, it is provided in the law that whatever reforms are brought in through any scheme, the property will belong to the cantonment. He has also proposed good things regarding protection and preservation of our historical places. He has talked about different categories. But I think that the category may go on changing as our population is increasing day-by-day. This can be seen in cantonment areas in cities like Hyderabad, Pune, Delhi. etc. Now they enjoy status of central places, previously cantonments were at a distance from the main city. I will like to say that further amendments are required in it. Civil and Military area should be separated. This is one of the

important recommendations that I had made and which has been turned down by the Hon'ble Minister. At present it is not a situation that troops lack such facility. For them, many facilities are available in nearby areas. Step-by-step civil areas should be segregated from the cantonment areas so that cantonment area could be isolated as defence land. Common man face a lot of problems where they are not segregated. We shall have to bring some reforms in this direction also. The population is rising in the cantonment areas. Many areas are densely populated. If you do not want to segregate the civil and cantonment areas then you should increase the land in cantonment area as per the increasing pace of population. We should provide land for it. It is also a point that area can not extend horizontally but vertically. Land acquisition rules should also be changed. Municipal Corporations of big cities should also be allowed to take development work in the cantonment areas so that the population residing therein could avail facilities. Alteration laws should be amended or there should be some facility for increasing FSI in the Rules and it is the need of the hour. There is need to amend the fine rules related to our board or civil societies. Now-a-days there is much corruption in it. More facilities should be provided to the civilians. Hon'ble Defence Minister has mentioned about the defence land in Chapter 15, I am grateful to him for this. He has accepted the recommendations made by our committee, but to avoid any further delay in this regard, Government should immediately enact a law for taking control of the defence land. There is an administrator in cantonment board for several years but the board has not been duly constituted through election. We wish that there should be regular election in cantonment on the line of cooperative societies as has been provided through constitutional amendment in Panchayat Raj. Elections for cooperative societies will be held after each five years. In the same way some provisions are required to be made to conduct elections after some time in cantonments also. There must not be an administrator or command in charge or what we call COC for ever. Elections are not being held in cantonment for several years. While concluding I would like to repeat my point about the post of C.O. Here we will have to see what rights are given to anyone through this cantonment Bill, because we want that there must be a post of Member-Secretary and anyone else may be appointed in place of him. We do not want to dilute the power of CO. He is the implementing authority. The Member himself has to hear the appeal and take a decision.

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

[English]

Where the Member of the Board can hear the appeal, and also decide about it because he is the interested party in taking the decision.

[Translation]

Sometimes man becomes possessive while changing his own decision and thereafter the justice becomes difficult. I want that we should think over it. Law has provided something about minutes also.

[English]

It will be forwarded to the command-in-charge or concerned officers.

[Translation]

I want that the copy should be forwarded to the Civil Members also. I would like to give some suggestions for which I have made recommendations and which are good. I have said earlier that such facilities are needed to be increased. When Hon'ble Babu Jagjivan Ram was Minister of Defence then houses were constructed for ex-servicemen in Ahmednagar. Still quarters are being built there. There the space is less and there are problems of sanitation, no development, no beautification of the area is taking place so I want a separate land for them. No land acquisition should be made. The defence land which was not utilized for years should be utilized for some purposes. We should construct quarters for ex-servicemen or servicemen in cantonment area too.

The area of land is intact it is not increasing. So I would like to say that it calls for reconsideration, otherwise a number of problems will crop up. The land of Defence lying unutilized for years should be utilized for this purpose.

Another matter that I can understand is regarding the disqualification of candidates. I would like to urge the hon. Minister how we can disqualify candidates whose names figure in the electoral roll. I can understand this matter related to the disqualification of candidates but we need to ponder over it. As per the constitution, it is our fundamental right. Again it strangles into the lengthy process of litigation followed by some objections. This is happening for the first time. Attention should be paid in this direction. There is filthy water in the cantonment. Very often they talk about environment. A treatment plant should be installed for the treatment of filthy water. The Municipality has put some restrictions by enacting law. We should do the same. A section should be formed for this purpose. No one should be excused. They should spend money and we are not going to raise objection thereto.

Thirdly, our country is progressing fast. National Highways and Hospitals are being constructed. Few days back the hon. Minister has visited Pune. There people had been demanding for the construction of a bridge for years. The same has been constructed. After the visit of the minister, it was permitted to open the Bridge for the common man for the traffic. Now it has been placed under the control of the municipality but for all this procedure took ten to twelve year to complete. I want that there should be a provision for the delegation of power to someone; so that national, urban and rural development could be sped up. I do not want the land, which is required for providing benefits to the common people or come in-between, should be given to private people with the recommendations of the Union Government or the State Government. I want that there may be municipality, corporation, Gram Panchayat, State Government or the Union Government. We should not have any objection to giving land in this situation. What we have observed in cantonment during our practice that we go by discretion. If we are willing we vacate the land and if we are unwilling we do not vacate it. So I want that the use of discretion should be abolished as we already have the shortage of land. In many areas we have taken land as freehold and lease land. We have taken land on lease since the time of British rule. There is such an agreement that we will vacate this land. But we have not vacated that land and it is still under our possession. They say that they have the circular brought by the Britishers, if it is so, then same is required to be reviewed afresh. We should keep the land which is required by us and the demand land which is not required we should decide about that. The persons from whom we have taken land and those who became homeless due to this, persons from whom we have taken land on lease, they should also be given a piece of land so that their families may be rehabilitated. If those families are not rehabilitated, they will have to face the problems.

Mr Chairman, Sir, at last I would like to say that the Bill is good and there may be amendments in later on. I support this bill. Regarding election. I would like to say that an authority should be formed for this or rules and regulation should be framed for this purpose, I don't say that there should be a Chief Election Commissioner but I wish that there should be a Joint Secretary, Estate Manager or any other officers but an election authority must be there, it is of no use to talk much on this issue. But I would like to say only this that civil and military authorities should be segregated and laws should be

enacted for defence land as soon as possible. This Bill incorporates the recommendations made by the Defence Committee which are based on oral and written evidences given by the people. But you should consider whether there is any possibility of reforms in the lease land and free-hold land at present or later on if it is so, we have no objection. I appreciate the hon. Minister for the good job he has done. With these words, I support this bill.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Cantonments Bill, 2006 with some suggestions. It is a long pending Bill.

As the definition goes, we want to democratise the Cantonment system and we want to treat it as a 'Deemed' municipality. The intentions and the objectives of this Bill are democratising the cantonments, improvement of their financial position and to make them resourceful. We are making such provisions in this Bill. As the definition of 'Cantonment' goes, it is a residual effect or the imperialist legacy. The Cantonments are British remnants, and they have been established for military and defence purposes. They were being managed and run by *ex-officio* members nominated by the then rulers, and this system is still continuing.

There are 62 Cantonments in total. One of the biggest Cantonments is located in Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh. We want to democratise these Cantonments, and we want to change them. It is not enough if you simply increase the number of elected members. The need of the hour is to oversee the administrative control of the Cantonments.

