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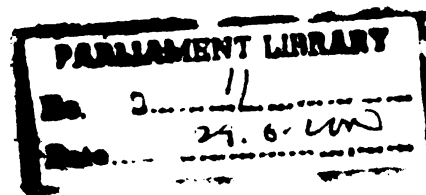
Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Phalgun 19, 1920 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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CONTENTS

[Twelfth Series, Vol. IX, Fourth Session, 1999/1920 (Saka)]

No. 11, Wednesday, March 10, 1999/Phalgun 19, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WELCOME TO THE CZECH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 201—204	2—52
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 205—220	52—82
Unstarred Questions Nos. 2156—2305	82—278
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	278—289
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Second Report	289
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE	
Fifth Action-taken Report	289
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
Second Report	289
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE	
Minutes	290
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY	
Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports	290—291
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS — GENERAL	291
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS — GENERAL	291
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	304—305, 308—314
(i) Need to ensure continuance of the schools/hospitals run by Mica Mining Workers Organisation in Koderma, Bihar	
Shri R.L.P. Verma	304

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ii) Need for early commissioning of TV Centres at Radhanpur and Disha in North Gujarat	
Shri Haribhai Choudhary	308
(iii) Need to include 'Meena' caste of U.P. in the list of Scheduled Tribe	
Shri Ashok Pradhan	309
(iv) Need to declare 'Bansgaon' in Gorakhpur district as backward area and ensure its developments	
Shri Raj Narain Passi	309
(v) Need for early set up of Rural Telephone Exchange at Kurum Hat in Katihar district of Bihar	
Shri Tariq Anwar	310
(vi) Need to ensure preservation of mangroves in Northern districts of Kerala	
Shri Mullapally Ramachandran	310
(vii) Need to provide sufficient funds to State Government of Himachal Pradesh for providing adequate relief to the people affected by fire particularly in Shimla Parliamentary constituency	
Shri K.D. Sultanpuri	310
(viii) Need to ensure revival package for the eight Public Sector Undertakings	
Shri Sunil Khan	311
(ix) Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Bihar for all round development of Jahanabad	
Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav	312
(x) Need to develop mechanism to monitor the functioning of Non-Government Organisations	
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	312
(xi) Need for creation of a Central Agriculture Service cadre for promotion of agriculture sector	
Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	313
(xii) Need to take effective steps to remove poverty from the country	
Shri Satnam Singh Kainth	314

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL	315—362, 362—396
Motion to Consider	315
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	315
Shri Chandra Shekhar	321
Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay	324
Shri S. Jaipal Reddy	326
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	338
Shri T.R. Baalu	340
Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra	344
Shri Pramotes Mukherjee	345
Prof. R.R. Pramanik	349
Shrimati Kailasho Devi	353
Shri A.C. Jos	354
Shri Sikander Bakht	357
Shri V.V. Raghavan	362
Resolution—Negatived	365
Clause 2, 3, 8, 9 and 1	365—393
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	394
Motion to Pass	395
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Telecom tariff issue	362
Shri Jag Mohan	362
GOA BUDGET DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—GOA AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—GOA	396—434
Shri P. Shiv Shanker	396
Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam	399
Shri Yashwant Sinha	405, 415-16

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Francisco Sardinha	408
Shri Shailendra Kumar	411
Shri Ravi Sitaram Naik	412
Prof. Jogendra Kawade	415
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GOA)	417—426
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GOA)	427—434
GOA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL	433—434
Bill Introduced	434
Motion to consider	435
Shri Yashwant Sinha	434
Clause 2, 3 and 1	435
Motion to pass	436
GOA APPROPRIATION BILL	436—439
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	436
Shri Yashwant Sinha	436
Bill Introduced	436
Motion to consider	438
Clause 2, 3 and 1	438
Motion to pass	439

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 10, 1999/Phalgun 19, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO THE CZECH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Vaclav Klaus, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Czech Republic and Mrs. Livia Klausova and other Members of the Czech Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are:

1. Mr. Ivan Langer, M.P.
2. Mr. Ladislav Skopal, M.P.
3. Mr. Vlastimil Tlustý, M.P.
4. Mr. Miloslav Ransdorf, M.P.
5. Mr. Pavel Severa, M.P.
6. Mr. Jiri Vlach, M.P.

They arrived Delhi on Monday, 8th March, 1999. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Czech Republic.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a notice....(Interruptions). From the Congress at the time of President's rule...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It would be taken up after Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a notice...(Interruptions). That should be decided because that is a very serious matter. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. It would be taken up after Question Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Promotion of Sanskrit

*201. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and Nepal have jointly agreed to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) India and Nepal have a long tradition of cooperation to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine. Such cooperation has, with Government's support and facilitation, strengthened over the years. However, there is no formal agreement between India and Nepal specifically to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine.

But it is something that we have got in legacy and it has been progressing.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Sanskrit is a rich language of the word and other languages have been derived from it. Sanskrit has given birth to our culture and Sanskars. Sanskrit language is a precious heritage of India. From time immemorial Sanskrit has made significant contribution in the unity of the nation. I would like to ask the Minister the details of the programmes chalked out to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine jointly by India and Nepal?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, in India various universities have been organising a number of seminars from years together and was also held in 1997. Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Academy, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Tirupati are affiliated with various institutions in Nepal. In 1997 a Vishva Sanskrit Sammelan was organised in Bangalore. At the same time Indian Council of Cultural Relations provides facilities to Sanskrit scholars for visiting Nepal and the Government have provided assistance to Mahendra Sanskrit University so that these mutual relations are strengthened all the more.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Minister has given the details about some of the programmes. My second supplementary is as to what is the amount of grants being given for promotion of Sanskrit at present? Whether there is any scheme to organise any workshops to provide intensive training to the teachers to make Sanskrit learning more effective; and if so the details thereof.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the honourable member as to what amount is provided for promotion of Sanskrit is not related to Ministry of External Affairs. It pertains to another Ministry. As regards the information in respect of I.C.C.R. and progress regarding promotion of Sanskrit is concerned the same will be provided to the honourable member.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY: Honourable Speaker, Sir, recently our honourable Prime Minister took a significant step to augment relations with our friendly countries, neighbouring countries. At the same time steps have also been taken to improve relations with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Nepal has been our friendly country. I would like to ask the honourable Minister whether there is any proposal to extend cooperation in other areas between India and Nepal in addition to promote the use of Sanskrit and to popularise the Ayurvedic system of

medicine between the two countries, if so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Regarding promotion of Sanskrit, I have already replied. So far as Ayurvedic system of medicine is concerned, it is a system of medicine that is also prevalent in Nepal. To popularise it more, we provide them assistance and cooperation. Colombo Plan also includes promotion of Ayurvedic system. Besides last time when honourable Prime Minister visited Colombo in connection with attending a SAARC Conference there was an agreement to popularise the conventional systems in regard to other areas including Ayurveda. It is in a form of joint declaration. As far as my information goes, there is an Indian Company DABAR, they have set up a company in Nepal by the name of Dabar Nepal Limited. Thus we are assisting them in all possible manners.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sanskrit is the mother of a large number of Indian languages. This is the Year of Sanskrit. The old manuscripts in Sanskrit are the store house of information, research work in medicine, technology, Ayurveda and its application, etc. We have found that many of the foreign universities are giving support to the study and spread of Sanskrit language. My question is, would the Government financially and physically endeavour to support a number of other non-Governmental organisations or Vidyapeeths for the spread of Sanskrit language. Would the Government also arrange for the small organisations to preserve and maintain Sanskrit manuscripts, available in many parts of India, in a systematic way?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The first part was: will the Government provide encouragement to non-governmental organisations and Vidyapeeths that have not been mentioned by me; yes, we will, at any time in any manner we can.

The second part was: what the Government will do about preservation of manuscripts in Sanskrit; that is really a question best addressed to different Ministries. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Government will do everything possible.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are a country of great tradition and heritage. To know about the great tradition of our country, one should read Sanskrit literature. It is in Sanskrit. Unfortunately, I feel Sanskrit does not get the importance which it should get in our

country. We are neglecting it. It is such a language where—SATYAMEV JAYATE, AHIMSA PARMO DHARMA YATO. LOKA SAMASTA SUKHINO BHAWANTU—the whole world is one universe, all such universal outlook, universal perception and vision is imbibed. We are ignoring this language and it is one of the reasons why intolerance—religious or otherwise—is growing in our country. Therefore, I would like to know from this Government what it is going to do for the spread of this language and for the study of this language in our schools so that they could have a glimpse of the great traditions of our country and also feel proud of our country and its heritage.

In addition, this question is about spreading Sanskrit in Nepal. Why limit it to Nepal because there are other countries like Germany who have appreciated the greatness of Sanskrit. I am told that in Germany, Sanskrit literature is taught in many universities. Likewise, what your Ministry proposing to do for the spread of this language in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): It should also be done for the Members of Parliament.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would very much welcome it. If Sanskrit class is started for the Members, I will be a regular student there.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I will join you there.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: It is already there if some Members are interested.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are four parts of the question. The hon. Member has spoken of his perception that Sanskrit does not receive the kind of importance that he believes it ought to as the cultural fountain of our land. I share that perception.

Secondly, he has said that on this account intolerance and other difficulties have risen in the country. I do not necessarily concur with that. But that is a different aspect of the whole thing.

Thirdly, what we will do about promoting Sanskrit, its study and propagation within the country; it is a question best addressed to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Fourthly, on what we would do about promoting Sanskrit not simply in Nepal but in other countries; through ICCR and other agencies, the Ministry will examine the proposal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Sanskrit is taught and studied in many countries of South Asia viz. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore and intensive study on Sanskrit is conducted even in Germany etc. A lot of research work has been done on the Vedas there and a number of manuscripts are kept safe. I would like to know from the Minister whether on the occasion of this Sanskrit Year the Government would make any effort of their own for the study of Sanskrit, preservation and publication of its manuscripts, and in-depth Research on Sanskrit in these countries.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: One honourable member has already asked this question. I have tried to reply to it. It is certainly a good suggestion. Wherever Sanskrit is studied whether we have done anything through Ministry of External Affairs, I.C.C.R. or other agencies, we would specifically look into this aspect and provide more encouragement.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow any more supplementaries to this Question because the next Question is more important. Now, Question No. 202.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khanduri.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not on Question No. 202.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Sir, I entirely agree with what Prof. Kurien has said and I also add that Sanskrit is the most scientific language in the world today from even the computer point of view.

