

beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Tours of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :

- (i) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on its visit to Bombay, Goa, Bangalore, Ootacamund, Coimbatore and Madras during June-July, 1986.
- (ii) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on its visit to Jaipur, Mount Abu, Ahmedabad, Bombay and Srinagar during June-July, 1986.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. I request you to take your seat. It is more than enough. You are exceeding all the limits of decency. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : While replying to the question of entry of Kuwaiti nationals, Mr. Arun Nehru has deliberately...

MR. SPEAKER : You give me in writing under rule 115.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have already referred that.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : The Sick Industries (Prevention) Bill was passed last year. But still the Board has not yet been appointed...

MR. SPEAKER : Please see me in my chamber if you like.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : (Vishakhapatnam) : We want a statement from the Home Minister...

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister's statement is coming and you can even discuss that.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur) : Regarding Ganga Waters, Bangladesh and Nepal.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. We shall do it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : It will be done ?

MR. SPEAKER : It will be done at the proper time. It will not be done in this manner.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : You have allowed them, but you have not allowed me.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got any point of order ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Yes, Sir. You are the custodian of the House and you are the supreme monarch of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Is that the point of order ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Yes, Sir. When they are igniting fire in Assam...

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Irrelevant.

(Interruptions)**

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

[English]

Proposal to set up a joint venture unit for manufacture of various processed foods including soft drink concentrates

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : I call the attention of the Minister of

Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

Proposal to set up a joint venture unit under a collaboration agreement between M/s Pepsico Inc. of U.S.A., the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. and one of the Tata Group of Companies for manufacture of various processed foods including soft drink concentrates and reaction of the Government in regard thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited have submitted an application under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for approval for manufacture of various Processed Foods including Soft Drink Concentrates in financial participation with one of the Tata Group of Companies and M/s. Pepsico Incorporated of USA. This is a proposal to set up a joint venture company with participation to the extent of 39.9% by Pepsico, 24% by one of the Tata Companies and the balance 36.1% by the Punjab Government unit of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh. The total investment in the project is estimated at Rs. 21.50 crores. The project will cover the following activities :

- (1) An Agro Research Centres to develop improved varieties, optimum technology production and seed multiplication, initially for potato, tomato and oilseed crops.
- (2) Potato and Grain-based Processing unit to produce high quality ready-to-serve food products in long life consumer packages to be marketed all over India utilising about 25,000 metric tonnes of potato and 5,000 metric tonnes of grain every year.

(3) Fruit/Vegetable Processing unit for processing 80,000 metric tonnes of tomato, pear, mango, apple and other fruits to produce juice concentrates, tomato-based and related products, primarily for exports.

(i) Soft drink concentrate unit to manufacture soft drink and juice-based concentrates to be sold to independent 100% Indian bottlers, sufficient for production of 1080 million bottles per annum.

(5) Export programme for export of processed foods/vegetables and other non-traditional items.

2. The annual production and sales from the unit is estimated at Rs. 55 crores. The project is expected to export processed food and other non-traditional items valued at Rs. 55 crores during the first 5 years. As against this, the proposal says that the foreign exchange outgo will be Rs. 18 crores—Rs. 6 crores for machinery and equipment and Rs. 9 crores for raw materials and companies and Rs. 3 crores by way of dividend and others. Full details of the items proposed to be imported are still to be furnished. The Corporation has, however, said that imports of only those materials that are not indigenously available and are presently permissible under Government Regulations will be made. They have emphasised that no special relaxation, concession or deviation from Government policies and regulations is being sought. Their estimate is that the net foreign exchange inflow in the first 5 years is expected to be Rs. 37 crores. Exports will be done through the Pepsico International network.

3. The Government of Punjab have strongly supported the proposal. In their view, it will have tremendous psychological importance to the State. They have said that the State's investment climate

[Shri M. Arunachalam]

has suffered considerably in recent years and the entry of one of the country's successful industrial group along with one of the largest food companies can have a beneficial impact.