15.00 hrs.

They were the previous military bases set up to control the civil society. That is why in those days the rules were framed like that. Some restrictions were imposed there and civil people were not allowed to move within those cantonments.

This Bill is a welcome step. We are democratising the cantonment areas. We are treating them on par with the municipalities. We want to apply the 74th Constitutional Amendment to these areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Babu Rao please take your seat. We are going on to the Private Members' Business now. Your speech will continue when this discussion is taken up next.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 15—Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul—Not present.

15.01 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*Introduced*

(I) Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion of self-employment among educated unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion of self-employment among educated unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.01¹/₂ hrs.

(II) National Commission for Exploitation of Natural Resources Bill, 2006*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission for exploitation of natural resources for the economic development of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission for exploitation of natural resources for the economic development of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 14.08.2006.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.02 hrs.

(III) Rights of Persons Suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome Bill, 2006**[English]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory treatment and rehabilitation of AIDS patients and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory treatment and rehabilitation of AIDS patients and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.03 hrs.

(iv) Girl Child (Welfare) Bill, 2006 **[English]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures for the girl child and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures for the girl child and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 14.08.2006.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.04 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL - *withdrawn***(I) Crop Insurance Bill , 2005***[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 21—Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi on the 12th May, 2006, namely:-

"That the Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Shri Laxman Singh—Not present.

[Translation]

Now the hon'ble Minister will reply to this debate.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the Members of this august House who have participated in this important discussion and expressed their concerns on this vital issue of the farming community. The main objective of the Bill is to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith.

Briefly, Clause 3 and Clause 5 of the Bill provide for the formulation of a Crop Insurance Centre and payment of premium by the Central Government and State Governments.

Clause 6 provides that it shall be the duty of the Central Government to pay to the farmers the insurance amount for loss of crops, Clause 8 provides for supply of all essential commodities to farmers for their daily needs free of cost till they recover the loss, etc,

The Bill, if enacted, would likely to involve annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 500 crore from the Consolidated Fund of India. A non-recurring expenditure of about Rs. 50 crore has also been indicated.

To protect the farmers against losses due to crop failure on account of natural calamities and to restore their credit worthiness for ensuing crop season, a Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) was introduced in the country with effect from Kharif, 1985. The participation in the scheme was voluntary and States/UTs were free to opt for the scheme. All farmers who availed crop loans from Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks for growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), oilseeds and pulses were eligible for coverage under the scheme. Since inception of the scheme, 19 States and three Union Territories participated in it, in one or more seasons. CCIS remained under implementation till Kharif 1999.

With a view to enlarge the coverage in terms of farmers (loanee and non-loanee both), crops and risk under crop insurance, Government introduced 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)' from Rabi 1999-2000 season in the country.

The scheme is available to all the farmers—loanee and non-loanee both irrespective of their size of holding. It envisages coverage of all the food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops, in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years. Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, 14 crops, viz. sugarcane, potato, cotton, ginger, onion, turmeric, chillies, pine-apple, annual banana, jute, tapioca, coriander, cumin and garlic have already been covered under the scheme. All other annual commercial/horticultural crops will be placed under insurance cover in due course of time subject to availability of past yield data.

The premium rates are 3.5 per cent (of sum insured) for bajra and oilseeds, 2.5 per cent for other Kharif crops; 1.5 per cent for wheat, and two per cent for other Rabi crops. In the case of commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are being charged. Small and marginal farmers, at present, are entitled to a premium subsidy of 10 per cent.

At present, the scheme is being implemented by 23 States and two Union Territories. During the last 12 crop seasons (*i.e.* from Rabi 1999-2000 to Kharif 2005), 7.51 crore farmers have been covered over an area of 12.20 crore hectares insuring a sum amounting to Rs. 70,696 crore. Claims to the tune of about Rs. 7,207 crore against the premium income of about Rs. 2,226 crore benefiting more than two crore farmers is the outcome of implementation of the NAIS so far.

At the initiation of Government of India an exclusive organization namely, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) has been established by nationalised general insurance companies and NABARD for effective implementation of this Scheme.

I have been informed that many Members have given their valuable suggestions on this issue. Most of these suggestions are with regard to making the existing NAIS more comprehensive and attractive to the farmers. Shri Jai Prakash, Shri S.S. Reddy, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, Shri Ravichandran, Shri B. Mehtab, Shri Mitraser, Shri K. Francis George have desired to include more crops and unit area of insurance should be a Gram Panchayat or village. Hon. Members Shri Prasanna Acharya, Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Jai Prakash wanted that farmers should get their insurance claims timely. Hon. Members Shri C.K. Chandrappan, Shri M. Shivanna and Shri Mitraser have desired to make crop insurance scheme compulsory and premium payable should be borne by the Government. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai suggested that it should provide insurance cover to pre-sowing risk and post-harvest losses. Besides this, many other important suggestions like proper calculation of threshold or guaranteed yield in ease of continuous drought situation, setting up of a Rainfed Authority to provide coverage to the losses of agricultural land due to erosion, flood, etc., to increase the coverage of farmers and to introduce actuarial rates of premium, etc., have been given.

I want to inform you in this regard that under the National Common Minimum Programme, the existing crop insurance schemes are required to be re-designed so as to make the scheme more farmer-friendly. Accordingly, a Joint Group was constituted by the Government to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes.

The Group has made in-depth study of the related issues and has already submitted its report. The Group has made a number of recommendations. The important recommendations are in respect of reducing the unit area of insurance to gram panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity level of 80 per cent and 90 per cent, coverage of pre-sowing and planting risks and post-harvest losses, to provide personal accident insurance cover and package insurance policy, etc. The report has been circulated among the States and Union Territories for their comments

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

and views. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group and the views of the implementing States and Union Territories, the Government, at present, is in the process of reviewing the scheme.

The Government has already introduced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, as explained by me and it is in operation from the Rabi of 1999-2000. It provides for coverage of all categories of crops, except perennial horticultural, as well as farmers, loanee and non-loanee farmers both, and a reasonably good coverage of risk—up to the value of threshold yield in normal course—is provided under the scheme. Further, to make the scheme more attractive to the farmers, the scheme is being modified, keeping in view the recommendations of the Joint Group.

In view of the above, there seems to be no need to have a parallel scheme. I, therefore, request Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Member of Parliament, through you, Sir, to withdraw this Bill.

I, once again, thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion and have made valuable contribution.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would hon. Member like to put any other query after such a good reply from the Hon. Minister?

