

persons who have received sanction have to wait for a few months. As the hon. Member rightly said, sometimes they have not wait for several months.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as he has said just now that a few people have to wait even after allotment of quarters. Whether it is a fact that the quarters, which is allotted to someone, some unauthorised occupant lives prior to its allotment and some goods of the employees remain there, which create problems? Whether you will make such arrangements or frame a policy under which the allottee may get the accommodation within three to six months after allotment?

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGO : Sir, as per the rules, the allottees have to vacate the quarters after a certain period, either after retirement or after transfer etc. Due to certain unavoidable reasons of the allottees get extension. But some of the allottees do not get the approval for extension and that comes under the unauthorised occupation. For that action is taken and procedures are adopted as per the rules.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy relating to out-of-turn allotment of Government accommodation does not really serve much of a purpose, because the number of people without houses is increasing and the satisfaction ratio continues to be very low. At the same time, it causes heart-burn among those people who wait for years together without getting accommodation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to rationalise this policy so as to bring the out-of-turn allotment to the bare minimum and that in case of only extreme compassionate grounds houses are allotted on out-of-turn basis. What is he going to do about it? Secondly, what is he going to do about those people who own their houses and still get Government accommodation?

SHRI P.K. THUNGO : Sir, the main solution to that is augmentation of more accommodation for allotment to the Government employees and that is why, we have taken steps for augmentation. During the last five years, as I have stated, 1,400 units per year have been augmented.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, my question is different.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know whether you are going to change the policy. He does not want to know what you have done.

SHRI P.K. THUNGO : Sir, I am coming to that. Our main policy is to augment the number of units of accommodation and until and unless we increase the number of houses, the number of persons in the waiting-list will be more and more. Therefore, we do not see any necessity to change the policy as such for allotment. But we see the necessity to augment more units of Government accommodation.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the first part has not been answered and the second part has not even been touched upon. I said, there are people who have their own houses and still get Government accommodation at the cost of those people who cannot afford their own houses.

SHRI P.K. THUNGO : Sir, we have a clear-cut policy so far as the allotment of quarters to house-owners is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, he knows that you have a policy. But it is not working. He wants to know whether you are going to review it.

SHRI P.K. THUNGO : Sir, you are very right. As I have already said, the only answer lies in augmentation of accommodation. Therefore, we are stressing for construction of more accommodation.

MR. SPEAKER : You have received a reply in negative through positive answers!

### National Plan

\*463. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an Expert Committee to recommend proposals to evolve a National Plan for Food Processing Industries and export of Agro Food Products, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee headed by Ms. Mira Seth, Member of the Planning Commission, has 41 members, which *inter-alia* includes Secretaries of related Ministries/Departments, the representatives of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Food Technological Research Institute, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, industry associations, some leading industrialists, economists, representatives of Agricultural and Processed food products Export Development Authority & Marine Products Export Development Authority, representatives of some States, representatives of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Industrial Development Bank of India & State Bank of India. The terms of reference of the Committee *inter-alia* include review of the existing status including status of research and development, trained man-power and impact of the policy of liberalisation, estimation of domestic demand, export possibilities and plans, strategy and Policy-framework for the development of agro food products in order to meet the demand.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my happiness at the appointment of this Committee by the Government. It is evident from the answer given by the hon. Minister that while

representative has been given to some of the leading on industrialists, economists and others, I do not know why some progressive farmers from the States-leading in the horticulture-like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc. have not been given representation. I would like to know whether the Government will consider this aspect and whether this committee, which has been appointed, will include in the terms of reference, this particular aspect of providing transport subsidy to exporters of vegetables and fruits. Though our country is the second largest on both the fronts in the world, we are able to export only one per cent.

Some time back I was told that a group of Ministers had examined this aspect. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken in this regard or whether this committee has been entrusted with this task of examining this particular aspect and also whether in the terms of reference, you have entrusted this issue of giving encouragement to the organically grown fruits, vegetables and food items which are finding more favour in the developing countries.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : As regards the inclusion of the progressive farmers, I will advise the expert committee to take the evidence of the progressive farmers.

As regards transport subsidy, no decision has been taken by the Ministry. But the expert committee will go into all the details as to what type of assistance and what type of subsidies are to be given to different sectors for promotion of agro-food processing industries?