4. The application submitted by the Corporation is still to be considered by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the reaction of the Government to the proposal. At the same time, I would like to assure that the application will be considered in accordance with the practice and procedure set for such consideration. A decision will be taken after considering all relevant aspects and it will be in accordance with the priorities and policies set by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given any definite date as to when the Government of India will give its decision on the application of the Agro-Industries Corporation. He has left out this matter whereas the situation at the moment is that this matter has now not remained merely a matter relating to the application of M's Agro Industries Ltd. or a matter concerning setting up of a unit with foreign collaboration. Rather it has been changed into a war between the soft drink manufacturers in India and Pepsi Cola people and so much publicity through the newspapers and different memoranda has been given to this matter that the hon. Minister should take a decision on this issue on a sort of matter of principle but instead, other matters are cropping up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the exit of Coca Cola from India...

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do ? They are not allowing me to hear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : An important matter is being discussed.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I was submitting that after the exit of Coca Cola from India burden had fallen on the Indian Soft drink manufacturers to replace it and to provide good quality cold drinks to the people of India. I am sorry to say that they have not been able to fulfill this responsibility. Not only have they not provided good quality, soft drinks their bottling system is also so defective that when a bottle is opened its glass pieces are found in it and the situation is so bad that every time one drinks it, one remains worried about one's health...

(Interruptions)

I was submitting that the manufacturers of soft drinks in India should endeavour to improve the quality of their drinks. But at the moment so far as the question of Pepsi Cola is concerned, the Indian manufacturers are just in their infancy as compared to that company, and we are trying to make these two compete with each other. An impression is being created that with the advent of Pepsi Cola in India, the condition of the Indian soft drinks industry will improve. It is just like asking a child to run a race with a giant. Through you I would like to request the hon. Minister to see that Indian soft drinks industry has not to compete with Pepsi Cola but at the same time ask the industry to improve its quality so as to come to the expectations of the Indian soft drinks consumers. Presently, there are two multinational soft drink companies who compete with each other. These are Coca Cola and Pepsi Co'a. Pepsi Cola has an eye on Indian market not from today but from the time Coca Cola said goodbye to India and since 1982 this question has been raised continuously. The Government of India has not taken any decision in this regard. The hon. Minister had replied to a question on 11 August 1982 that we would not allow any multinational company to enter soft drinks industry in India. The former Minister Shri Virendra Patil had said in this House that any question of collaboration with Pepsi Cola does not arise. In 1982 it was said that Pepsi Cola will not be allowed to enter

Indian market but in 1985 it has been said in this House that the Minister will consider the circumstances in which it was stated that it will not be allowed to enter India. Will the basic question be kept in view. It is being linked with the overall developments in Punjab. There is no one who is against the modernisation and economic development of Punjab, every one is linked with that. I would like to submit that Punjab is a sort of a sensitive State. The history of these multinationals has always been suspect, be they in India or abroad. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they will consult the Home Ministry while considering the application of the Corporation about giving them permission to set up their factory in a sensitive State like Punjab, particularly when they are trying to enter the market in the name of priority sector and food-processing whereas Indian manufacturers and banking institutions have already invested money in this field. Will the hon. Minister at the time of considering the application take into consideration the investment made in this industry by the Indian institutions and how much will it effect the Indian food processing industry adversely if permission to enter Indian market is given to Pepsi Cola and whether they will be able to compete with this Corporation? It is being much publicised that they will export the products. What is the guarantee that this multi-national corporation will fulfill its obligation of exporting its products? This multi-national company has already spread its network to 114 countries and has covered the global market. We apprehend that in the name of creating a feeling of competition, it has an eye on entering the Indian market. Will he take this aspect into consideration? I am not raising any question of principle...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It does not go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khargone):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are today discussing a very important question. This refers to