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I just want to seek one clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Saradgi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister has expressed himself and clarification will be given later on.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my request is that at present crop insurance is determined at the tehsil level whereas the same should be determined at Gram Panchayat level as tehsil is a very big area. Very often, crop in one part of a tehsil is destroyed whereas in other part of the same tehsil it remains unaffected. Hence the crop insurance should be decided at Panchayat level... (Interruptions). The Government

should adopt liberal policy so that the farmers may be benefited...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The same thing has been recommended by the Joint Working Group and that will be accepted.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I want to know whether the plantation and betel leave production are being covered by this crop insurance scheme.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, you have not heard the complete speech of the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I have not talked about plantation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The same has been replied by the hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I am very much thankful to the hon. Members who have participated and made valuable suggestions in this regard. The object of my introducing and requesting the House to consider and pass this Bill was, farmers always suffer heavily due to flood, cyclone, drought and such other natural calamities. During the discussion many hon. Members had suggested that farmers were victimised in Tsunami or crops are affected by the pests or disease, just as coconut in Kerala, Hon. Members, Shri Chandrappan and Shri Radhakrishnan suggested including plantation and Tsunami affected crops also. During discussion, many Members made valuable suggestions and supported the Bill.

15.16 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

The main object of discussing this Bill was to see that a comprehensive insurance scheme safeguarding the farmers is thought of because they always suffer due to

uncertainty of weather. Weather always plays a vital role in the sufferings of the farmers, Many Members, who took part in this discussion, had suggested that village should be fixed as a unit. It will not be practicable if *taluka* or district is taken as a unit to assess the loss suffered by the farmers, I think the main reason for the insurance companies or other agencies not coming forward to implement the crop insurance is because they feel that crop insurance is a liability. In case of industry or other sectors, the insurance companies have the advantage of getting some benefits but for the agencies, which have taken up crop insurance for the past three decades, it is not a profitable proposition and hence they are not coming forward to implement it.

I would suggest that the State Government or the Central Government should have a mechanism to provide crop insurance and the premium also should be arranged by them. It should not be taken as insurance but as compensation.

Farmers are facing a very peculiar situation. Though a number of schemes have been introduced in the last two or three decades, they have been implemented to some extent and farmers are also being benefited to some extent. The State of Kamataka has a scheme in this regard. Farmers are innocent and illiterate. Though there are schemes in this regard, they are unaware of them. They have to be educated in this regard. I, therefore, suggest that the State Governments should be made liable to see that enrolment of the farmers for crop insurance should be done by it either through the cooperative sector or through other sectors so that the farmers are benefited whenever they are put to loss due to the natural calamities.

The Hon. Minister is a champion of agriculture, He has introduced a number of schemes for the benefit of farmers in Maharashtra as also in the Centre. As the hon. Minister has mentioned, there are a number of schemes, the feelings of the Members of this august House is to have a comprehensive legislation on crop insurance so that the farmers affected by natural calamities should be some remedy. If there is any emergency, the State Governments and the Central Government rush to rescue the farmers on a war footing and they spend crores and crores of rupees. Instead of that, we must have a permanent insurance scheme and a permanent mechanism to see that whenever such a situation arise, they can be helped. Shri Vikhe Patil also mentioned that the support price is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said all these things.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I would request the hon. Minister to take into consideration the feelings of the Members and he would introduce a comprehensive insurance scheme to safeguard the farmers whenever they are victimised by various reasons. I hope he would consider many of the suggestions which I have given while bringing a comprehensive Bill.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The questions is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith,"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : I withdraw the Bill.

15.22 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*Introduced*

(v) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006* (Amendment of article 117, etc.)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 14.08.2006

15.23 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*withdrawn*

(ii) Safai Karamcharis Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move that:-

"That the Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of Safai Karamcharis against any mishap connected with their work to give them protection, safeguard their interests and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the work of Safai Karamcharis are such that they have to scavenge the drains and sewers that emits such poisonous gases which are harmful to health, which cause them many kinds of physical ailments. Beside this, there is no provision of minimum pay for these Karamcharis.

Sir, instead of doing our own work ourselves we tend to depend upon safai karamcharis. This prevails not only in Delhi but this is a country-wide trend. Safai Karamcharis' task is very important. My aim to bring this Bill is that Safai Karamchari should be supported through the Insurance Scheme and they all should be insured. At the time of opening the sewer the gases inhaled by them cause many ailments which is very dangerous for their life sometimes causing their death. Entire family have to depend upon single earning member and if he falls ill or dies then that family have to suffer for the whole life.

Today, safai karamcharis work in Government, Semi-Government Non-Government and unorganised sectors. Many women are also engaged in such work, on whom lies the responsibility of the entire family. Women leaves behind children to do the scavenging work, but they are not paid even the minimum salary, they are made to work on the paltry-sum or they are working in people's home for a mere square meal. It is unimaginable to think about such a pathetic condition of our safai karamcharis. Scientific progress that has been achieved by our country. In view of this I demand from the Government to formulate an Insurance Scheme. Life Insurance Corporation and other Insurance Companies Insure only those Safai Karamcharis, who are working in Government and Semi-Government Organisations and can pay more premium.

But mostly Safai Karamcharis work in the unorganised sector as daily wagers where no accounts are maintained about their salary they do not pay even minimum wages and they spend their entire life on this paltry amount. There is an urgent need to formulate a comprehensive and compulsory Insurance policy especially for those working in the unorganised sector. The introduction of this Insurance Scheme will help to provide social, financial security to them.

I also have concern for those women who do these kind of work which play havoc with their health leaving them physically weak and prone to many ailments and this infection pass on to their children also not only in this generation but the future generations also get affected. No one is there to take care of them nor they have enough money for proper treatment. The life of such children is such that they are not physically fit and when they are physically weak then they can not carry on with their studies and as a result their life becomes miserable.

I have one more demand along with the Life Insurance that free medical aid should be given to the safai karamcharis working in unorganised sector. I will lay special emphasis on this issue. There should be free medical aid. Dispensaries for them and a proper survey should be conducted in this regard as to how many people are engaged in this work, cards should be issued to them, they should be given medicines their medical test should be carried out and if any health problems come to notice, they should be given medical treatment to overcome these health problems.

There are many categories among them like those who collect garbage and carry it in trucks and these safai karamcharis only collect all type of garbage be it from stores, slaughter houses. They get infected with germs which they carry to their homes with them. That is why I had said that Government should formulate such an Insurance Scheme under which getting insured should be made compulsory for them so that they can lead their life properly. If they are in some trouble or die, these Insurance Schemes can help in the maintenance of their families.

There is one financial memorandum therewith under which I would like that a minimum Rs. 100 crore provision should be made for this purpose.

[English]

A non-recurring expenditure of about Rs. 100 crore is also likely to be involved in that.

[Translation]

Only then we can uplift their life standard and this way we can bring them in the main stream. There are many dalit castes in our scheduled castes category, but the jobs these people perform are of the utmost importance and their working conditions should be improved by formulating insurance policies for them and they should be covered under these insurance schemes.

With these words I would like to request the Central Government, the hon'ble Minister that the insurance schemes should be made compulsory for them and a provision of Rs. 100 crore should be made for this purpose and their standard of living should be improved.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of Safai Karamcharis against any mishap connected with their work to give them economic protection, safeguard their interests and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, I support the Safai Karamchari's Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005 as presented by the hon. Member of Parliament Mrs. Krishna Tirath.