[Translation]

Sir, my question pertains to Nepal. The Minister has said that no formal agreement has been signed with Nepal so far. As the honourable member has expressed his feelings that we should try to promote Sanskrit and popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine in other countries also. Nepal and India are the only countries in the world who have got these things in legacy. Do you think that now we should go for a formal agreement on these subjects with Nepal. If so, then what are you doing in this regard and if not, the reasons for not realising its necessity?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, our Ministry is of this view that formal agreements are needed only when there is any decline in the existing relations. India and Nepal have got age old cultural relations. These relations are more stronger than what can be under a formal agreement. And our Ministry is of this view that a formal agreement will help to strengthen the relations to some extent ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: But that will also give an indication to other countries in the world. It is not only a matter between India and Nepal. Why I am asking this is because it will give a message and official sanction will certainly have some sanctity.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As regards other countries are concerned I have already said that the Ministry of External Affairs would certainly consider what can be done in this regard in other countries... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is unfortunate on the part of the Government to promote only Sanskrit. It is a dead

language... (Interruptions) ... When you are promoting Sanskrit, why cannot you promote other languages also? It is unfortunate on the part of the Government to do so... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we may take up Question No. 202. Shri Shanti Lal Chaplot.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, since Question Nos. 202 and 203 relate to irrigation projects and irrigation capacity, it would be more helpful if you take both the Questions simultaneously.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Question Nos. 202 and 203 may be taken up together.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects

*202. SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT:
SHRI BALIRAM KASHYAP:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of several States awaiting clearance of the Union Government as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of proposals submitted by each State Government and the number out of them accorded sanction during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds earmarked and released to each State to undertake these projects; and

(d) the details of major and medium irrigation projects which are under construction in the country at present and the number out of them likely to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. Project-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement*(a) Number of Irrigation Projects awaiting clearance of the Union are as under:—*

Sl.No.	States	Projects under examination/ Compliance awaited from States Govts.		Projects cleared by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) subject to certain observations and/or clearance from Min. of Environment & Forests		Total
		Major	Medium	Major	Medium	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	7	2	11
2.	Assam	—	2	1	1	4
3.	Bihar	4	—	4	1	9
4.	Gujarat	—	1	1	—	2
5.	Haryana	4	1	1	—	6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	16	—	—	16
8.	Karnataka	4	1	—	—	5
9.	Kerala	1	1	1	—	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	7	—	9
11.	Maharashtra	5	15	10	10	40
12.	Manipur	—	1	1	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
14	Nagaland	—	—	—	1	1
15	Orissa	4	3	3	3	13
16	Punjab	3	1	1	—	5
17	Rajasthan	4	1	1	4	10
18	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
19	Tamil Nadu	1	1	—	—	2
20	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—
21	Uttar Pradesh	4	—	7	—	11
22	West Bengal	1	—	—	—	1
23	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
24	Goa, Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total		39	45	45	24	153

(b) Details of irrigation projects approved by the Planning Commission since January 1996 are given at Annexure-I.

(c) State-wise details of expenditure/outlay during the last three years (since 1995-96) as submitted by the State Governments to the Planning Commission are given in the Annexure-II.

(d) State-wise details of ongoing Irrigation Projects are given at Annexure-III. The completion of projects is linked with the availability of funds and priority attached to them by the State Governments. The State Governments are advised to concentrate on ongoing projects for early completion and not to take up new projects to avoid thin spreading of available resources.

Annexure-I*Details of Irrigation Projects approved by Planning Commission since January, 1996*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project Major/Medium	State	Estt. Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Benefits in Th. Ha.	Date of approval
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Modern of K.C. Canal (Major)	Andhra Pradesh	674.29	110.482	16.4.98
2.	Modernisation of Yamuna Irrigation Canal (Major)	Assam	60.27	28.286	17.12.97
3.	Sone Canal Modernisation Ph.I (Major)	Bihar	235.93	48.600	7.7.98
4.	Karjan Irrigation (Reservoir) Project (Major)	Gujarat	186.37	77.546	23.9.96
5.	Goma Irrigation Project (Medium)	Gujarat	47.59	7.039	30.12.97
6.	Shah Nehar Irrigation Project (Major)	H.P.	143.32	24.760	21.2.97
7.	Modernisation of Ranbir Canal (Major)	J. & K.	84.40	49.418	21.5.98
8.	Sindh Ph-II (Major)	M.P.	510.94	162.10	17.3.98
9.	Upper Beda (Major)	M.P.	89.51	13.365	10.9.98
10.	Bargi Diversion Project (Major)	M.P.	1101.23	376.514	6.7.98
11.	Bordahagaon Irrigation Project (Medium)	Maharashtra	16.27	2.220	10.11.96
12.	Wan Irrigation Scheme (Major)	Maharashtra	46.85	19.197	15.4.97
13.	Upper Mana Irrigation Project (Medium)	Maharashtra	26.19	8.280	15.4.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Benetura Irrigation Project (Medium)	Maharashtra	12.12	2.293	25.2.97
15.	Bagha Lali Irrigation Project (Medium)	Orissa	45.44	6.050	21.5.96
16.	Rangali Irrigation L.B.C. (Major)	Orissa	705.15	177.652	14.7.97
17.	Lower Indra Irrigation Project (Major)	Orissa	211.70	38.87	4.2.99
18.	Narmada Canal Project (Major)	Rajasthan	467.53	73.00	23.1.96
19.	Bisalpur Drinking Water cum Irrigation Project (Major)	Rajasthan	309.07	49.89	16.12.97
20.	Modernisation of Gambhir Irrigation Project (Medium)	Rajasthan	11.76	9.60	16.12.97
21.	Sukli Irrigation Project (Medium)	Rajasthan	18.698	3.89	10.12.97
22.	Bandi Sendra Irrigation Project (Medium)	Rajasthan	13.041	4.09	10.12.97
23.	Indira Gandhi Nehar Project Stage-II	Rajasthan	1398.91	859.115	11.3.98
24.	Manu Irrigation Project (Medium)	Tripura	33.28	7.580	2.8.98
25.	Increasing Capacity of Zamania P.C. (Major)	U.P.	39.81	41.700	2.9.96
26.	Gunta Dam (Medium)	U.P.	18.41	3.578	18.6.97
27.	Jarauli P.C. (Major)	U.P.	47.92	397.48	23.3.98

Annexure II

*State-wise Actual Expenditure during the year 1995-96 and outlay during 1996-97
& 1997-98 for Major & Medium Irrigation*

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	State	Actual Exp. for the year 1995-96	Revised approved outlay for the year 1996-97	Approved outlay for the year 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	537.71	514.88	712.67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.48	0.94	0.49
3.	Assam	23.83	22.00	21.46
4.	Bihar	179.75	192.68	366.23
5.	Goa	30.28	31.00	35.80
6.	Gujarat	651.96	1063.19	1187.63
7.	Haryana	99.55	201.29	329.69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.43	3.22	10.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.06	17.11	39.60
10.	Karnataka	681.26	975.89	1023.44
11.	Kerala	146.56	130.00	148.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	316.67	297.58	262.61
13.	Maharashtra	1153.82	642.89	2245.02

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Manipur	33.37	32.21	50.00
15.	Meghalaya	1.86	1.50	1.50
16.	Mizoram	0.02	0.00	0.05
17.	Nagaland	0.30	0.30	0.80
18.	Orissa	195.09	327.74	585.60
19.	Punjab	69.38	75.94	76.98
20.	Rajasthan	291.05	287.79	374.19
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	52.86	186.16	257.55
23.	Tripura	4.19	5.49	6.98
24.	Uttar Pradesh	373.00	415.66	470.00
25.	West Bengal	105.80	100.00	155.00
Total States		4971.28	5525.36	8361.40
Total UTs		1.23	1.46	1.52
Total States & UTs		4972.51	5526.82	8362.92

Annexure III

Sl. No.	State	No. of ongoing major projects during IXth Plan	Latest Estd. costs (Rs.cr.)	Cum. Exptr. upto end of VIIIth Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.)	No. of ongoing medium projects during IXth Plan	Latest Estd. cost (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Exp. upto end of VIIIth Plan (Rs. Cr.) (Antd.)	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	10130.44	4754.95	20	623.34	323.51	*I.S. Project
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3.	Assam	4	432.82	211.48	9	155.92	99.72	
4.	Bihar	15(—1)*	7365.53	2105.27	29	1065.18	429.37	
5.	Goa	2(—1)*	678.59	258.65	1	40.00	2.40	
6.	Gujarat	9	23300.92	6522.47	9	337.53	260.02	
7.	Haryana	5	1013.51	725.67	NIL	—	—	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	7.47	1	11.30	11.26	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	151.18	122.84	9	223.55	55.88	
10.	Karnataka	14	11190.19	5131.64	15	943.67	510.72	
11.	Kerala	7	1879.50	942.41	5	478.93	150.56	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25(—2)*	10729.55	3131.15	32	1012.09	733.15	
13.	Maharashtra	36	12958.17	5374.43	66	2076.06	1021.98	
14.	Manipur	2	491.65	225.85	2	66.58	56.50	
15.	Meghalaya	NIL	—	—	1	17.81	8.14	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Mizoram	NIL	—	—	NIL	—	—	
17.	Nagaland	1	111.02	2.95	NIL	—	—	
18.	Orissa	6(—1)*	4953.85	1156.55	10	499.95	410.23	
19.	Punjab	1(—1)*	3379.53	2704.53	1	88.49	0.20	
20.	Rajasthan	8(—2)*	4692.81	2346.01	6	240.24	12.22	
21.	Sikkim	NIL	—	—	NIL	—	—	
22.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	—	—	2	103.75	29.53	
23.	Tripura	NIL	—	—	3	154.00	92.96	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19(—1)*	7539.44	3339.74	2	54.81	39.99	
25.	West Bengal	4(—1)*	2037.41	938.83	17	90.42	60.78	
Total		172	103186.89	39003.29	240	8283.62	4424.12	
		—10*						
		162						

* Deduction for Inter State Projects counted more than once.

Irrigation Capacity

+
*203. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigated land in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the States which are lagging behind in achieving the national average of irrigation capacity;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the extent to which the additional irrigation facility is likely to be provided in the said States particularly in

Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1995-96 (latest), State-wise details of Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and their relative percentage are given in Annexure-I attached.

(c) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision to National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various

purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse use. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) recently approved by the National Development Council has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In keeping with the strategy, additional areas will be covered under irrigation facilities through expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects for which Accelerated Irrigated Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 is being continued in the Ninth Plan. State-wise details of release of Central Loan Assistance under AIBP during the last three years are given in Annexure-II attached.

(d) The provisional targets for creation of additional irrigation potential in the States including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the Ninth Five Year Plan as projected in the Ninth Five Year Plan document are given in Annexure-III attached.