the progress of the farmers. I am grateful to Shri Tiwari, who in his reply has stated that it is going to brighten the future of the farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether we have thought of developing any other States also in the matter of horticulture on the lines of Punjab? For example, we can take Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the farming of grapes is the maximum but the Central Government has not paid attention to ensure that the processing of the grapes is improved and the farmers may get remunerative prices for their produce, in that State. We can take the case of North-Eastern region also. In North-Eastern region also horticulture is done on a large scale and we should have thought of providing remunerative prices to the farmers of that region also. I want to know whether instead of inviting the multi-nationals in this country can we not think of buying their technology? Companies like Tatas who are Indian companies should think on these lines. In the name of bringing technology and research development only, we are considering of inviting the multi-nationals to our country. That is a very serious thing. We have seen other multi-national companies also. The example of Union Carbide in Bhopal is before us. It has also been heard that in the name of development of the nation these multi-nationals interfere much in the politics of the country. There are many such instances. I agree with Shri Rawat that before allowing this company to set up factory in that State as will have to look into all the aspects, the Home Ministry will have to study the matter thoroughly. He has said that it is in the interest of Punjab and that Punjab will prosper. I am all for the prosperity of Punjab but what development propose to do for the prosperity of other States? He should think of these things also. It is a very important question. I do not agree that this is all being done keeping in view the progress of Punjab only. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that he should keep this in mind also that while thinking of bringing this multi-national company in the country we have to think as to how

[Shri Subhash Yadav]

much this company is needed for the entire country? He has stated that we will have research and development. Has the standard of our scientists gone down so much that they cannot do any research on their own? Research and development has been referred here but why during the 38 years after independence, nothing has been done in the country? To give permission to a multi-national company to enter Indian market in the name of development of the farmers and research and development, is not proper. We want to know why this thing was not taken care of earlier that the farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce through research work?

I want to say one thing more. In many countries there is a ban on marketing of Pepsi Cola. Which are those countries? Shri Tiwari will keep this thing in mind that this ban is due to some scientific reasons. There is one more danger also and that is, with its entering the market our dairy industry through which we are going to help our farmers will be adversely affected. The child who demands milk will insist on Pepsi Cola even at the age of two after seeing its advertisement. That boy instead of cow's milk and mother's milk will demand Pepsi Cola. In this way there is a likelihood that our conception of providing extra source of income to the farmers through dairy industry may get a big jolt.

Through you I want to draw the attention of the House to one question and ask the hon. Minister what is going to be done about expansion of many agro-processing industries which exist in our country? No mention has been made about this. It will be better if the Government starts thinking for them also. There are many such issues but as you have given me very short time, I am not taking them up. I have been told that in many countries posters and advertisements have been published which reveal that by drinking Pepsi Cola, teeth get decayed. I, therefore, request the Industries Minister that he should get this thing tested by the Health Ministry as to the extent of damage Pepsi Cola is likely to cause the

teeth and the health. With these words, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously a Member could speak for half an hour on a Calling Attention Motion. Now if you do not allow us to express our views on such occasions, how far it is fair.....

(Interruptions).....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Harish Rawat...

[English]

We have decided about it, Mr. Harish Rawat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Sir, you have allowed me such a short time that I could not fully express myself. It is not a good thing. The time for calling Attention has already been tightened.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, listen to me. You are going on speaking and not listening to me. I have not decided it. The House has decided it.

[English]

I am carrying out the orders of the House. I am bound by the House, not by you. I am bound by the House, not by yourself.

Now, take your seat.

[Translation]

MR. HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is going against the rights of the Members. We should be allowed to fully express our views. The Calling Attention has been converted into half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Sir, I would like to add that tax should be imposed on all companies whether it is Campa Cola Company or any other company.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I think, I support Mr. Rawat in this case,

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is very stronge that you do not allow your own orders to be implemented.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Although rules have been made, exceptions are to be made by the rule and it can be done by yourself. This is a fit case for exception.

MR. SPEAKER : I will not. I will carry out whatever rules you have entrusted to me. If you want to change it, I have no problem. If you want me to do it is as before, I will do it. So simple it is. You do it. Let me carry out your orders.

(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : Much can be said in five minutes.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, at the outset, I must clear up certain misunderstanding and confusions that have arisen regarding myself and two of my colleagues belonging to my Party having appended our signatures to an application of Punjab Agro-Industries. Now, it turns out that this is the same application. But we have done it on trust and on the faith that this would involve only Punjab Agro-Industries and not a multi-national. Sir, the hon. Member of Parliament who has taken our signatures has told us that this particular application with our signatures is still lying in his drawer and he has assured us that this very recently, only today, and I have no reason to disbelieve him. But yet this matter has found an expression in the newspaper last Friday. It only goes to show how long are the tentacles of the multi-nationals that they can reach even up to the drawer of an MP and find out what is there. This is one of the things, the Government should be careful about it before letting the multi-nationals enter.