I am very happy to state that hon. Krishna Tirath ji has brought the Bill of Insurance Scheme to this House showing sensibility towards the most backward and neglected class of the society for providing them financial security and making their future bright. I want to thank her and congratulate her for this because if there is any class which is most backward and neglected that is the class of Safai Karamchari. The last Government also set up the Safai Karamchari Commission. The Commission was set up to increase the salaries of the safai karamcharis, to improve their life and their social condition and to adopt the modern techniques like flush, etc. in place of the traditional methods of scavenging. But condition of the Safai Karamchari whether they are in town, city, metro, municipality, corporation, cantonment or in village Panchayat or elsewhere is very pathetic. When the Safai Karamchari himself is in such a pathetic

condition, the condition of his family will definitely be miserable, I want to say that, "cleanliness is next only to Godliness." Cleanliness comes next to the prayer of God. Safai Karamcharis are involved in this work in big metro cities. The order of the society became hierarchial based on birth due to which a particular class of the society started doing this work due to ignorance and illiteracy and it was owing to it that the education and development of the people of this class became stagnant and they were counted among the weaker section of society. I am fully in support of the Hon. Member of Parliament in her saying that if there is any poor, dalit or harassed or exploited or sufferer class among the Scheduled Tribes it is none other than Safai Karamchari. We can see while in the markets that whether it is raining, or cold or heat or there is any blockage in the drains they do their work entering inside the sewer. If there is any heap of garbage in the colony or the flow of water stops due to polythenes leading to overflow of water over the roads, people protest that there is no cleanliness. They raise their voice against Municipal Council or Municipal Corporation but the life of the Safai Karamcharis who are ordered by the Municipal Corporation or Municipal Council or Municipality for carrying out the work is very miserable. They enter the stinking sewers without any special equipments to help them in proper breathing. They have to remove or lift the carcass of animals. They work under the circumstances which otherwise are unbearable for people and take the risk. Risk cover is provided for those engaged in hazardous and risk prone works. Safai Karamchari are also an important part of the society. Whose life is full of risks and who are compelled to work under unhygienic and hazardous conditions. Sometimes it so happens that they faint due to smell of gasses, so it is imperative that they should be given risk cover. Therefore, the bill brought by Madam to provide insurance to them is for giving them risk cover. I think that it is not possible for safai karamcharis having low salaries or those working in villages for meal or those living in unorganized sectors to pay the premium of insurance. So a part of premium be contributed by Municipality and Municipal Corporation. This is the weakest section, so contribution be made by Safai Karamchari Commission. Subsidy be provided by the Government and those who want to contribute can give from their salaries and the Government should provide them with insurance just like the Life Insurance Corporation under which risks are covered. Drivers of Motor Cars, Conductors and people working in other sectors are also provided risk cover. Safai Karamcharis should be given risk cover in the same way. They should be given life insurance.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, madam just said that the condition of the people working in the unorganized sector is the most miserable. Therefore they should be covered under life insurance. There is a need to give them social and financial security. The government should make arrangement for paying the premium for those who can't pay their premium so that their life style is gradually improved, I also support the provision of medical aid as proposed by madam Krishna Tirath. Sometimes people working in unorganized sector fall ill by working in unhygienic conditions or gets affected by incurable diseases and don't have the money for treatment. Such people should be provided free medical facility from the government. These people should get this facility just like the BPL cardholders or others.

With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak. Alongwith this, I would like to quote a few lines from the statement of objects and Reasons of the Bill in which it has been stated that they should be provided with financial security in case of any accident during work. We request the Government to present the comprehensive and compulsory insurance scheme Bill to safeguard their interests. I once again support the bill brought by hon. Member of Parliament and thank her for taking a step in the direction of achieving that objective and inspiring the Government.

[English]

ShRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr Chairman, Sir I wholeheartedly support the Bill that has been brought by Shrimati Krishna Tirath. In fact, this kind of discussion, in this august House, will create confidence in the entire sector of the Safai Karamcharis spread over the entire country. At least, they will realise that this Parliament is discussing about their conditions and they have got sympathy and support for them. Basically, this is very important in that direction.

I am thinking all the time that the work culture in this country needs to be changed. Unfortunately, because the social respect is not there for doing such works, people are prepared to do white-collared jobs and not going to the field. They do not want to spoil their clothes. They do not want to touch mud or they do not want to touch any material, straining themselves, sweat themselves and they want to do white-collared job only, without getting themselves strained. If you want a paper to be transferred from one table to another table, they are ready to work. That means. people are prepared to work as an attendant

but not as a worker anywhere. When this was the work culture in this country, obviously, we can imagine what is the condition of the Safai Karamcharis which will be much worse. So, naturally, as she has proposed, I am also of the opinion that they must be given all support from the Government security, support and basic needs. Now, we have been seeing, time and again, in every State politicians, bureaucrats, officers, judges and journalists are being given houses costing crores of rupees. But we do not look to them. If they have to get two cents or 50 square yards of land not in the heart of the city, but at a remote place, even that, they are not, getting on many occasions. They have to go round the politicians and officers time and again, beg them and do everything possible. Still, they are not sure of getting it. So, we must change this policy itself. Before we cater to the people who are well placed, we must serve their needs first and then look to the other sections of the society, They should not ask for the basic needs like food, shelter, housing etc. We must provide them all these things. Even in the case of housing, the Government must think that it is their responsibility. Sometimes, it can be made as mandatory. All those people who are engaged in, so and so profession, will be given these minimum facilities of education, health care, housing and then subsidised food. Even cheap and subsidised transport must be provided to such people. If these facilities are provided, then people will start working in all those areas, Otherwise, you will find a day when nobody will work. Nowadays, everybody wants to give orders to somebody else to do some work. This is the pathetic condition of this country today. That is why, we are not able to generate wealth.

Why have the other countries come up? Once, I visited Israel. I saw a farmer was working in the field, I also saw that his entire clothes were dirty, not to be seen at all. He was physically working himself in the field. I thought that he must be a worker working in the field on behalf of the farm owner. After completing the work, I saw him in the Dinner. He came with full suit. I could not recognise him. Later on, I understood that he was both the owner and worker. So, that is the type of culture that we need to introduce and support in this country also. But that culture is not available as on today. The society itself is looking down upon such workers, If I say that I am working in an Airlines, I am respected. Suppose somebody says she is an Air Hostess in an Airlines. Of course, she is good looking but the job she does is only serving. But if the same serving is done in a roadside hotel, she is disrespected. That means, some

jobs are being looked down upon. The people who are engaged in that profession are being looked down upon socially. That also has to be eliminated. We should bring forward some regulation or act to punish those people who look down upon such workers doing such jobs. That would generate confidence. Irrespective of the nature of work that I do, I must have respect in my society. It is not because of the profession that I am engaged in that I receive respect. It is not because that my clothes are soiled that I am not respected, I must be respected as a human being and that feeling must go round in the country.