Annexure I

State-wise Net Irrigated Area (NIA), Net Sown Area (NSA) and Percentage of NIA to NSA

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10637	4123	38.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185	36	19.46
3.	Assam	2780	572	20.57
4.	Bihar	7321	3680	50.27
5.	Goa	139	23	

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
7.	Haryana	3586	2761	76.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	568	101	17.78
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	734	386	52.59
10.	Karnataka	10420	2302	22.09
11.	Kerala	2265	342	15.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19752	5928	30.01
13.	Maharashtra	17911	2567	14.33
14.	Manipur	140	65	46.43
15.	Meghalaya	206	45	21.84
16.	Mizoram	109	7	6.42
17.	Nagaland	211	62	29.38
18.	Orissa	6210	2090	33.65
19.	Punjab	4139	3847	92.94
20.	Rajasthan	16575	5232	31.56
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	5342	2625	49.14
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17399	11675	67.10
25.	West Bengal	5462	1911	34.99
Total States		142072	53433	37.61
Total UTs		143	75	52.45
Grand Total		142215	53508	37.62

Note: Figures are as per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1995-96 (latest) and are Provisional.

Annexure II

Statement showing the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released to various States under AIBP during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	CLA released during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 till date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.25	74.00	79.67
2.	Assam	5.23	12.40	13.95
3.	Bihar	13.50	14.04	12.03
4.	Goa	—	5.25	—
5.	Gujarat	74.773	196.90	217.71

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	32.50	12.00	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	6.50	2.50
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.30	—	—
9.	Karnataka	61.25	90.50	83.50
10.	Kerala	3.75	15.00	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63.25	114.50	85.50
12.	Maharashtra	14.00	55.00	40.30
13.	Manipur	4.30	26.00	—
14.	Orissa	48.45	85.00	31.25
15.	Punjab	67.50	100.00	—
16.	Rajasthan	2.675	42.00	53.47
17.	Tripura	3.773	5.10	3.05
18.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	—	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	43.50	78.00	46.50
20.	West Bengal	5.00	20.00	10.00
Grand Total		500.00	952.19	679.43

AIBP was launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 for providing loan assistance to the States for accelerated implementation of large irrigation and multipurpose projects.

Scope:

1. Projects costing more than Rs. 500.00 crore or more and beyond the resource capability of the States.
2. Projects in the advanced stage of construction and with just a little additional resources could be completed.

Eligibility:

1. Projects which have received investment clearance from Planning Commission.
2. States are to provide matching share from their own resources.

Annexure III

State-wise details of targets for creation of irrigation potential through Major, Medium & Minor irrigation projects during IX Plan

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Creation of Potential through		
		Major & Medium	Minor	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	579.13	28.90	608.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	23.00	23.00
3.	Assam	6.50	12.84	19.34
4.	Bihar	492.00	205.25	697.25
5.	Goa	16.22	3.02	19.24
6.	Gujarat	1867.00	70.10	1937.10
7.	Haryana	197.71	80.64	278.35
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.00	6.00	9.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	29.90	21.00	50.90
10.	Karnataka	1109.88	155.00	1264.88
11.	Kerala	373.12	50.18	423.30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	384.75	150.00	534.75
13.	Maharashtra	1755.00	528.00	2283.00
14.	Manipur	50.38	15.00	65.38

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	3.88	8.82	12.70
16.	Mizoram	0.00	1.85	1.85
17.	Nagaland	4.50	14.30	18.80
18.	Orissa	915.39	89.60	1004.99
19.	Punjab	126.25	241.61	367.86
20.	Rajasthan	469.26	39.44	508.70
21.	Sikkim	0.00	4.50	4.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	4.80	11.57	16.37
23.	Tripura	22.92	16.00	38.92
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1000.00	5000.00	6000.00
25.	West Bengal	395.00	450.00	845.00
Total States		9806.59	7226.62	17033.21
Total UTs		5.20	17.11	22.31
Grand Total		9811.79	7243.73	17055.52

Note: The figures are provisional as projected in the IX Plan document and are to be firmed up by Planning Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister why our irrigation projects, which are pending for three years, are not being cleared for such a long time? My second question is that Rajasthan Canal and Narmada Project are the two important projects for Rajasthan. Now an

amount of Rupees 5,000 crore is needed for Rajasthan Canal but even Rupees 1,000 crore have not been provided in the Ninth Plan. I would like to know from the Minister that by when Government propose to complete Narmada Project and Rajasthan Canal Project?

By when these projects would be cleared which are pending for the last three years?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several reasons for the delay in clearing various irrigation projects. One of the reasons is that when the State Governments submit project reports to the Union Government, those project reports do not conform to the norms that are laid down by the Centre. As such these reports are returned. Another reason is that the State Governments do not reply in time the points raised by the Centre. Third reason is that they require clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The fourth reason being non availability of the details and programme in regard to the necessary action to be taken in respect of the population of the area that is affected due to the projects and non availability of the requisite resources. The Union Government accord their clearance keeping in view all these things. So far as Narmada Project and Rajasthan Canal Project is concerned work on both these projects is going on. Regarding Narmada Project you know that a case was pending in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has given its decision in regard to the prescribed height of the project. Thereafter it would gain some momentum.

Rajasthan Government frequently asks for assistance in regard to Rajasthan Canal. The Centre has got limited resources and yet they are providing. I have not got the details about its completion. The same would be made available to the honourable member and to the Parliament.

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Since these two projects are under consideration of the Government, what are the reasons for not clearing these projects?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, regarding Narmada Project a case was pending in the Supreme Court. And any progress is possible only after the decision. It's clearance has already been issued. Clearance in respect of Rajasthan Canal has also been issued. No clearance has been withheld.

SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP: Honourable Speaker, Sir, only three projects viz. Sindh, Upper Beda and Bargi Diversion has been sanctioned in Madhya Pradesh. Besides these, there are other 9 big projects lying pending with the Centre. Would the honourable Minister throw some light on them.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 9 projects in respect of Madhya Pradesh are pending of which 2 projects are under consideration and 7 projects have been sanctioned by Technical Advisory Committee with certain conditions. Comments of Madhya Pradesh Government are required thereon. As and when their comments are received, these projects would also be cleared.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the biggest state of the country in terms of area. The Central Government has always shown a biased attitude towards this State. The Prime Minister belongs to Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions). Hundreds of projects are lying incomplete there. No provision for these projects have been made in this year's budget. The Prime Minister also has not taken any care in this regard. Had he taken care, then provisions in the budget could be included, for many projects. These more than 22 projects are lying pending as on today.

In my Parliamentary constituency more than fifty per cent work of Mahi Project has been completed. A canal has been constructed, but money has not been released so far for the Dam side. Similarly money for Dam side of Jowat Project has also not been released. What are the reasons for not releasing money for tribal areas and why Government shows biased attitude towards such areas. Only 30 per cent money is provided for Adivasi areas of Madhya Pradesh with which only two-three per cent land can be irrigated. On the one hand Government of India say that tribal areas would be given priority and on the other hand the Government do not pay any attention towards them. Madhya Pradesh is an Adivasi dominated region where more than 2 crore Adivasi live. They are entirely dependent on irrigation...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are 20 members who want to ask questions on this.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: I would like to know why the incomplete projects have not been included in the budget? Whether the Government would provide more funds for old projects during this year? As I have mentioned about Mahi and Jowat Projects, by when the Government would provide more funds so that the work is completed at an early date.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government does not have any intention to discriminate with any State.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Is this the reason why zero per cent allocation has been made in the budget?

SHRI SOMPAL: So far the Mahi Project is concerned, its estimated cost is Rupees 192.85 crores. Rupees 41 crores 99 lakhs had been spent on this project by the end of the Eighth Plan. The requisite 21 per cent amount of expenditure on this project has been made. This project

has been included in the Ninth Plan as a ship-over project and as such necessary funds are being provided in the Ninth Plan. The details would be made available to the House and the honourable member.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the honourable Minister has told about Mahi Project. There is one Jowat Project also. My Constituency is 87 per cent Adivasi dominated area. If funds will not be given for such areas, then how Adivasi people could pay attention towards agriculture. Government of India is fully accountable towards tribal areas. It is also provided in the Constitution. Governor Sahib, the representative of Rastrapati ji is sitting in the State. Only 30 per cent money is provided for tribal areas with which only three per cent land is irrigated. Why there is such a discrimination with the tribal areas? How much money would be provided for the tribal areas alone?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, assistance is provided for the projects. The Union Government certainly want to clear and provide grants for irrigation projects meant for tribal areas.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: I am asking about the projects pertaining to the tribal areas? I am not asking anything else.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, the honourable member has said that the Government discriminates with the tribal areas. But things are not so. The Government of India does not keep such details with them as to how much money is given to the tribal areas. Regarding Mahi Project, I have told you, the Union Government provides money for the projects. It is the subject matter of the State Government as to on which item how much money is spent and what are the components. State Government regulate such things.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: In the statement referred to reply to part (a), it was mentioned that in respect of Kerala, one major project and one medium project are pending. Complaints are awaited from the State Government and the same are under examination.

Then, in the same statement it is stated that there is one major project which is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of these projects and also the position of progress in respect of Mahe Canal.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, there are two pending projects in Kerala in the major category and there is one pending

project in the medium category. So, in all they are three and out of the two which are in the major category, one is under examination and one has been accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, subject to certain observations which are to be complied with by the Government of Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I would like to know the names of these projects and also the position of progress of Mahe Canal Irrigation Project.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, I will provide this information later on, because there are several hundred projects in the entire country.

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, four major and one medium irrigation project of Karnataka are pending with the Government. Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, for how long these projects are pending with the Government and why the State Government or the Union Government are delaying the clearance of these projects? During the 8th five year plan, out of Rs. 11 thousand crore only five hundred crore rupees were spent which is even less than 10 per cent of the total amount, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state that if this continues to be the pace of work by what time will these projects be completed?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are five irrigation projects of Karnataka pending with the Government and out of which four are major irrigation projects and one is medium irrigation project. These five projects are being examined. I will give the information to the Hon. member and the House as to when these projects will be completed, if a separate question is asked about any particular pending project. If I am given time, I can give information about many such projects.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir if we see Annexure-I of the reply to Question No. 203, it says that the average of net irrigation land in the country is 37.61 per cent and it looks like that there are 15 States which are below the national average. If we see Annexure-II, it says as to how much money has been allotted to respective States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is ready to consider taking up some special programme to bring those States, which are below the national average, somewhat nearer to the national average.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, a programme has already been initiated by the Central Government which is known as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and it was initiated in the year 1996-97. Under this programme, the Government had undertaken that all the projects which are nearing completion and which can be completed within the next four crop seasons should be provided assistance by the Central Government and it is known as Central loan assistance. The modality for providing that assistance is that 25 per cent is given by the Government of India and the State Government has to provide a matching amount. When they spend double this amount, then the second tranche is released.