Now, this multi-national has been trying to enter the Indian market a number of times since the departure or even prior to the departure of Coca Cola from the Indian scene but it has failed to make an entry through private enterprise. Now it has been trying to make an entry on the back of the public sector undertaking, as a joint sector project with the Punjab Agro-Industries. And it has given certain mis-information, namely that it is going to manufacture the concentrate in India for the first time outside U.S.A. which it has not done in the other 148 countries or places where Pepsi Cola has got an entry. That is not the fact. In the application, it is very clearly stated that the entire concentrate will be imported and only certain peripheral things, namely, mixing of acid or mixing of flavour may be done in India.

Another misinformation which has been published through newspapers is that various fruit products will be processed and exported and that will come to the advantage of India to enter the processed food market. This is also an untruth because the application itself says that the products under consideration are citrus juices from Punjab, pineapple juices from Assam, potato products from UP, Soya-based products from M.P, apple-based products from Kashmir and tobacco from South India.

Application says these are all the products under consideration. Does this particular company has the know-how for this ? Which agricultural product it is going to process into what and, export where ? Nothing is stated. These details are absolutely lacking in the application, a copy of which I have got here with me.

In this application, they also said—this is again contrary to what has been published—that the PepsiCO will not be marketed under the brand name of Pepsi Cola but some other brand name. But here in the application, it very specifically states that soft drink technology will be similarly targeted to ensure successful introduction of PepsiCO quality trade

[Shri Amal Datta]

market products, to the domestic soft drink market. It is very clearly stated in the application and dis-information is being purveyed through the newspapers to the contrary.

The only thing that this company claims to have expertise is in packaging and in international marketing and how it will do that, because it has got a world-wide marketing network and—because the time is short, I cannot go into many things—but in the application nowhere does it claim that it has got a particular specialised knowledge of fruit processing or has anything to do with potato, tomato, citrus fruit, apple etc. Whatever it has done and its claim is that it has done something in Mexico, something in Egypt and marketing of Vodka it is importing from USSR. These have no relevance to the present application. It shows that it has not got any expertise whatsoever. What does it specialise? It specialises in advertising and selling. It will advertise in India and abroad also. It will advertise abroad also for Indian products. That is the assurance given. But what will be done if this company gets an entry and is advertising in such a way that it will change the life-style of the people and that is what the application also states, that PepsiCO has always been at the forefront of new advertising techniques. An example of the advertising innovation was the introduction of Pepsi generation advertising. It was the first campaign that depicted the use of a product as a part of the life-style of the people who consume the product. Pepsi generation has become the fore-runner of life-style advertising that has been adopted by any consumer company throughout the world. Therefore, this company is trying to make an entry into India for the purpose of changing the life-style of Indians through its advertising campaign and it is so fabulous in advertising campaign that it actually spends three times on the advertising that what it spends in manufacturing. It has world-wide operations.

It gives another mis-information regarding the entry into USSR and China. There are very severe and strict conditions

by complying with which it has been able to give them machinery, technology and packaging technology and in exchange, service export....

MR. SPEAKER : Do you agree on those conditions ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Not the same thing. It has only supplied machinery and technology, nothing else.

MR. SPEAKER : I think on those very same conditions.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Very strict export obligations they have. They insisted that Vodka has to be taken and sold in USA and they had to do it. In our case they only say that these are the range of food products which 'we have under consideration.' We have not taken any export obligation which they have given in the case of USSR and China. So, on consideration of all these facts, will the Minister quickly decide the matter against this particular application of Punjab Agro Industries ? At the same time I must say that Punjab Agro Industries may be told to get that technology which is available in India.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : Pepsicola, has no knowledge of food processing. Actually, under the cover of food processing, a multinational wants to enter into the Indian market again.

12.40 Hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In 1977 the Janata Party Government forced the Cococola to leave India. Meantime some Indian companies have come up in the field. So my question is : whether the Central Government have since reversed their earlier policy.