As has been suggested by Shrimati Krishna Tirath, I wholeheartedly support this Bill to provide for free health insurance to such workers. At the same time, they must be provided education, housing, etc. It is not a formal education that I suggest, I also feel that separate classes must be conducted to them to infuse confidence and to dispel the inferiority complex from their minds. Such workers are nowhere comparing the other citizens in this country. Maybe, somebody is getting crores of rupees. There can be disparity in economics. But it cannot be the reason for showing disrespect to other professions. So, that feeling has to be eliminated. I feel some separate classes should be conducted for them exclusively.

Similarly, a fund must be raised for such workers. Suppose a boy in a worker's family is interested in education or something else. In such a situation, the Government must come to the rescue and provide financial help that is required without their begging. If these things are done, then, there will be respect for human beings.

Now I come to the condition in which they are working. It is very unhygienic. They are prone to ill-health. So, the conditions are also to be improved. Or, the instruments that are provided to them must be such that they are not subjected to the unhygienic conditions. Therefore, that aspect also has to be taken care of.

Though we discuss about the Safai Karamcharis yet there are many other areas. Till the other day, in my State I do not know about the other States—if a girl were to go for a nursing course, people used to think it is taboo, it is a profession less in importance. But I am happy to say that today there is respect for the nursing profession. There is so much demand for the nursing community. Even doctors are not getting that much pay in the United States of America. They are not having

that much demand. Hundreds of thousands of nurses are in demand even in the western countries. Similarly, people who are working in other areas also must be protected in the same manner. I do not want to take much time. While supporting her to bringing forward this Bill to provide healthcare, I feel many more things like shelter, provision of subsidised food, education, etc. are necessary. Basically, they must be provided these facilities first rather than the other sections of the society.

With these words, I congratulate Shrimati Krishna Tirath for bringing forward this Bill and creating confidence in the minds of the entire people who are engaged in this profession.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Safai Karamchari Insurance Scheme Act, 2005, presented by my sister Shrimati Krishna Tirath ii. It is true that maximum number of safai karamcharies belong to Scheduled Caste and Dalit section and they have to face a lot of social evils. It is really unfortunate that even after 59 years of independence, these people are unable to fetch water from the hand pump in the villages on equality basis. When everybody has taken their share then only these people are allowed to fetch water. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here and she knows that these people have to face a lot of difficulties due to such unsocial practices. Therefore, India-Marka handpumps should be installed in their homes. These people keep waiting for hour with buckets in their hands and are forced to take water only at the end. If at anytime they touch the bucket of other people of the society, then they are beaten up also. They only get water if they rise early at five in the morning.

Secondly, I would like to say that if an animal dies in the village then it is his job to remove the dead body of the animal. They have to do the most hated jobs which people from other castes do not like to do. These people have to do all such works which are looked down upon by the people of other caste. These people feel sidelined from the mainstream of the society. The Government should on priority basis initiate work relating to providing medical facilities for them, education for their children and providing drinking water facility in their homes. These people do all the dangerous and life threatening jobs. Recently there have been some two-three incidents. Whether these people work in municipality or in private jobs, it is only these people who go inside

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

the sewage pipes or wells to clean them and during this process many have lost their lives also due to the poisonous gases inside. They are not even provided with masks to save themselves from such poisonous gases and they work with a mere cloth tied around their nose. The Government should provide them with all the facilities for undertaking their job alongwith all the medical facilities so that their health is not adversely affected.

It happens very often that both men and women leave the house for socai work and their children are left alone at homes. There are no medical or educational facilities for their children. They must not think of Delhi, they must see the position in other states and visit slum-colonies. They will find that the condition of these people is extremely pitiable and they seem to be suffering from either T.B. or anemia. Both Government as well as non-government safai karamcharis should be declared as grade-IV employees and should be provided with equal salary. Some people are employed as safai karamchari with the municipality temporarily on contract basis and are only given some honorarium, they should also be declared permanent. There is a feeling in the minds of all of us that we do not sit at a direly place and it is these safai karamcharis only who clean those places. The Government should provide all kinds of facilities to these people.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing. I have noticed that a Safai Karamchari Commission has been constituted, The Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Commission visits the district on behalf of the Government and they enjoy the status of state Minister. They can travel by air also. But when they call upon a meeting for the upliftment of safai karamchari's in the districts, the DM or higher officials or the head of the concerned department never participate in these meetings and instead they send the junior officials or other employees to attend such meetings. They come back after having discussions but they do not have the power to take decisions on their own, Then what is the purpose of constituting a Commission? This Commission should also be provided with powers on the lines of the powers delegated to the Election Commission, They have constituted a constitutional Commission but this Commission should also be equipped with adequate powers. If a meeting is called, than it should be mandatory for the head of the concerned department to attend the meeting. It should be given the due respect as given to

a Commission and since that much respect is not given, it shows the mentality of the people. I would like to fully support this Bill brought by Shrimati Krishna Tirath Ji and would like to demand that facilities like residence, drinking water and education for their children should be provided to them by the Government.

With these words, I would like to conclude my sneech.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I am extremely happy that the problem of Safai Karamcharis is discussed by this august House and I thank our colleague, Shrimati Krishna Tirath, for introducing this Bill.

It is one of the most downtrodden sections of our society but is perhaps doing a job which many others would not like to do. I remember, it was perhaps Mahatma Gandhi who said that this job also is a respectable job because without that if you do not clean your surroundings you would be living in filth and dirt. So, he even suggested that everybody should clean his toilets and all that. That was to give a kind of respectability to this job.

Now, even after such a long time, we are reaching 60 years of our Independence, we still have a Safai Karamachari who is still recognised by the society as somewhat untouchable. In this situation, how social respectability should be given to them is one thing, their economic emancipation and also they get certain benefits by the society are also very important. This Bill envisages that.

Now, they are one of the most unorganised sections in our society. They do not have powerful trade unions to protect their cause. To that extent they are unorganised and unprotected. If the Government takes some initiatives so that minimum protection to their life and respectability to that job is added, that would go a long way in giving them confidence.

Sir, their life insurance, other insurance and some facilities to educate their children, etc. are to be provided. The abuses against them also should not be there because they are treated almost like slaves by the society. So, when the Government thinks of bringing in a legislation, there should be a comprehensive legislation by which this section of the society is given social respectability, economic emanicipation as well as insurance protection, medical care and education care and all that.

I hope the Government will take these opinions of this House and bring forward a legislation to protect the safai Karamcharis.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important but unfortunate section of the Indian society, namely the Safai Karamcharis. I am indeed happy to appreciate the concern of Madam Krishna Tirath in this section of the society which has not been taken care of either by the State Governments or by the Central Government or by voluntary organisations.

Safai Karamcharis perform a large number of menial jobs. Where other people are afraid of taking up these jobs, these people take them up willingly and they do them with a greater amount of risk, hazard and unpleasantness. The earlier speaker described how they work in the field. They undertake sewerage work; they take up sweeping work; they take up washing work, cleaning work and all kinds of works which any decent person in the society can take up. Look at the social composition of the people who are involved in these dirty and filthy works. They are all mostly from Scheduled Caste communities, most backward communities and they are almost treated as unapproachable and untouchable by others in the community.