Under this programme, it is proposed that 9.8 million hectare additional land is brought under irrigation. The States are availing of this. Last year, an amount of Rs. 1,500 crore was earmarked. But unfortunately, that amount has not been utilised fully. We are trying to modify the scheme to make it more favourable so that the States could make a better use of this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I entirely agree with you. But the question is that if the national average is 37 per cent and suppose the average of Tripura is 12 per cent and that of Mizoram is less than 6 per cent, we have to take up some special and definite programme for the States to bring them somewhere near the national average in the next two, three or five years.

SHRI SOMPAL: The irrigation projects are mostly handled by the States. It is a State subject. So, the States have also to provide the amount.

Then, it depends on the availability of water, the terrain and other things. Suppose it is a hill area. You can never achieve hundred per cent irrigation.

Similarly, if it is an area where there is no water available, hundred per cent achievement is not possible. So, it depends upon the terrain, the topography, the geography, the water availability in terms of river flows, other storages and rainfall. Having reference to that, it is a very complicated thing. Nothing can be said that by such-and-such time, this much can be achieved....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the information made available to us by the Government, Punjab and Haryana are the forerunners in increasing their irrigation capacity while in the case of larger States Madhya Pradesh comes last and Bihar and Uttar Pradesh come thereafter. While mentioning Madhya Pradesh one of my friends described Madhya Pradesh as the birth place of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Coincidentally, Uttar Pradesh is the birth place of our Prime Minister and Madhya Pradesh was his field of action for some time and till today....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: His field of action is Nagpur.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I agree with you. Today, he represents Uttar Pradesh in the Parliament and we along with Uttar Pradesh are proud of the fact that after a gap, someone from Uttar Pradesh is adorning the chair of the Prime Minister of India. In such a situation, as per your information, there is nearly 33 per cent unirrigated land in Uttar Pradesh. As per the letters received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are more than a dozen such projects which are pending with the Government of India for certain reasons. Tehri project is a major project which will provide a big opportunity of changing the fate of Uttar Pradesh but it is pending for some reasons or without any reasons. According to your strategy, the schemes which are pending since the fifth plan and the sixth plan will be given priority in the ninth plan. A strategy worth rupees six thousand crore has been formulated for irrigation in Uttar Pradesh in the major and minor irrigation sectors. I specifically want to know from the Hon. Irrigation Minister that what strategy has been adopted by the Government of India to make the Tehri project operational immediately, so that Uttar Pradesh can reap the benefits of this project? How much time will be taken to complete it?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mohan Singh ji has said that Uttar Pradesh is a backward state but percentage-wise Uttar Pradesh stands third—Punjab stands first with 92.9%, Haryana comes second with 76.99%, and Uttar Pradesh stands third. Hon. Member is wrong when he says that Uttar Pradesh is backward. Uttar Pradesh is one among the advanced States in the country.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Even after giving 7-8 Prime Minister, U.P. has shown no development.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Swamy, 67 per cent irrigation is a significant achievement while the national average is 37 per cent.

So far as Tehri project is concerned, the Union Government and the Planning Commission have cleared it. Resources are being provided as and when available but there have been certain problems due to the environmentalists. There was an agitation against this project some time ago but now there is no such problem. The work on this project is in progress now and efforts are being made to complete this project soon.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Minister has not given the reply to the main question.

SHRI SOMPAL: I have told about the Tehri Project that the Union Government has cleared it and the work on this project is in progress and an allotment of 6 thousand crore rupees to the Uttar Pradesh Government bears enough proof in itself that it is not being neglected.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here. We are discussing a very important area. Question relates to the clearances of projects. Since my childhood I have been hearing that so many projects are not being cleared by the Government in power. At the initiative of the hon. Prime Minister, the Cauvery issue had been solved across the table. Sir, wherever the inter-State water dispute is there, the projects are not cleared by the CWC. If one Chief Minister agrees, the other Chief Minister will not agree to solve the problem.

Everyday, we discuss about removal of poverty. Once we are able to provide water to the whole country, then we will be able to eradicate poverty. It is a very important subject. First you prepare a State-wise list as to what are the projects pending before the Centre, call the Chief Ministers, the Chief Engineers, the Secretaries, sit across the table, and then solve the problem. Otherwise, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture I am dealing with water resources also, it will be very difficult to solve all these problems.

So, my suggestion, through you, Sir, is that you call all the Chief Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion, not a supplementary question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: If my suggestion is accepted by the Government, then all the problems would be solved, and all the projects would be cleared. So, the Prime Minister must interact on this subject. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to solve this problem.

Sir, you are aware about Andhra Pradesh. I belong to Srikakulam. Vansadhara Stage-II is pending for the last thirty years with the Centre. All the Chief Minister have agreed to solve the problem but still the project is pending with the Centre. It is a very important example. So my request to the hon. Prime Minister is that he should react and solve this problem.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, his supplementary is this. When will they call the meeting? Let them tell us.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Yerrannaidu is right in his statement that various States have disputes over common river waters.

[English]

Wherever the States co-share the rivers, their basins are also common. In those cases, there are problems and the Centre has always been taking an initiative. He himself acknowledged that the hon. Prime Minister had called a meeting of all the four State Chief Ministers and had come to an agreement. Some settlement had already been arrived at.

So far as the Vansadhara Stage-II is concerned—it is an inter-State river dispute between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh—the tangle has not yet been solved. We wish that the States amongst themselves resolve such issues but in case they need assistance from Centre, the Centre is prepared to take an initiative.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely sorry to state before this august House that various projects and schemes submitted by the State of Kerala in various Ministries are pending clearance, specially, irrigation and hydel, and power projects.

Sir, nature is very kind to us. We get plenty of rains. But due to non-clearance from the Central Government, we could not use them scientifically.

So, the State of Kerala still remains a problem State.

May I request the hon. Prime Minister to give some directive to expedite the clearance of projects submitted by the State of Kerala? May I also request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to look into the matter to clear the irrigation projects as soon as possible?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the status of the projects which have been submitted by the Kerala Government has already been stated by me during my reply to an earlier query. If the hon. Member wants any specific information about any specific project that will be provided to him. He can send me a letter and I will immediately reply to him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, it turns out from the tables of the Statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister that in the Ninth Plan the number of major and medium irrigation projects listed against the State of Tamil Nadu is nil. Is this due to the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not asked

for any project or is the Government not in a position to sanction it? Is it the dereliction of duty on the part the Government of Tamil Nadu or obstinacy of the Centre?

In this connection, I would like to know why the Centre is not taking any step to solve the Mullaperiyar Dam Water Level issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Is it the way the hon. Members behave in this House...(Interruptions) This is not good.....(Interruptions) The hon. Minister is to reply to this question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They are not objecting but everybody is interested to put a supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, regarding the pending projects, the Central Government can give the information which we have and why the State has not submitted any proposal can be found out. But this was the status which I have...

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That means, the State did not submit any proposal, that is what the hon. Minister is saying.

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL: I can not say offhand. It has to be found out from the State.

Regarding Mullaperiyar issue, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Subramanian Swamy is already in communication with me, I am trying to find out the information and I will apprise him of that...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY: Sir, it is not a personal matter to speak with Dr. Swamy only...(Interruptions) It is not an individual matter...(Interruptions) The hon. Minister should inform the House about it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Just now there was a debate between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh over the Prime Minister, his field of action and his birth place, but I am to say that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is "Bihari" by name and so my claim is justified. Sir, there are nine irrigation projects of Bihar out of which 8 are major projects and one is medium project...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, why do you speak so loudly, is it so needed?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since so many people are standing, I have to speak loudly.

Sir, there are nine projects of North Bihar, 9 lakh hectare land is the regions of Gandak, Kosi and Ghaghara rivers is affected with water logging and the Gandak Phase-2 scheme is pending with the Government of India. I want to know from the Government that Bihar which is affected due to floods every year, the fertile land gets destroyed, the farmers suffer heavy losses, crops get destroyed and to solve these problems, nine projects alongwith Gandak water clearance project have been prepared. Hundreds of acres of land is affected due to water logging. By what time you will clear these projects and help the State Government so that the farmers and poor people of Bihar could get some respite...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: I do not have any information regarding the problem of water logging in some areas of Bihar which has been mentioned by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji. If he gives me the details of those areas and of the scheme sent to the Government, I could give him the desired information. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You call a meeting of all the members from Bihar...(Interruptions). We will tell you each and everything. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the lady Member to put her supplementary. You should not obstruct her.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: We are not being given opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji has spoken about Maharashtra.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Please let me speak....(Interruptions) Gujarat has fulfilled all the criterion and completed all the procedures regarding the Narmada Project. Regarding the problem of the displaced persons even the foreign journalists were impressed by the endeavours of Gujarat Government in this direction. But I would like to know from the Government that whether

any steps have been taken against the States which have not fulfilled the criterion and completed the procedure and are related to the Narmada project.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Narmada is concerned, I would like to repeat my answer that this case was pending with the Supreme Court till recently. The Supreme Court has recently given a verdict in this regard. Now, there will be speedy progress in this matter. Hon. Member has rightly stated that those States will be given priority which have fulfilled the criterion and completed the phases and established procedure. There will be no negligence on the part of the Government in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Chandumajra, please put your supplementary.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that a big volume of water of Raavi river is flowing to Pakistan. This water is very valuable for Punjab because it is an agricultural State. Many projects are being drawn to store this water but none of these projects has yet been finalised. Thein Dam project was prepared for this purpose but enough funds have not been provided to complete it. I want to know that what steps are being taken to store the water flowing to Pakistan. Secondly, river Ghaggar flows the border of Punjab and Haryana which ruins the Khanauri, Patara and Batala areas of Punjab and many areas of Haryana during rainy season. A Ghaggar project has been prepared by Punjab Government...*(Interruptions)*. I want to know the time by which this project will be completed. If this project is completed, this water could be used for irrigating small areas and the crops worth crores of rupees, which get destroyed in the floods, can be saved. I want to know by what time the Government of India will release funds for this project and what is the scheme prepared by the Government in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Punjab is concerned, according to the information I have given in the reply, as per percentage, Punjab stands first in terms of irrigated land. Around 92 percent land is irrigated in Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)* There is some contribution of canal irrigation also in Punjab. A major problem is raising its head in Punjab as underground water in a vast area is coming to surface at such an alarming rate that in the coming few years several lakh hectares of land would submerge in water. So far as the question of Thein Dam, for utilization of Raavi water, is concerned, according to

my information it will be completed by the year 1999 or 2000. After that Raavi water could be fully utilized for Punjab. So far as the question of Ghaggar is concerned, if any project has been sent by the Punjab Government, I will give him the information regarding it, but first give it in writing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here, it would be better if he gives reply to my question. Anyway, I would like to know from the Minister that work on S.Y.L. canal is at a standstill for the last 4-5 years and Rs. 400 crore have already been spent on it. Canals are ready in Haryana to lift the water from this canal. Will the Minister be pleased to state when the work on the S.Y.L. canal will be resumed in Punjab and by what time it will be completed and how much amount has been allocated therefor in the budget...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH: Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* much injustice is being done with Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there are many Members who would like to ask supplementary on this subject. If you have no objection, Half-an Hour Discussion can be allowed.