The second question is : earlier this Pepsicola tried to enter into a joint venture with other industries. That was also turned down.

My third question is : during his visit to USA our Prime Minister, in reply to a

question by pressmen, said that India did not need cococola and that there were other important problems. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government have changed their policy.

My fourth question is : what is the priority ? We are not able to give even clean drinking water to our people. Then definitely the question comes : you need drinking water or soft drink ?

The fifth question is : Government usually say that we are facing resource constraint. And that is a fact. Do the Government want to employ the country's scarce resources to satisfy the taste of the top class of the urban people ?

My sixth question is : Pepsicola is a giant multinational company manufacturing soft drinks and their total turn over is Rs. 10,000 crores and it is operating in 149 countries. If this company enters the Indian arena when other companies are there, what will be the nature of competition ? It will be an unequal competition and that means elimination of the Indian companies.

My last question is : The Government, the Pepsicola and the Punjab Agro Industries in the joint venture will earn foreign exchange. But the factory will be set up 1200 km. away from the nearest sea port. So, earning of foreign exchange should not be the main thing. Actually the big multi-nationals want to enter the Indian market, and that is a dangerous thing.

I hope, the Minister will reply to all my questions.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur) : Sir, although the Minister says that the decision will be taken taking into account all relevant aspects and that it will be in accordance with the priorities and policies pursued by the Government, from the way the reply has been given it seems that Government have already decided to be very soft towards Pepsicola ; it seems that the Government have taken a brief for these companies. What should

have been done, what can be done, what is good in it, all this has been stated but not the other things.

I would like to ask the Government whether they are aware of this, whether the hon. Minister is aware of this : during the recent trip of our Prime Minister to the USA, when the Cola companies, etc., surrounded the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister has told them that soft drink is in a very low priority for us, we are for some other priorities. I want to know whether the Government, at the instance of the Punjab Government, is going to change its stand from this.

Secondly, Pepsicola wants to enter the market and there are other forces inside this country which want to serve the purpose of Pepsicola. The question of processing, diversification, potatoes, tomatoes and other things has been brought in because they are apprehensive that Government is not going to allow Pepsicola only for cola. The other factors are being brought in so that Government can have a reason to circumvent its own decision that such things are not in the priority. I would like to ask whether it is not for this purpose that the question of tomatoes and potatoes is being brought.

It seems, export is like a holy cow. You cannot touch it. In the name of exports, whatever you want can be done. Since we are short of foreign exchange, the question of export is also being brought in so that Government and other people can have a soft corner for this.

I would like to question whether in a debate in Rajya Sabha very recently, the hon. Minister has said categorically that it is not sure whether the Pepsicola will be transferring its technology, its formula, to India. To a question whether their formula will be transferred to India or not, it seems, he could not reply in the affirmative. Now that some more days have passed, can he say now whether, in the event of its coming into India, their formula, which is famous, would be transferred ? It seems, it has been denied to 149 countries which had demanded this.

[Shri Naraynn Chaubey]

I want to know whether the Minister can answer in the affirmative whether they will transfer this or not.

Lastly, as has been said by everybody, we are in a very dangerous situation. Divisive forces are trying to divide this country. Only the day before yesterday, Gen. Vaidya was assassinated. This is to be in Punjab, and Punjab is a border State. We know the role of the multi-nationals. Our Government knows, we know, how the multi-nationals are trying to destabilise this country. In view of this, I want to know whether at such a juncture, this multi-national company by name Pepsicola should be allowed to enter India, by whatever name it may be, whether this is proper time when we should allow Pepsicola to enter India, knowing full well that the multi-nationals are agencies of the imperialists to destabilise the countries of the third world to which we belong.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : I am grateful to the hon. Members, Shri Harish Rawat, Shri Subhash Yadav, Shri Amal Datta and Shri Ajoy Biswas for the questions raised by them and for bringing out facts. As has been pointed out in the statement, we have not yet taken any decision in this regard.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Why the decision has not been taken? You should reject it immediately. (Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : We have not yet taken any such decision. Under the present decision-making process, as it involves foreign collaboration, it will go to the Economic Affairs Committee of the Cabinet and various Ministries for approval. For the project approval, whatever.....