Shri Chandrappan said that Mahatma Gandhi was worried about it. More than Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar was the first person who asked for social as well as economic emancipation of these people. Socially they are working as an outcaste by the upper caste people and other community people. Therefore, social disrespect is not there. If you look at their economic conditions, most of them are working in the unorganised sector and they are subjecting themselves to all kinds of exploitation. To put it in the economic language, I would say that the productivity of these workers is greater than the wages they get. In many of the occupations in which they work, they are working like seasonal workers; they are working in an underemployed capacity or in most cases they are unemployed also. In a month, they work for five days or ten days and they are terminated. There is no security at all. There is no social security or economic security for these people and corresponding to their productivity, corresponding to the master for whom they work, their wages are abysmally low. They create a surplus in the society which is being exploited. This is what Karl Marx said that most of the proletariat, the working sections, working segments of the society, are

being exploited by creating a surplus value. Surplus value goes to enhance the welfare of somebody else who is not willing to do such tasks. Therefore, economically they are getting a pittance for the productive work which they do. Therefore, their economic exploitation, their pay is not corresponding to their productivity, and they are not respected socially. Therefore, we have to look at this problem in a holistic manner.

Madam said that we should bring a comprehensive and compulsory insurance scheme. Maybe that is one of the ways by which we can protect these people. But, what we will have to think is a whole package of methods that should go as an integral part of our policy to protect the unorganised workers. Even today, the country is not ready with a comprehensive legislation to protect the interest of the unorganised workers. This Government has given a social bent to policies. As far as I am concerned, today this UPA Government alone has given a social direction, a social bent to the development of the people. Although we are concentrating on economic issues, we have brought National Rural Employment Programme; we have brought National Rural Health Mission. All these are directed towards social betterment of the people. Social betterment of the people cannot come or will not come if this unfortunate section of the society which is numerically strong, is brought under fold of social legislation of the Government. Therefore, Sir, the UPA Government should think of contemplating a kind of a comprehensive economic package as well as a social package so that their conditions can be ameliorated.

16.00 hrs.

One such measure is the Insurance Scheme and this Insurance Scheme has to be evolved for these people because they need our sympathy, our support and patronage. This Parliament should send a message to these people that the parliamentarians of India are here to speak for them. It was not Dr. Ambedkar, it was not only Mahatma Gandhi but also the present parliamentarians are equally concerned about them and we would bring the Insurance Scheme.

When you go for the Insurance Scheme, you have to think of premium. Who will pay the premium? These people are getting only Rs. 107 or Rs. 15 per day, which is not even sufficient to meet both ends. They are not able to get three meals a day. They do not get any basic amenities of life. They are a selected lot and unapproachable lot. Therefore, to expect these people to

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

pay premium for the Insurance Scheme would be too high a task. I would feel that the Government, maybe the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment must pay their premium. Before that, the Government must undertake a nationwide survey of Safai Karamcharis. If I ask the Ministers here what is the number of people who are involved in this occupation, perhaps they may not be ready with an answer. Therefore, what we should do is that we should undertake a comprehensive survey of these people to know their socio-economic conditions. We have conducted a survey in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and we have now enough data on how they move horizontally and how they move vertically but we do not have such a data as far as the economic and social conditions of Safai Karamcharis are concerned. Therefore, the first priority in any scientific analysis of their economic condition and improvement of the condition of the people is to undertake an on the spot study, a situation analysis of these people, which can come only through a comprehensive enquiry, a comprehensive survey, and that has to be done. We must analyze the situation and then think of the ways and means of it. Therefore, I would request the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to take up the survey, assess their situation and take remedial measures.

With regard to the premium, Sir, I would feel that the entire premium must be paid by the Government agencies including the Ministry. I would also think that the Government should constitute a National Board for Safai Karamcharis. At the State level we are creating *variams*. We create *nalavariams* for agricultural labourers, industrial labourers and other people. These people are, as it has been said, the most disorganized set of people. They do not have a bargaining power. They do not have union strength. Therefore, it is for us and it is for the Government to organize them in the form of a National Board for Safai Karamcharis, which can take up their welfare measures and economic measures. Therefore, insurance is a necessary condition for them but that is not a sufficient condition. The sufficient condition is that we must take up a plethora of measures on their economic improvement, educational improvement, health improvement and overall improvement of housing, surroundings and situations in which they live.

Therefore, I am happy to associate with this Bill move by Shrimati Krishna Tirath but at the same time, I would like to expand this Bill so that we can bring a comprehensive legislation to protect their interest economically and socially.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Safai Karamchari Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005 presented by Shrimati

Krishna Tirath in the House. I am supporting this Bill because at present, the position of safai karamcharis is not good and the work being done by them can not be done by us. We hate that work even at the sight of it and these people actually do that work. Hon'ble Member has expressed her concern for them. Therefore, I support this Bill. In this Bill, we have mentioned about basic amenities for these Safai Karamcharis which included providing insurance cover, education facilities and dwelling units for them. But with regard to their insurance, I would like to say that Government employees will get the insurance cover. Safai karamcharis working in municipal corporations would also get the insurance cover but how would the safai workers who are working in private factories, get insurance cover and how can their standard of living be raised. This should also be included in this Bill because the safai workers work under contractors in private companies and they are paid on monthly basis by the contractors. If they work for a contractor for one year then that contractor should deposit insurance money for them in for the one year so in case of any mishappening the family members of that karamchari could receive insurance money and they could live properly. I have been a member in the municipal corporation also and I have seen that those people who prepare their salary bills, prepare them by the tenth day of next month deliberately rather than preparing the bills by the 30th of the month. These ten days are spent by the family of safai workers in great difficulty and in this situation they are forced to borrow money from the employees of municipal corporation at the rate of 10 percent per commission and return the money on monthly basis later on as and when the salary is received by them. For example, if they borrow one thousand rupees, then one hundred rupees are deducted and this leads the safai workers towards a breakdown. Non receiving of salary at the right time and compulsion to return the money borrowed are the factors responsible for his breakdown. In such case when 10 percent will be deducted from their salaries, then how will they feed their families with the remaining money.

I have been elected from Uttar Pradesh. After 1996 when Kalyan Singh ji was re-elected as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he laid a rule because he knew that since the municipal corporation did not have any source of income then where from would it pay the salaries of its employees? That is why they did this that 11 per cent of income of Uttar Pradesh has been fixed as the expenditure for local bodies *i.e.*, seven percent of this

11 per cent for municipalities and four percent for Gram Panchayats. Out of this seven per cent meant for municipalities, fifty per cent amount will be spent on construction work and remaining fifty per cent will be used for salaries to the employees so as to enable the employees get their salaries timely. As they do not get salary so they resort to sitting before the gates of municipality with brooms in their hands without food. But this provision has been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I have no knowledge of other governments as to what is implemented there and whether they have money to give salaries to the employees of the municipalities, I do not know the sources of their income. But I want to submit that if these municipalities do not have such sources, then the Government of the State should certainly provide such a source of income to the municipality to see that they get their salaries in time.