SHRI SOMPAL: I do not mind.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Hon. Bhajan Lalji has asked the question...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are allowing Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL: Bhajan Lalji has asked about the completion of Satluj-Yamuna Link Project....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: There is some difference of opinions between the Punjab and Haryana Governments regarding the Satluj-Yamuna Link Project. Hon. Home Minister had convened a meeting of Northern Zonal Council in Surajkund last month to resolve the differences. This issue was discussed extensively in that meeting also. The Union Government want to resolve these differences at the earliest so that the so long pending project could be completed. The Union Government is endeavouring to bring unanimity of opinions between the two States and as soon as unanimity of opinions comes, the progress in the work on this project would become possible.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

Suicide by Farmers

*204. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that suicide was committed by a large number of farmers in various States especially in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have appointed any high level Committee to investigate the reasons for large scale suicide by farmers in various States; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to curb this suicidal trend by farmers.?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The information on suicidal deaths, as reported by various States, is indicated below:—

Andhra Pradesh

No Suicide cases were reported during 1996-97, From 1.12.1997 to 30.6.1998, there were reports of 315 suicides by the farmers. 43 cases of suicides have been reported from 30.6.1998 onwards.

Karnataka

60 suicide cases by farmers came to the notice of the State Government in the year 1998.

Punjab

As per State Police Statistics, 349 and 418 farmer committed suicide during 1996 and 1997, respectively. 3 cases of suicide were noticed during November, 1998.

Rajasthan

No suicide by farmers was reported during the last one year.

Uttar Pradesh

No suicide was committed by farmers during the last three years.

The other State Governments have been requested to supply the requisite information.

(c) A Study Group was constituted by the Government of India in January, 1998 to examine the issues relating to distress caused by indebtedness of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Punjab got conducted a detailed study at the base level with a view to know the real cause of suicides by the farmers.

(d) The Study Group constituted by the Central Government recommended several measures for action by the Central Government, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Banks, and NABARD which include assessment of the agricultural credit so as to enlarge the flow of

credit particularly to small & marginal farmers; strengthening the input distribution system, expansion of the integrated pest management and nutrient management programmes; taking up special programmes by the States Seeds Corporations to meet quality seeds requirement of the farmers, strict enforcement of the existing provision of the Insecticides Act to ensure supply of quality pesticides and widening the scope of the existing Crop Insurance Scheme to cover more crops.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of farmers is so bad that they were compelled to commit suicide...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is another question. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I want to know from the Government that what action is proposed to be taken to conduct an enquiry to find out the causes which compelled the farmers to commit suicide and what steps have been taken to prevent the farmers in other States from committing suicide?

12.00 hrs.

What steps do the Government propose to take to provide all the resources like irrigation, seeds, loans, crop insurance etc. to the farmers so that the farmers are not compelled to commit suicide...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the suicide committed by the farmers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is another question. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not given opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL: MR. Speaker, Sir, regarding the question of Prof. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, the Government had sent two study groups to study such situations in which farmers are compelled to commit suicide. According to their recommendations several measures such as making good quality seeds available

to the farmers, amendment to the Insecticides Act, simplifying the procedure of loan and providing more loans and creating awareness about other crop procedures and technologies and crop insurance among the farmers are being adopted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

*205. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural production has declined by 25 per cent towards the end of 1990 as a result of constant use of poor quality of agricultural inputs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take adequate measures to improve the quality of agricultural inputs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Agricultural production has maintained an increasing trend in the decade of the nineties. The likely production in 1998-99 is expected to be 3.9 per cent higher than that in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various measures to improve the quality of various inputs. In order to ensure the adequate availability of fertilizers at reasonable prices throughout the country, Government has enacted the Fertilisers (Control) Order, 1985 which ensures that the fertilisers which meet the standards of quality laid down in the Order, are sold to the farmers.

Quality Control of Seeds is being organised through notification of varieties of seeds, Seed Certification, Seed Testing and Seed Law Enforcement. These elements of quality control have statutory support under Seeds Act, 1966 and Rules made thereunder. Seed has also been declared as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate the distribution of seed and its quality.

Supply of quality pesticides to the farmers is being regulated under the overall purview of the Insecticides

Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder. The steps taken thereof are drawal of larger number of sample of pesticides by the notified Insecticides Inspectors for analysis in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs); prosecution against the suppliers of misbranded pesticides, strengthening of SPTLs by providing grants-in-aid and training of Insecticides Inspectors and Analysts for effective enforcement of quality control of pesticides.

[English]

Production of Foodgrain

*206. MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI, AVSM:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of foodgrains in the country for the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government have identified such foodgrains whose production is less than the requirement of domestic consumption in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the country has achieved a record foodgrain production this year in comparison to earlier years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated quantity of foodgrains produced in various States during each of the last three years; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the foodgrain production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) No targets have yet been fixed for the production of foodgrains for the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The shortage is only in the production of pulses. Against the requirement of 16.3 million tonnes of pulses, the production is of the order of 14.8 million tonnes during 1998-99.

(d) and (e) As per the present indications, statement enclosed, the foodgrain production in the current year will be record one and is likely to exceed 200 million tonnes.

(f) The Government is implementing a number of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., ICDP—Wheat, Rice, Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas, National Pulses Development Project and Accelerated Maize Development Programme. Further, under the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in the next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies.

Statement

Estimates of Area and Production of total Foodgrains

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)			Production (Thousand Tonnes)			Yield (Kg./Hec.)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	6892.5	7286.7	6393.1	11666.6	13675.2	10939.7	1693	1877	1711
Arunachal Pradesh	183.1	176.6	183.3	203.5	205.8	209.8	1111	1165	1145
Assam	2726.7	2728.7	2722.1	3561.2	3532.1	3577.6	1306	1294	1314
Bihar	8993.4	9048.7	8834.6	12953.4	14417.6	12099.0	1440	1593	1460

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	68.5	66.5	68.8	136.5	159.8	158.4	2053	2403	2302
Gujarat	3751.8	3997.4	4077.4	4103.3	5208.8	5709.7	1094	1303	1400
Haryana	3892.5	4027.4	4174.0	10137.4	11448.0	11334.7	2539	2843	2716
Himachal Pradesh	850.2	824.8	832.4	1362.4	1288.5	1330.8	1602	1562	1599
Jammu & Kashmir	881.1	890.6	908.0	1473.4	1331.3	1454.9	1672	1495	1602
Karnataka	6855.9	7371.5	7070.5	8645.0	9212.8	8798.7	1261	1250	1244
Kerala	501.0	453.9	433.2	973.6	852.0	681.3	1943	1877	1573
Madhya Pradesh	17511.1	17665.6	17823.4	18072.8	19487.8	17410.5	1032	1103	977
Maharashtra	13274.8	13801.6	13161.5	11604.3	14602.4	9708.7	874	1058	738
Manipur	157.0	172.5	161.5	338.9	390.7	384.8	2159	2265	2259
Meghalaya	131.3	132.2	132.8	142.9	178.3	192.1	1088	1349	1447
Mizoram	78.1	77.5	80.4	123.7	133.8	128.6	1584	1726	1600
Nagaland	192.4	201.7	205.2	238.8	212.3	239.3	1241	1053	1166
Orissa	5662.4	5351.1	5500.9	6802.0	4831.4	6836.5	1201	903	1206
Punjab	5706.3	5693.2	5879.0	19809.2	21553.3	21148.9	3471	3786	3597
Rajasthan	11902.3	12850.8	13740.2	9567.1	12821.3	14033.0	804	998	1021
Sikkim	77.1	77.0	76.2	106.1	105.8	103.4	1376	1374	1357

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	3339.2	3558.3	4038.5	6405.3	6930.0	8488.6	1918	1948	2102
Tripura	244.5	272.7	271.0	477.1	556.1	546.8	1951	2039	2018
Uttar Pradesh	20341.7	20301.8	20637.2	38367.5	42385.1	41828.6	1886	2080	2027
West Bengal	6572.8	6443.8	6553.3	12884.8	13758.3	14351.2	1960	2135	2190
A&N Islands	14.6	14.5	14.6	34.0	34.2	31.7	2329	2359	2171
D&N Haveli	20.8	19.5	19.5	30.5	25.8	25.8	1466	1323	1323
Daman & Diu	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	1182	1182	1182
Delhi	58.8	38.6	38.6	123.9	31.0	31.0	2107	803	803
Pondicherry	31.6	33.1	33.0	68.3	64.5	65.5	2161	1949	1985
All India	121014.8	123581.4	124067.5	180415.0	199435.7	192433.6	1491	1614	1551

Below Poverty Line

*207. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criteria fixed for identification of people living below poverty line alongwith the year in which the criteria was laid down;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to review the criteria in view of rate of inflation and price index.

(c) the details of latest State-wise ratio of people living below the poverty line; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to give pension to the people living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods

and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. These poverty lines were originally recommended by a Task Force on Minimum Need and Effective Consumption Demand in 1979. Then, in 1983, the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor recommended disaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential.

(b) The poverty lines at national and state levels are continuously reviewed for changes in prices and therefore, take into account the effects of inflation. There is, however, no proposal to revise the criteria used in defining the poverty line.

(c) The latest State-wise estimate of people living below the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. These are given in the Statement.

(d) One component of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which was introduced on 15.8.1995 to provide social assistance to poor households in the case of old age, death of the primary breadwinner and maternity, is the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 per cent Central assistance provided to the States/UTs.

Statement***Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States—1993-94***

S.No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
7.	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
29.	Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

[Translation]

Cold Storages

*208. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total storage capacity of cold storages in the country at present;

(b) whether the high level Expert Committee on cold storage have recommended to increase the storage capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to achieve the desired increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) There is installed capacity of 103 lakh tonnes of cold storages in the country.