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I do not think that it would go to the Cabinet once

your Ministry rejects it. It will go to the Cabinet only when you support it.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : That depends upon the nature of the case.

My hon. friend, Shri Choubey has an apprehension that we have already taken a decision. I think I must dispel it. If we have, in our statement, mentioned certain facts, they relate to the application of the Punjab Agro-Industrial Corporation. Nothing more and nothing less. We have to mention the facts that have been mentioned in the application of the Punjab Agro Industrial Corporation which are very strongly supported by the Punjab Government. I have received two letters from the Chief Minister of Punjab very strongly supporting this application in the interest of Punjab and the agriculturists. I just cannot brush aside whatever the Punjab Government have stated. We have to take into account these factors also.

[Translation]

Whatever has been stated in this regard will also be taken into account. The condition of cold drink producers in our country will also be taken into consideration. Our cold drink production, suggestions given by the Members and the conditions therefor will be taken into consideration. Shri Narayan Choubey has asked whether it would bring in any new formula for cold drinks. I will call for all such information when it will come for my consideration. I will send today's proceedings of the House to be approval committee so that they may consider all the issues raised in the House. (Interruptions)

All the issues raised here will be taken into consideration. Because, as said by an hon. Member, it is being finalised and in both the cases i.e. whether we accept it or reject it, we have to give reasons therefor, so every issue has to be analysed thoroughly. It should not be done in a hurry and every question should be analysed carefully.

10th August, 1986

Whatever has been said by our hon. Prime Minister, whether in U.S.A. or in any other country, is policy directive to the administration. Whatever he has said will be carried out whether it is in regard to coca cola or any other thing. In this regard I would certainly say one thing, as has also said by Shri Ajoy Biswas and Shri Amal Datta, that we have to purchase high technology in the interests of the country and we should always be ready for that because other countries are also doing the same. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): High technology only in priority sector.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : If I say something about it that would be treated as my reply in the affirmative or negative (*Interruptions*). How has he included drinks in the priority sector? However, agriculture is in the priority sector...(*Interruptions*). Whatever I will write on the file, how can I disclose that to you. Soft drinks are not in the priority sector whereas agriculture is in the priority sector. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Coming events cast their shadows before(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN DATTA TIWARI : I would like to assure the hon. Members that the sentiments and reactions of the members as also, our policy and procedure would be taken into consideration while arriving at a decision in this regard.

12.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : ASSASSINATION
OF GENERAL A.S. VAIDYA AT PUNE
ON 10TH AUGUST 1986

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI
GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, The

House is aware of the very sad incident regarding the assassination of General A.S. Vaidya, retired Chief of the Army Staff who was shot dead by some persons at Pune on 10th August, 1986. According to information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, General Vaidya, accompanied by his wife and a plain clothed armed bodyguard was driving his car from the camp area presumably towards his house in Koregaon Park at about 11.45 hrs. on that day. As his car reached near Bungalow No. 18, Queens Garden and slowed down to take a right turn, four young persons on two two-wheelers overtook the car from both sides. One motor cycle went ahead and the persons riding it shot at General Vaidya from point black range. After firing, the miscreants fled away. The bodyguard accompanying General Vaidya jumped out of the car and took the General in a tempo to the Army Command Hospital, Pune, where attempts to save his life proved futile. Mrs. Vaidya was also injured in the incident and was admitted in the hospital. She is reported to be out of danger and has since been discharged from the hospital.

The police has recovered two bullets and three empty cartridges from the site of the incident. One bullet has been extracted from the body of General Vaidya. The miscreants are believed to have fired eight to nine rounds. The motor cycle used by the miscreants was reportedly stolen from a place in Deccan Gymkhana Police Station limits at about 10.30 hrs. on 10th August, 1986, and was subsequently found abandoned by the Police on the same day in the Deccan Gymkhana area.

Immediately after the incident the Police started operations to apprehend the assailants. The concerned authorities in the State have been alerted and all out efforts are being made to nab the culprits.

Security was provided to General Vaidya since 16th April, 1986. Three gunmen were attached to General Vaidya.