We find that there is no good facility of education for the children of Safai Karmcharis. When they go to the municipalities or the places where they work, they have to leave their homes at 4 O' clock in the morning and they do their work properly but they are not able to look after their children. So, their children should be given good education facilities and education for their children should be made compulsory so that their standard of living may be improved. They should be provided medical facilities along with education as when they visit hospitals, they have to stand at a distance and no doctor comes to see them. All these social evils are still prevalent in our society. I would like to say that legislation should be enacted that if any doctor refuses to examine them, that doctor should be punished.

They should be provided with drinking water facilities. We see that they remain standing for 2-2 hours to fill water. If someone else is taking water, they are stopped from doing so, Such an arrangement should be made at their doorsteps that they may take drinking water from their hand pumps and whenever the people of this community need, they may take water for drinking as well as for other purposes, like bathing and washing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now, it was said that the previous Government had constituted Safai Karmchari Commission. We see that whenever the Chairman of this Commission, comes on a visit, collector or other officers do not treat them properly whereas Chairman of other Commissions are treated properly. I demand that whenever the Chairman of this Commission goes somewhere, if not the collector then at least E.O. or his

equivalent able administrator, leaders of employees, should attend the meeting. They should listen to their complaints and grievances. They should conduct discussion so that their problems may be resolved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the private member's bill moved by Shrimati Krishna Tirath for Safai Karmcharis and with these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): First of all, I want to congratulate and thank our hon. Member of Parliament, Shrimati Krishna Tirath as she has come forward to bring this Bill, Safai Karmcharis Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005. It is about a neglected community, the neglected labourers, residing in the urban and village areas. Now, we are discussing the future of the Safai Karmcharis as to in which way we are going to help them.

The word 'Safai' means, those who are involved in cleaning. They are not only cleaning the streets, not only cleaning the public places but they are also engaged in cleaning the individual's houses. They are engaged in cleaning all the houses. Not only males are engaged, but, if you go to the villages or to the municipal areas or to the Panchayats, females are also involved in this job. Children, below the age of even 10 years, are also involved in this job. They are cleaning the houses. They all participate in cleaning. But either under the State Government or under the Central Government, if we are doing anything for their welfare, this is the time to think.

Our UPA Government and our hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh under the guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi, for the past two years, have introduced so many schemes for the welfare of the OBCs, SCs and STs. Our hon. Ministers, those who are in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, are also concentrating on the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden.

Actually, by providing insurance to the Safai Karmcharis, can we help them? For example, if a person is working in the municipal areas, he is going to clean the trenches. The trenches may not be cleaned for a number of months. Without taking drinks, he cannot work. Everyday, he is engaged in the job of cleaning the trenches. In some cases, due to formation of gases inside the trenches, they all die. We can see reports in the newspapers that four persons died or five persons died. Also, they are addicted to drinking. Without taking drinks, they are not able to attend the work. They are getting a

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

meagre income. They are appointed as municipal employees. They are appointed as Panchyat Union employees. They are able to get only Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000. With this salary, they are spoiling their entire life. They are not able to educate their children. It is not possible for them. Is it possible for them to purchase good dresses or good food for their poor children? It is not possible for them.

Sir, in addition to providing insurance scheme, we have to think about their health also. I want to submit that the practice of cleaning the human waste by humans has to be abolished. Even the Government is taking so many steps to close his practice. But everywhere this is going on. We have to take effective steps to see that nobody is involved in this job to clean the human waste. That is the first step that we have to take and to help them. Also, with regard to their health, the males involved in this field are suffering from so many diseases. We have to direct all the Government hospitals, municipal hospitals, etc. to provide free and good medicines and facilities for them. That is the first thing. Also, in the villages, as I have already told you, the ladies are also involved in cleaning. That has to be stopped. If you see, every morning, whether we wake up or not, at 5 O' clock in the morning, those ladies who are involved in this Safai profession are coming to the houses of the individuals and are cleaning the toilets and cleaning everything. That has to be stopped once for all.

Also, with respect to the education of the children, it is a pathetic situation. The question is whether those who are involved in this Safai activity are treated as SC or ST. It differs from State to State, *taluka* to *tauka* and district to district. In my District in Tamil Nadu they are called as *kattunaickers*. The community is called *Kattunaicker*. If you go to Udumalpet, which is a part of Coimbatore district, the students born to these parents are able to get their ST certificate. If you go to Erode, he cannot get it. If you go to my district Dindigul, in the southern part of Dindigul those people who are involved in this *Safai* profession are able to get the S.T. certificate. It is so in southern part of Dindigul. In the northern part we are able to decide which community do they belong to—SC or ST or OBC or forward community. This is the situation.

If these people undertake an agitation throughout the country for a week, please imagine what will happen to the individual houses, what will happen to the bus stands and what will happen to the Government offices. This is

a community that is totally spoiling themselves and they are doing the valuable service. But we are not even bothered to give them at least the community certificate. I would request the hon. Ministers in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – they are very powerful – to at least direct all the State Governments to give ST certificates to all the students born to these parents. Let them at least educate their children for higher studies. They are able to afford the purchase of the books or purchases of the dress or uniform for the children. The Government, the municipalities are able to give them only *Khaki* shirt and *Khaki* knicker which is identified as a uniform of a Safai Karamachari. Economically, socially and also health-wise the Government of India as well as the State Governments have to allocate necessary funds for their welfare. This Safai Karamchari Insurance Bill is a good Bill. I am totally supporting it. It has clearly discussed the nature of duties of these Safai Karamacharis and how insurance can be given. Not only that we should give them insurance but all the benefits must be given to them.

These are my views.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Chairman, I do agree with the proposal of Mrs. Krishna Tirath. Every Member has spoken about Safai Karamcharis, who are inseparable part of our life. No body else, other than a mother, can do this work which is done by these safai karamcharis in India. Those who consider this work as low standard job, I would tell them that either only a mother can do this job or our safai karamcharis of Valmiki Samaj perform this job. I have experience because I have been a member of municipality since 1971, I have been Chairman and mayor also. That's why I have very closely observed their lives. Just now an honourable Member was saying that they borrow money at the interest rate of 10-15-20 percent and the money lenders who give money are usually standing with weapons and cane-wielding people on salary day to recover their money.

Sir, I support this Bill and through you, I urge the government, to persuade the states—which are constructing houses under Indira Aawas Yojna to provide them with especial facilities under the Yojna. Be it a village or a town or a city they should be given special privileges and priority under the Yojna.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as education of children of Safai Karamcharis is concerned, I would like to say that just four days ago, a child of Valmiki Samaj came to me. He was seeking admission to B.B.Aa. Anyhow I got him admitted to that course but I would like to say that women belonging to this category of society gets up at 4 or 5 O'clock early in the morning and go to work in dark as a safai karamchari in a city or a village and this is a time when children go to school, then how can they send their wards to school? At school time she is doing cleaning work away from her home. In this kind of a situation, how can a female safai karamchari would be able to send her children to school? So, it is my request that free tees, uniform, books, lodging and boarding facilities should be provided to the children of Safai Karamcharis so that they are treated equally with us in the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many schemes are being run by Government to eradicate the ill of carrying night soil on head. Though, this ill is disappearing from cities, still there are places where this system is continuing. Modern toilets need to be constructed at such place to eradicate this social evil. I would like to ask the Government that if the Government want to eradicate this system of carrying night soil on head, then what measures are they taking to provide with the permanent jobs to said people. That's why I urge the Government to include the employment guarantee scheme also in this plan to provide jobs to the people of this section. Efforts should be made to provide regular jobs to these people.