As regards the organically grown food products of the organic use, we are giving a lot of importance to it because that was the focus area and there is a demand for it in the foreign countries.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : One other important factor that may inhibit our greater exports of fruits, vegetables and food items may be the non-tariff barrier in the form of sanitary and phyto-sanitary clause that has been incorporated in the agricultural section of the GATT final agreement. I would like to know whether the Government has obtained the permissible levels of the chemical residuals in our food and vegetables and fruit exports because some time back table grapes from Maharashtra were returned back and prawn items from our Southern India were also returned, saying that antibiotics are in the higher level. So, I would like to know whether this committee has been entrusted that particular aspects also?

Till now most of the certification agencies are located in the western countries. I would like to know that in the post GATT agreement scenario since our country is one of the signatories-what steps the Government are taking to set up certification agency of our own to protect our national interest and whether the Government will take steps to give a wide propaganda to these items so that the farmers will be able to know?

Otherwise, if it is confined only to the offices, it will be difficult.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : That is what I am asking, Sir. I want to know whether your Ministry with the cooperation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting give wide publicity to these aspects which are more important.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : The Committee will go into the details about the question of fertilizer and chemical residues. Now, they are insisting on the quality and standard which has to be met also; otherwise, they may reject some of the products. I have not got any proposal to set up a certification agency. However, my Ministry will give due consideration to it. But that will depend upon whether the other country will accept our certification or not.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : We have to create our own agencies of that standard.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : What shall we do about quality? That is why, all along we have been insisting on the quality upgradation so that it will be acceptable in the international market.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister through you that this department was established 7-8 years back and last year it was also said before the Standing Committee that 250 centres would be set up in the rural areas and out of those orders for 38 centers were already issued but this time it has been said in the Standing Committee, that there is no such scheme you might have received that report. If now you do not have any scheme to give training in the rural areas or to set up centres there, then from where will you go for export?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue. This department can prove it self very useful for our farmers, but it is being neglected. When the season of potatoes cauliflower and tomatoes etc. comes in rural areas.....

MR. SPEAKER : It comes under the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking about processing, which comes under this Ministry. If the farmers are given the training at that time potatoes etc. grow in abundance in rural areas, and these items are packed after processing, the farmers can get too much benefit, but the department is not doing so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not asking about export only but there is a big market for packed items in our country. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Department changes its policy every year; the scheme chalked out therefore. Whether the Department will take any revolutionary step to cater the growing demand of the packed items in the country and whether the department will set up any training centres or processing centres for this purpose in rural areas?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : In fact, we have already set the target of opening of 250 training centres during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Out of 250, we have given assistance....

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that either the hon. Minister is misguiding us or the Secretary of the department had furnished wrong information at that time. Give me a chance, I can give it in writing here or show this report to you in your chamber.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : We have given assistance to 150 training centres. Out of that....

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is totally a misleading statement. Please give me an appointment to meet you in your Chamber, I would like to let you know about the fact.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, Rajveer Singh Ji, if any misleading statement has been given there is a procedure to countermand it. You cannot take your stand in such a manner. Please ask your senior Members. They will tell you what is the procedure.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : We have given assistance to set up 150 training centres. In fact, as on today, 47 centres are functioning.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Fish is one of cheapest food item which is available in the country and which is one of the items which earns a lot of foreign exchange. Unfortunately, fishing is under the Agriculture Ministry, fish processing in under your Ministry and export is under Commerce Ministry. As a result, the fish processing industries are not getting adequate help in time. So, my question to the hon. Minister is: What assistance will be given under a single umbrella so that modern technologies are used for fishing, fish processing and fish exports? Sir, this comes under the export items.

MR. SPEAKER : You know that the question should have some sort of link and logic.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : There is a lot of change taking place in the technology of sea food processing industries. So, what assistance will be given by the Government for these sea food processing industries?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Sir, we do provide assistance; we give assistance by way of grant-in-aid, by way of equity participation and so on.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : But there is no cooperation.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : In fact, if there is a composite project consisting of aquaculture and flesh processing, we do give assistance.

DR. ASIM BALA : The Department is now doing a lot of propaganda. I would like to know from the Ministry how many institutions have been established from the Government side and under what criteria they have been established.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : We do not set up any industry. We have got certain research institutions. We do give assistance for doing research. For example, we have CFTRI. We have an Institute even in Kharagpur also. Research is being done in Jadavpur University. There is Paddy processing Research Centre in Tanjore. We do give assistance to these research institutions. Different Agricultural Universities are doing research on their own also.