(b) and (c) The High Level Committee constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture has *inter-alia* made the following recommendations:—

- (i) Creation of additional 12 lakh tonnes cold storage capacity in the next five years;
- (ii) Creation of 4.5 lakh tonnes capacity for Onions in the next five years;

- (iii) Interest subsidy/capital subsidy for creation of cold storage/storage facilities.

It has been decided to provide credit linked capital subsidy through National Horticulture Board (NHB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Banks and Financial Institutions.

[English]

Agricultural Credit

*209. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the agricultural credit-system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the loans disbursed by the agencies of financial institutions for agricultural sector have been increased over the year;

(d) if so, the total loan disbursed by these agencies during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide benefits to poor sections of the farming community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (e) In the recent past, Government of India has undertaken several measures—including recapitalisation—for restructuring the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

The flow of institutional credit to agriculture and allied sector has increased from Rs. 22032 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 31698 crore in 1997-98. The details of loans disbursed by all the agencies viz. the Cooperative Credit Structure (CCS), PSBs and RRBs during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)		
1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
22032	26411	31698

With a view to increase the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers, a minimum level of financing small and marginal farmers—ranging from 10-15% of total loans issued by the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), has been prescribed by NABARD. The prescribed minimum level has since been raised suitably in respect of most of the DCCBs in order to bring more small and marginal farmers into the fold of the formal credit system.

Water Management

*210. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of experts was held recently to discuss a recent UN report which has stated that India is heading towards water crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether the Government have taken this report seriously; and

(d) if so, the concrete efforts being workout by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) to (d) No, Sir. However, some International Agencies

have estimated that the progressive reduction in per capita availability of fresh water in India may decline to 1600 cubic metre by 2017 A.D. leading to water stress conditions.

Since rainfall in India varies greatly due to unequal seasonal and geographical distribution, availability of water varies widely from one river basin to another. Any situation of water availability less than 1000 cubic metre per capita is considered by the international agencies as scarcity conditions. Based upon this criterion and availability of water as per the latest assessment, already six basins viz. Sabarmati, Pennar, West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni, East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar, Cauvery and East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari fall into this category. Due to increase in population, continued development in agriculture and industries, there is a progressive increase in the demand of water in the country every year. The total requirement of water for various sectors which was 552 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) in the 1900 is projected to be 750 BCM by the year 2000. Keeping in view the long term perspective demand, the total water requirement for various sectors for the year 2025 is projected to be 10-50 BCM.

Keeping in view the future needs of water, the Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water quality and conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses, setting up of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in September, 1996 as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects. Government is also promoting rain water harvesting and watershed management to replenish groundwater.

Planning formulation and execution of water resource schemes is the responsibility of the State Government. Since the beginning of the Plan era, various steps have been taken for exploitation of available water resources. A number of small and large dams were taken up and as a result of this, the total live storage capacity has increased from 15.64 BCM at the beginning of plan era to about 177 BCM in 1995. Besides, an additional live storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created through dams

under various stages of construction. In addition, dams under formulation/consideration will provide an additional live storage of 132 BCM.

The total water requirement projection of 1050 BCM for the year 2025 can be met by harnessing fully, the utilisable surface water resources of about 690 BCM and by utilising about 360 BCM of exploitable ground water resources.

[Translation]

Major and Medium Dams

*211. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major and medium dams are not adequate for catering to the irrigation needs of agriculture land in the country and these dams are also not being utilised effectively by the concerned State Governments;

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

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to evolve other cheaper alternative sources of irrigation for the 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 WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) to (d) The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to the development and management of water resources. Thus, the present strategy in Water Resources Development and management in the country is based on a judicious mix of option consisting of large, medium and small surface water storages; diversion and lift schemes; ground water development through deep/shallow tubewells and open wells and micro watershed development schemes.

Irrigation potential created upto the end of VIII Five Year Plan and irrigation potential utilised is as under:—

Sector	Irrigation Potential	
	Created (IPC) (Provisional) (million hectare)	Utilised (Provisional) (million hectare)
(i) Major & Medium Irrigation	32.96	28.44
(ii) Minor Irrigation	56.60	52.32

As can be seen, the minor irrigation through surface water and ground water also plays a vital role to cater to the irrigation needs. There is some time lag in the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential through major, medium and minor irrigation projects mainly due to non-development of command area, non-completion of canals, adequate water not reaching to the tail end and changing agricultural techniques and cropping patterns.

Visa to Salman Rushdie

*212. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant visa to Indian born British Writer Salman Rushdie to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Iran has conveyed any resentment against this decision to grant visa;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A five-year multiple entry visa was issued by the Indian High Commission in London on February 3, 1999.

(c) The Iranian Foreign Office made its views known in February 1999.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture

*213. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in agriculture has increased during the last three years;

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

(c) the target fixed for public sector investment in agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage public investment in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) There has been an increasing trend in the total investment in agriculture at prices. A statement giving the details of public sector, private sector and total investment (gross capital formation) in agriculture at current and 1993-94 prices during the last three years is at Statement-I. The available information on State-wise estimates of gross capital formation is given at Statement-II.

(c) A total public sector outlay of Rs. 42462.41 crore has been envisaged for the Ninth Five Year Plan for Agriculture & Allied Sector besides Irrigation and Flood Control outlay of Rs. 55420.25 crore (at 1996-97 prices).

(d) The steps taken to encourage public sector investment in Agriculture include increase plan outlays and increasing proportion investment for development of infrastructure. In order to encourage public sector investment in agriculture, a scheme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been initiated since 1996-97 providing assistance to States by way of loan for timely completion of selected large and multipurpose irrigation projects. A Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has also been established from 1995-96. Besides, a National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas aimed at holistic and sustainable development of vast rainfed areas is also being implemented since 1990-91.

Statement-I

Year	Agriculture Total		Agriculture Private		Agriculture Public	
	At Current Prices	At 1993-94	AT Current Prices	At 1993-94	AT Current Prices	At 1993-94
1995-96	23942	19944	17954	15168	5988	4776
1996-97	26296	19902	20184	15555	6112	4347
1997-98*	29700	20995	22767	16579	6933	4416

* Quick Estimates

Statement II

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in Agriculture

(Rs. Lakhs)

Item	(At Current Prices)						
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Andhra Pradesh	15024	19598	30022	28722	38307	47288	55349
2. Assam	5347	5124	7515	8483	11944	13890	12372

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Gujarat		25299	28325	31889	39309	10657	34021	37307
4. Haryana		14115	19751	22078	21962	25255	31595	33152
5. Karnataka		21608	23549	23113	25309	27603	34004	35543
6. Kerala		10505	12187	13559	15959	16744	19272	20040
7. Madhya Pradesh		31845	31966	35926	44418	55127	65171	61496
8. Maharashtra		32320	42059	53419	61272	62236	65511	69575
9. Orissa		12173	12524	18855	21867	23057	25780	27515
10. Punjab		15509	19290	22126	23361	26483	35179	39154
11. Tamil Nadu		9658	13355	13705	12217	15224	16122	18767

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in Agriculture

Item	(At Current Prices)								
	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1. Andhra Pradesh	57582	65322	59210	66319	88894	93075	108232		
2. Assam	15251	12786	21647						
3. Gujarat	45307	12718	34421	39285					
4. Haryana	25170	29811	36803	47431	58384	68952	75246		
5. Karnataka	36753	44627	48360	54667	70259	93576	115138		
6. Kerala	22057	24351	27436	28896					

1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7. Madhya Pradesh	80669	53869	91754	95124	102576	111814			
8. Maharashtra	84130	98823	114672	116557	121863	138081	164364		
9. Orissa	25677	34179	36552	33972	44406	47113			
10. Punjab	50790	55511	81683	83119	122842	132697	116700	147700	144600
11. ¹ Tamil Nadu	21411	16941	23854	27559	27263	34779			

Note: The estimates have been prepared by the Directorates of Economics & Statistics of the respective States.

Production of Kapas

*214. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Desh bhar mein kapas ke utpadan mein chintajanak girawat ayee' appearing in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated January 8, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and

(c) the effective measures taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) According to the news item, the production of cotton in the current year has declined steeply compared to the last year despite implementation of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in 11 major cotton growing State.

The report is, however, factually not correct as the estimated production of cotton in the current year is much higher at 140.1 lakh bales as compared to 111.4 lakh bales last year.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of cotton, a centrally sponsored scheme on Intensive

Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in all major cotton growing States. The main strategies adopted under the scheme include the following:

- (i) Transfer of technology to farmers through field demonstration, training, use of mass media etc.
- (ii) Adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IMP) approach to minimise damages caused by diseases and pests.
- (iii) Efforts to popularise newer varieties.
- (iv) Enhancing area under irrigation through water saving devices etc.

The Government also announces the minimum support prices each year to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in the event of fall in the prices of cotton and arranges procurement through the Cotton Corporation of India.

Increase in Unemployment

*215. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of increase in unemployment has exceeded the rate of population growth since 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined its implications; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to tackle the unemployment problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The quinquennial Surveys on Employment and Unemployment carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) are the comprehensive source of data on employment and unemployment situation in the country. As per the information available from the two latest surveys of NSSO, i.e. 43rd Round (1987-88) and 50th Round (1993-94), the rate of growth of population, labour force and employment during 1987-88 to 1993-94 was as given below:—

	Rate of Growth (% per annum) 1987-88 to 1993-94)
Population	2.10
Labour Force	2.29
Employment	2.43

As a result of a faster increase in the employment compared to the labour force and population, the unemployment rate in 1993-94 declined to 1.90% from 2.62% in 1987-88.

(c) and (d) An assessment of labour force and work opportunities likely to be created during the Ninth Plan has been made. The labour force projection has been made taking into consideration the change in level and age structure of the population and the age group specific Labour Force Participation Rate. As per these projections, the average unemployment rate during the Ninth Plan is projected to come down to 1.66% compared to average unemployment rate of 1.87% in the Eighth Plan.

The approach to the Ninth Plan would be to generate productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, subsectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under employment.

Supply of Seeds

*216. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in the country are being supplied inferior quality seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make available good quality seeds to farmers by National Seed Corporation and other seed agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Some State Governments have reported instances of farmers getting inferior quality of seeds. The details of such instances are given in Statement.