Sir, with these words, I support the Bill introduced by Shrimati Krishna Tirath and, through you, I would like to request the Government that all out efforts should be done for upliftment and progress of this section of the society.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many many thanks for giving me time to speak on such an important Bill I would like to thank Smt. Krishna Tirath who raised this problem in the House in the form of a Bill. Hon. Minister, incharge of this department is a very capable and experienced Minister. So, I hope that she will make all the efforts to solve the problems of this class. Since I also belong to backward class and I am well aware of the pain of this class, hence I understand their problems. This class has been accorded the lowest status in the society, but this class renders most valuable service. You just see any town or village, even one day the work of cleaning is not carried out then it becomes very nasty.

Sir, the Government, and we all the Members of Parliament should think together for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis, for their welfare and to solve their problems. We should seriously consider on insurance scheme for their welfare and upliftment and implement it.

Sir, I would like to draw attention towards North-Eastern states where society is not divided in the name of Safai and non-Safai karamcharis, though people also work there as Safi karamcharis. There are unions of Safai Karamcharis in North-India and other parts of the country but there are no such organized unions of Safai Karamcharis in North-Eastern states. There they work as an unorganized society. Hence, through you I request the hon. Minister to cover the people of North-Eastern states in the scheme under the certain law so that they can get benefit from it.

Sir, finally, while supporting this Bill I would submit to hon. Minister to accept it and make such a law that can help the country.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): Sir, I thank hon. Member, Shrimati Krishna Tirath who introduced this Bill to bring forward the sufferings of Safai Karamcharis. Sir, I do agree with the views of the hon. Members, but their living conditions are not as they were before.

The people who are working as scavengers in municipalities and corporations come under the category of Safai Karamcharis. We have the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis to look into their needs and grievances. Sometimes, the Commission also guides the Government to implement some welfare schemes for the Safai Karamcharis. We also have the Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation to give financial assistance for them to switch over from their cleaning work. We are also implementing pre-matric scholarship for the children of Safai Karamcharis.

Safai Karamcharis, being an approved vocation, is already covered under the *Janshree Bima Yojana*, which is a social security group insurance scheme of the LIC, it has been reported by LIC that 44,331 Safai Karamcharis were covered under this scheme during 2004-2005.

[Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan]

A number of hon. Members were also mentioning about the unorganised sector of Karamcharis. The insurance needs of this particular group of workers, who are engaged in the unorganised sector, can also be considered for coverage under the group insurance scheme offered by the public sector insurance companies.

Apart from this, there is one scheme called the National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers. This scheme comes under the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, and we are doing the rehabilitation work in it with the help of the Safai Karamcharis Development Corporation.

Nowadays, they are following new mechanisms to clean the trenches, drainages and latrines. We have already covered the Safai Karamcharis under the *Janshree Bima Yojana*, and we have also covered the unorganised sector under the group insurance scheme.

All the details and suggestions given by the hon. Members will be definitely looked into. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member, Shrimati Krishna Tirath, to withdraw the Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, Jeevan Shree Yojna is meant for many other things also. Are there only 45,000 safai karamcharis? There are lacs of safai karamcharis working in municipal corporations, government, semi-government, private and unorganized sectors. A comprehensive Bill should be brought to cover all of them.

Hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is sitting here, she should give some assurance to the House.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, the importance of Bill is evident from the fact that hon. Cabinet Minister is sitting here. She should give reply in this regard. This is the point from where its importance is diluted. It would not have been, wrong if MoS had given reply in the absence of Meera Kumarj. It would have been better if Cabinet Minister had given its reply.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN: The Safai Karamcharis are also covered under all the welfare schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Sir, it is very good that all the hon. Members from the Treasury benches and Opposition participated in the discussion on this Bill. I think, the Government will say that finance is involved in it. I had also said that a provision of Rs. 400 crore should be made for financing recurring expenditure and a provision of Rs. 100 crore for non-recurring expenditure. There are several limitations due to which we withdraw the Bill after its introduction, some times the government says that many things are involved in it. Financial implications are there and suggestions are to be sought. Now, several suggestions have come both from treasury benches and opposition. I do not agree with what hon. Minister has just said about the new techniques. Even in Delhi, a survey has revealed that today scavengers are working in villages in and around Delhi. They carry the excreta on their heads and that there are no sewer lines in those areas. If new technique is not available even in Delhi which is the capital of India, then how it can be accepted that this technique will reach to villages and rural areas in other states, because I have such surveys conducted and have gone through the reports of such survey's.

It is true that there are several insurance schemes in the unorganized sector. The hon. Minister has just said that insurance cover will be given in unorganized sector. What I intend to say is that both Union Government and state Government, should work in tandem to cover the Safai Karamcharis under the insurance scheme, they should be given compulsory insurance. Government should bear its expenses so that this class which Goyalji said that we accord the status of mother be covered under insurance scheme. It is true that only mothers takes care of infants and cleans their excreta. Mother is instantly called to take care of child even though other close relatives are there. Only a mother do all this. She does it out of affection and the same affection and will power are shown by these Safai Karamcharis. We should provide all economic, social and political help and health facilities to these safai karamcharis under insurance scheme.

Through you, I would like to thank to all the Members of this House for their cooperation. Secondly, we will accept what Union Government have said they should also accept it. I withdraw the Bill in view of it.

[English]

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of Safai Karamcharis against any mishap connected with their work to give them economic protection, safeguard their interests and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of Safai Karamcharis against any mishap connected with their work to give them economic protection, safeguard their interests and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

16.33 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL—
under consideration**

Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill, 2004

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for abolition of capital punishment in India, be taken into consideration."

This is a matter that we should discuss seriously. It is not from a legalistic point of view that I am trying to request the House to consider this. In a modern society, in a civilised society, we cannot maintain this capital punishment in the law books because it is a question of taking somebody's life. He may be a criminal. ... *(Interruptions).*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): Mr. Chairman Sir, Please take up this bill for discussion in the second week. Hon. Members has already started on it.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I agree with him.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): This bill is concerned with starting capital punishment, hence. Hon. Minister should be present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, there are certain other issues also. His Excellency, President of India has to inaugurate library museum. Tomorrow is 15th August, then I request to continue it at the next time.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : If I speak now, I might have to speak to an empty house. If permission is granted to take this up for consideration later, I will continue later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we can postpone it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Shri Chandrappan will continue on the next occasion.

*The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m.
on 17th August, 2006.*

16.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, August 17, 2006/Sravana
26, 1928 (Saka).*

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**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Shree Enterprises, New Delhi.**
