

- (iv) Fifty-fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the forty-eighth Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Works and Housing—Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements showing final replies of Government on the Eighteenth Action Taken Report etc.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : I beg to lay on the Table following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :—

- (i) Statement showing the final replies of Government in respect of Chapters I and II of Eighteenth Action Taken Report of the Committee on the Minister of Railways (Railway Board)—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, parcel booking agencies and out-agencies to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Railway.
- (ii) Statement showing final replies of Government in respect of Chapter V and further information in respect of other Chapters of Twenty-eighth Action Taken Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Communications—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Department.

13.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Forty-second Report

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : I beg to present

the Forty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health)—Educational facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Medical Colleges under the control of, or aided by Central Government.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported failure of Cotton Crop in certain States of the country due to continuous rains and diseases and need to compensate the farmers by Government

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported failure of cotton crop in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country due to continuous rains and diseases and need to compensate the farmers by Government.”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Hon. Members will recall that a Motion on the same subject was tabled in this House on 18th November, in response to which I had made a detailed statement. Unfavourable weather conditions caused by heavy and intermittent rains in the months of August and September resulted in huge vegetative growth of cotton crop and also created environment conducive for the multiplication and spread of pests particularly boll worms in the States of Punjab and Haryana. The frequent rains also interfered with the conduct of timely plant protection operations. The interval between sprays had to be increased and even pesticides were washed away due to frequent rains. As a result, there was shedding of bolls and infestation