SHRI A. CHARLES : According to the available statistics, almost 40 per cent of the fruits that are being produced in the country are being wasted due to lack of processing facilities and the approximate cost of those fruits is reported to be Rs. 5,000/ crore. We can understand the importance of this particular Food Processing Ministry. The main reason for this wastage is that no proper assistance is being given to the rural small growers and to the traditional fishermen who catch the fish. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is laid down in the National Plan while evolving it that care shall be taken that proper training facilities and help shall be given for setting up processing units managed by the small farmers and the traditional fishermen?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : In fact, it is our policy to give more incentives to the small farmers and small fishermen so that they can set up their own processing units. That is the Government priority also. If necessary, an Expert Committee will go into the details of it. It has as its number one priority the generation of more employment in the rural areas. It is the basic objective of our Ministry to generate more income in the rural areas and to generate more employment only through small industries by helping farmers and small fisherman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Tarun Gogoi is such a Food Processing Minister, who appoints the committee when the problem arises but he does not enquire as to what happens thereafter.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a new concept. Do not blame him.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is a problem with Deep Sea Fishing Committee appointed by the hon. Minister. There is a shortcoming in it. Neither the M.P.'s nor the fishermen have been called to take part in it. They are on indefinite hunger strike for the last seven days. During this period they have done nothing.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the time limit of submission of the committee report, as the Ministry has already given the terms of references

after setting up the committee. Besides it I would also like to know from the hon. Minister about the progress achieved so far by the committee?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : In fact, this Committee has been constituted on the recommendation of the Agricultural Standing Committee. They suggested for formulation of a perspective plan, it is not my own suggestion. This will require an Expert Committee to go into details which will evaluate the potentialities and export possibilities and all those things, in deference to the wishes of the standing committee. I have constituted this Committee. The time given for submitting the report is six months. Normally, of course, it taken longer time because it is a vast area. Now we have given extension of time for another six months.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Tell us the time within which the Committee will submit its report.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : We have advised the Expert Committee to submit the report by 1st october.

SHRI RAM NAIK : This Government will not take any decision on that Committee's report.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : There are a number of small farmers in India. They are cultivating fisheries also. There are some diseases in fish. Does the Expert Committee examine the fish which are having diseases? What is the planning of the Government of India to see that the small farmers, specially the Adivasis in the tribal and rural areas, survive?

[Translation]

Will the Government inform as to how this disease will be eradicated?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It does not come out of it. But it is a good question. The hon. Minister can reply, if he can.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : I can refer it to the Agriculture Ministry which deals with it.

#### Indo-Nepal Talks

\*465. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed between the two countries during the visit and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether agreements in various fields were signed between the two countries during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features of each of the agreement;

(e) whether the review of Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950 also figured in the talks, and

(f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India from 10-14 April, 1995. Discussions during the visit covered different aspects of bilateral relations. The Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit is attached.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). Yes Sir. During the visit, it was agreed to continue discussions on all relevant issues of bilateral interest including the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal at appropriate levels.

#### STATEMENT

*Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India  
April 10-14, 1995*

#### JOINT STATEMENT

The Rt. Hon'ble Man Mohan Adhikari, Prime Minister of Nepal, is on an official goodwill visit to India from April 10 to 14, 1995 at the invitation of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by Mrs. Sadhana Devi Adhikari, Mr. Chandra Prakash Mainali, Minister of Local Development and Supply, Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal, Minister of State for Commerce, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Hari Prasad Pandey, Minister of State for Industry and Water Resources and Mr. Mangal Siddhi Manadhar, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal was received by the President of India and visited Rajghat, where he paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. He had meetings with the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Indian and Nepalese delegations led by the two Prime Ministers also met for detailed discussions on issues of common interest.

3. The discussion were marked by the sincerity, friendship and understanding which characterise the close relations between India and Nepal, and by mutual respect for the complete sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each other. During the wide-ranging discussions, bilateral issues, the further development of India-Nepal relations, the situation in the Indian sub-continent and other questions of mutual interest were discussed.

4. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the promotion of close and friendly relations between India and Nepal and looked forward to a future where these relations are further strengthened in new areas of cooperative endeavours. Both Prime Ministers were heartened by the absence of any major problems