(c) National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC) and other parastatal agencies are producing seeds as per the standards prescribed under the relevant provisions of the Seeds Act (1966) and Seed Rules, (1968). The NSC has initiated several measures such as assessment of regional varietal needs, expanding and broadbasing its product mix and use of information technology to streamline its operations to ensure timely availability of quality seeds to farmers in the country.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State Govt.	Number of Complaints/cases of supply of sub-standard seeds 1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4 Nos.
2.	Gujarat	2 Nos.
3.	Karnataka	11 Nos.
4.	Maharashtra	18 Nos.
5.	Rajasthan	10 Nos.
6.	Tamil Nadu	2 Nos.

UN Convention of Refugees

*217. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering signing the 1952 UN convention on refugees;

(b) if so, the details of international obligations in case India sign this convention; and

(c) the estimated annual expenditure for guaranteeing basic needs of refugees?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

NPK Consumption Ratio

*218. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present NPK consumption ratio in the country;

(b) whether the Government have implemented a Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers Scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the Central assistance provided to each State during the last three years for the implementation of said scheme, year-wise; and

(e) the progress made in regard to above scheme during the above period?

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

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) The present (1997-98) NPK consumption ratio in the country is 7.9:2.8:1.

(b) and (c) The Scheme of Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers was implemented during 8th plan with an outlay of Rs. 26.00 crores. The scheme provided for strengthening of testing facilities for soils, fertilizers, seeds and bio-fertilisers, promoting the use of organic sources of nutrients in conjunction with chemical fertilizers and setting up of compost units for conversion of city waste/garbage into manure. The scheme is being continued during IX plan with an outlay of Rs. 46.11 crores. The components of the IX plan scheme are to strengthen the soil testing programme in the country and to set up compost plants. Organisation of refresher training programmes for the soil testing staff is another component of the scheme.

(d) A statement indicating assistance provided to each State during last three years is annexed.

(e) During the above period, 49 soil testing laboratories have been strengthened, demonstrations on micronutrients have been organised on about 11,000 ha. and 8 compost units have been established for conversion of city garbage into manure. A total of 563 trainings were organised on the methods of bio-composting.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.00	32.00	—
2.	Karnataka	51.76	35.14	59.30
3.	Kerala	45.05	25.65	11.65
4.	Tamil Nadu	96.33	8.00	23.30
5.	Pondicherry	—	20.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Madhya Pradesh	36.65	46.06	—
7.	Maharashtra	47.67	23.49	30.00
8.	Rajasthan	23.19	8.00	40.00
9.	Goa	—	—	8.65
10.	Haryana	10.00	8.00	103.80
11.	Punjab	—	28.32	43.25
12.	Uttar Pradesh	45.75	8.00	—
13.	Himachal Pradesh	14.30	10.15	18.30
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	17.30	—
15.	Delhi	20.00	—	—
16.	Bihar	—	98.95	—
17.	Orissa	40.00	38.64	—
18.	West Bengal	—	8.00	—
19.	Tripura	—	—	8.65
20.	Manipur	—	—	8.65
21.	Nagaland	15.65	20.15	—
22.	Mizoram	23.05	12.15	—
Total:		500.00	548.00	355.55

(—) No funds were released.

Cotton Crops

*219. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the cotton crop has been damaged due to supply of inferior quality pesticides in the Northern Region;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the cotton crop;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to provide compensation to the farmers;

(d) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme cover is proposed to be extended for the damage caused to the cotton crop; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Sir, no cotton growing State in the Northern Region has reported any damage to cotton crop due to supply of inferior quality pesticides during 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to cover commercial crops like cotton under the Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However, the proposed new scheme will cover only identifiable and non-preventable risks and not the damage caused due to use of inferior quality pesticides which is considered as preventable.

Agricultural Growth Rate

*220. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural growth rate in India is still much lesser in comparison to other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise the rate of growth to the level of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) and (b) The rate of agricultural growth in India during

1987-97 in comparison to certain other major countries, as worked out on the basis of the indices of agricultural production published in FAO's Production Year Book, 1997 is as under:

Country	Agricultural Growth— Annual compound (%)
<i>World</i>	2.18
India	3.45
Australia	2.23
Canada	2.55
China	6.42
Japan	-0.69
Pakistan	4.09
U.K.	0.20
U.S.A.	2.40

The agricultural growth rate in India is above the world average and also higher when compare to many countries but lower than a few others.

(c) In order to increase production and productivity, the Government is implementing various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Crop Specific Schemes relating to rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute, sugarcane, fruits & vegetable, etc. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next 10 years, adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Production of Cotton

2156. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring more areas under cotton cultivation in non-traditional cotton growing States such as Orissa, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the varieties of cotton seed likely to be made available to the farmers of these areas;

(c) whether the Government have initiated a separate research programme for evolving improved varieties of cotton seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Varieties of cotton likely to be made available to the farmers for Orissa and U.P.

Orissa : LRA 5166, MCU-5, Abhadita, JKHY-1 and Savita.

U.P.: Vikas, SH-131, Bikaneri Narma.

(c) and (d) Government has initiated research programme for development of high yielding, better quality desi cotton genotypes and hybrids by improving the fibre quality, boll size and retentivity. Thrust for exploitation of GMS and CMS system for the development of hybrids in desi cotton is also provided.

Education/Training to Women

2157. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the education/training imparted to women in rural areas in use of modern techniques in agriculture;

(b) the agencies through which such training is imparted; and

(c) the response to those schemes in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) The women in rural areas are being provided education/training in use of modern techniques in agriculture through following Schemes/Projects:—

— Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture;

— Externally aided projects for "Training of Women in Agriculture" through Danish and Dutch assistance;

— Vocational training of farm women through 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras established by ICAR.

(b) The training/education is being provided at the district level through the following agencies:—

1. State Department of Agriculture.
2. State Agricultural Universities.
3. District Women Development Agencies.
4. ICAR Institutes, and
5. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, Dutch assisted Project of "Training of Women in Agriculture in A.P." (ANTWA) is being implemented in 6 districts viz. Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Kurnool, Ananthpur, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam. Training to women farmers is being provided through Farmers Training Centres, which have been strengthened under the Scheme.

In Maharashtra, Thane district is being covered under the Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agricultural. The women farmers are mobilized and motivated to form groups and training, extension and other support services are channelized through these groups. The 3 Talukas covered under the Scheme in Thane district are Palaghar, Dhanu and Vada.

There are 39 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra imparting vocational training to farm women.

The response to these Schemes in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra has been very satisfactory.

[Translation]

Production of Fodder

2158. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Scheme is being implemented to enhance the production of fodder and grains in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the success of this scheme in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Union and State Governments in the State to enhance the production of fodder especially in the areas where there is scarcity of fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Central farm on "Regional Station for Forage Production & Demonstration" is in operation since 1969, at Suratgarh in Rajasthan. The objective of the Regional Station is to produce high yielding varieties of fodder seeds for distribution to the States under Central Minikit Programme. Besides, the station organizes demonstration, training and farmers' fairs to transfer, technology related to feed and fodder.

The State Government was provided Central grant of Rs. 5.50 lakhs for strengthening of fodder seed production farms. The funds was utilised by the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation and the State Department of Animal Husbandry, during 1987-88. However, no fresh proposals have been received from the State Government.

In addition 22,850 and 21,270 fodder seed minikits of high yielding varieties of fodder crops have been distributed free during 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The measures taken by the Central and State Governments for augmentation of fodder production are as under:—

- (i) production and supply of high yielding varieties of fodder seeds under Central Minikit Programme;
- (ii) Strengthening of State farms for production of fodder seed;
- (iii) establishment of fodder banks;
- (iv) fodder seed production through registered growers;

(v) enrichment of straws/cellulosic wastes;

(vi) establishment of silvipasture system for increasing Biomass production;

(vii) development of grasslands including grass reserves;

(viii) sample survey for area production and requirement of fodder crops.

[English]

Production of Paddy

2159. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land under cultivation of paddy in Kerala; and

(b) whether land under paddy cultivation has fallen considerably in the State of Kerala during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) and (b) The total area under paddy in Kerala in the current year is 3.95 lakh hectares. The area has declined by 75,000 hectares during the last three years due to shift to other plantation and horticulture crops which are more remunerative.

Area Welfare Officers

2160. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointments of Area Welfare Officer are made by the Government for various areas;

(b) if so, the names of areas/Government colonies for which the Area Welfare Officers have not been appointed; and

(c) the time by which the Area Welfare Officers are likely to be appointed for these areas/Government colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Area Welfare Officers have been appointed for various areas including Government colonies for one term (of two years) viz. 1999 and 2000 from out of the applicants willing to work as such on honorary and voluntary basis. The applications are not invited area-wise. However, a circular inviting applications for certain areas including Government colonies not represented so far has been issued on 25.2.1999 and depending upon the response, Area Welfare Officers for those areas also will be appointed in due course.

Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price

2161. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission has recommended various programmes and steps for improving the coconut cultivation in Kerala;

(b) the main recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its Report on Price Policy for Copra for 1999 Season has made following price and non-price recommendations:—

- (i) For the 1999 season, the minimum support price for fair average quality be fixed at 3075 per quintal of milling copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for ball copra.
- (ii) in case announcement of the minimum support prices for copra is delayed beyond December due to unexpected contingencies, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation should be allowed/required to arrange for support purchases from the beginning of the year at the already existing minimum support prices, and that as and when the support price for the season is announced the difference should be reimbursed to those from whom purchases were made before the announcement;
- (iii) the concerned State Governments should take steps to strengthen the system of regulated markets for coconut and copra;
- (iv) sufficient infrastructure be created for enabling primary marketing societies to undertake purchase of raw coconuts directly from the growers. Also, beginning from the 1999 season, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

Federation of India, which is the nodal agency for the implementation of minimum support prices for copra, should indicate, separately for each state and the islands, the price per nut corresponding to the minimum support prices fixed for the season;

- (v) in order to strengthen the data base required for the formulation of price policy, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) should consider generating advance estimates of coconut production as it does for other crops, and also evaluate the Coconut Development Board estimates of copra production with a view to generating reliable and consistent estimates.

In addition, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics may also examine the feasibility of collecting data on arrivals of copra in selected major markets.

- (vi) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Horticultural Department of the Ministry of Agriculture should jointly strengthen those branches of existing research institutes which are responsible for responding to the occurrence of new pest and diseases;
- (vii) The currently low import duty rate on palmolein be revised upwards as and when world palmolein prices decline so as to ensure that its domestic price does not decline and exert further downward pressure on the domestic prices of edible oils, including coconut oil, and through this on the prices of copra and coconut; and
- (viii) Some definite package of incentives either in the form of tax waivers or temporary subsidies, be granted to industrial units adopting the range of technologies available with the Coconut Development Board for diversified coconut products.

(c) The Government has announced the Minimum Support Price for copra of Fair Average Quality at Rs. 3100 per quintal for Milling Copra and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Ball Copra (Fair Average Quality) for 1999 season as against the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices of Rs. 3075 and Rs. 3325 per quintal for Milling and Ball Copra respectively. State Government/Union Territory administration and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to implement both Price and Non-price recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices on Price Policy for Copra for 1999 season.

Vermiculture

2162. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that good farm yard manure using Vermiculture is better than chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether ICAR/Agriculture Universities have undertaken any systematic scientific studies and trials on the subject;

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

(d) whether it is likely to be taken up in Bihar specially involving women and weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of usefulness of organic manure (farm yard manure) for improving soil health. However, the use of organic manures alone including vermiculture (compost) is not sufficient to meet nutrient requirement for sustained and required level of enhanced crop productivity.

(b) and (c) Multilocational experiments using "FYM" (farm yard manure) have already been conducted under All India Coordinated Research Projects on "Long-Term Fertilizer Experiment" and "Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of Organic Waste" at various state agricultural universities. The State-wise list of the centres is given in the Statement.

However, only sporadic information on usefulness on vermiculture have been reported. Efforts are on to strengthen research on this aspect during the current Five Year Plan period.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the State of Bihar the proven technologies related to use of FYM and compost are being disseminated among farming community involving women and weaker section through state agricultural universities namely Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa; Birsā Agricultural University, Ranchi and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Statement

State	Name of the Agricultural University/ICAR Institute	Long Term Fertilizer Experiment	Microbial Decomposition and Recycling of organic waste
1	2	3	4
Andhara Pradesh	APAU, Hyderabad	Yes	
Bihar	BAU, Ranchi	Yes	Yes
Delhi	IARI, New Delhi	Yes	
Gujarat	GAU, Junagarh	Yes	
Himachal Pradesh	HPKVV, Palampur	Yes	Yes
Haryana	HAU, Hissar		Yes
Karnataka	UAS, Bangalore	Yes	Yes
Kerala	KAU, Trichur	Yes	

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	JNKVV, Jabalpur	Yes	Yes
	IGKVV, Raipur	Yes	
Maharashtra	PKV, Akola	Yes	
	MAU, Parbhani	Yes	
	MPAU, Rahuri		Yes
Orissa	OUAT, Bhubaneswar	Yes	
Punjab	PAU, Ludhiana	Yes	
Tamil Nadu	TNAU, Coimbatore	Yes	
Uttar Pradesh	' GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	Yes	
	CSUA&T, Kanpur		Yes
West Bengal	BCKVV, Kalyani		Yes
	CRIJAF, Barrackpore	Yes	

Oustees of Rengali Irrigation Project

2163. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families who have been displaced due to construction of Rengali Irrigation Project, Orissa.

(b) whether all the oustees of this project have been paid compensation and provided with rehabilitation;

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

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of remaining cases?

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

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A scheme for the rehabilitation of 772 affected families due to construction of Rengali Irrigation Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.96 crores has been formulated by the State Government. An amount of about Rs. 12.85 crores has been incurred on rehabilitation till 31.3.1998. Out of the families entitled for allotment of residential plots, 44 plots have been allotted (upto 31.3.1998).

Bus Services between Calcutta and Dhaka

2164. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is having any proposal to introduce direct bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said service is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Official level talks in this regard were held in New Delhi on February 16 and 17, 1997. The details of the proposed service are in the process of being worked out.

Fishermen in Pak Jails

2165. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian origin fishermen captured by Pakistan coastguard and police and jailed during the last three years; and

(b) the number of fishermen who have returned to India through dialogue and other measures?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) 343 Indian fishermen were detained by the concerned Pakistani authorities since March 1996. During the same period, Pakistan has released 439 Indian fishermen. These included Indian fishermen detained by the Pakistani authorities prior to March 1996.

Decontrolled Fertilizers

2166. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift its control on fixing maximum retails prices (MRP) for decontrolled fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent future increase in costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A proposal for not indicating the Maximum Retail Prices of decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic fertilisers for 1999-2000 is under examination. The proposal also includes continuance of the concession (subsidy) to the manufactures/importers to enable sale of these fertilizers to farmers at reasonable price. The increase in costs of production or import is dependent on a number of factors like international prices of inputs and products which may be beyond the control of the Government.

Employment Policy

2167. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alarming unemployment situation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of contribution of Public Undertakings of Union Government and State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase employment generation in organised and unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As per the estimate available from the comprehensive quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the overall employment in the country, during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94, grew at the rate of 2.43% per annum. The unemployment rate during the same period declined from 2.62% to 1.90%.

(b) The following table gives the detail of the employment in the Public Sector by different branches—

Table : Employment in Public Sector (Lakhs)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
1. Central Govt.	33.92	33.95	33.66	32.95
2. State Govt.	73.37	73.55	74.14	74.85
3. Quasi Govt.	65.14	65.20	64.58	65.36
4. Local Bodies	22.02	21.97	21.92	22.44
Total	194.45	194.96	194.29	195.59

Source: Economic Survey, 1998-99.

(c) to (e) The Ninth Plan envisages a reduction in the unemployment rate from an average unemployment rate of 1.87% in the Eighth Plan to an average unemployment rate of 1.66% in the Ninth Plan.

The approach to the Ninth Plan would be to generate productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, subsectors and technologies which are more labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under employment.

Medical Certificates from CGHS

2168. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees are facing acute problems for getting their medical leave sanctioned because it has been made mandatory for them to procure their medical certificates from CGHS dispensaries only;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow its employees to avail medical leave and produce medical certificate from any medical attendant in places where CGHS dispensaries are not available; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) As Gazetted Government servants are already required to produce medical certificates only from Authorised Medical Attendants (including CGHS doctors), the orders requiring production of Medical Certificates from CGHS doctors, which have been issued on the basis of Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendation are applicable only to those non-gazetted government servants who (i) are CGHS beneficiaries, and (ii) are also residing, at the time of illness, in the area covered by CGHS. The non-gazetted employees who do not fulfil these conditions continue to have the option of producing Medical Certificates from Registered Medical Practitioners. Relaxation of the orders is considered on merits in cases where the concerned Government servants are not in a position to produce Medical Certificates from CGHS doctors. However, some representations for withdrawal/ amendment of the said Orders have been received and the issue has also been taken up for discussions by the Staff Side, and the Government has an open mind on the subject, if any hardship is established.

Poverty Line

2169. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date of last survey to determine poverty line;

(b) whether the Government have received representation to review the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that it depicts a true picture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Poverty line are not determined through surveys. The actual cost of obtaining the basket of goods and services which is considered to be the minimum for healthy and active life were determined from the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of 28th round (1973-74). These poverty lines are updated for changes in prices through state-specific consumer price index of agricultural labourers in rural areas and state-specific consumer price index of industrial workers in urban areas.

(b) Yes, Sir, several States have represented for review of their States poverty line.

(c) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have represented for increase in their poverty lines on the ground that the consumer price index for their states reflects the effect of subsidies to foodgrains. Orissa has represented for increase in its poverty line.

(d) The poverty lines are worked out on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, which after considering alternative methods of computing poverty line, recommended use of state specific poverty lines. The state specific poverty line are obtained by desegregating the national level poverty line by state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. These state-specific poverty lines reflect the cost of the consumption basket considered to be the minimum for healthy living, at prices prevailing in the state, and hence depicts a true picture.

Employees of N.S.S.O.

2170. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation regarding extension of benefits granted by the Honourable Supreme Court/CAT in its orders to similarly placed employees (non-petitioners) of NSSO(DPD), Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation have been received;

(b) if so, whether the request of the non-petitioners has been acceded to; and

(c) if not, the reasons for refusal despite the Hon'ble Supreme Court's observation that non-petitioners should be placed on the same footing with petitioners in case of any dispute and as such petitioners should not be placed at a comparative advantage and also similar recommendations from the Fifth Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet.

(c) As per the Policy of the Government, in general, the judgment of the CAT/Court is applicable in respect of applicants only unless and otherwise directed by the CAT/ Court. In the Data Processing Division of National Sample Survey Organisation the benefit of higher scale has been given to the applicants only as there was no specific

directions by the Hon'ble Court to extend the benefits to the non applicants. The Government has also not yet taken any decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission for extension of benefit of judgements given by different Courts to the non petitioners.

Construction of Dam

2171. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dam is being constructed across the river Baitrani (Kanapur Project) in the district of Keonjhar;

(b) if so, the details of progress made in construction of the dam; and

(c) the time by which the dam is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) An expenditure of about Rs. 16.71 crores has been incurred upto March, 1998 against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 318.19 crores on Kanapur Project.

(b) and (c) The Headworks are likely to be completed during IXth Plan and the balance work will spill over to Xth Plan.

[Translation]

Co-operation in Agricultural Sector

2172. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has agreed to assist India in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) to (d) No formal Agreement has been signed between

the two countries for cooperation in the Agricultural sector. However, during the visit of Iraqi Minister for Agriculture to India from 9th to 13th February, 1999 India agreed to provide short-term and long-term training/Master's and Ph.D courses in agriculture to the Iraqi students. Iraq has shown interest in importing some agriculture equipments and goods, soya meal for poultry feeding, first born pregnant cows and bulls, seeds of vegetables and other crops, pesticides, veterinary medicines and vaccines etc. from India.

Use of Indian Languages

2173. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether English is predominantly used in computer education in the country and other Indian languages are given lesser preference which may eventually result in their disappearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of other languages in computer education?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH: (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics have already initiated activities in the area of Technology Development for Indian Languages with the following objectives:

- To develop information processing tools to facilitate human machine interaction, information processing in Indian languages and development of multilingual knowledge systems.
- To promote use of information processing tools for language studies and research.
- To support R&D efforts in the area of information processing in Indian languages covering machine translation, human machine interaction, language learning and natural language processing.

2. These activities have helped to offer solutions in Indian languages which *inter alia*, include Software products for various PC applications such as Word processing, Publishing, Spread Sheet, Spell checking, scripts processing, Machine Aided Translation between English and other Regional Languages etc.

[English]

Control on Nitrogenous Fertilizers

2174. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decontrol nitrogenous fertilisers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production cost and selling price alongwith subsidies given on nitrogenous fertilisers in the country; and

(d) the production cost, selling price and subsidies granted on other varieties of fertilisers at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cost of production of urea varies from unit to unit and from time to time depending on the vintage of the plant, location, feedstock used, etc. The statutory sale price of urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer, is currently fixed at Rs. 4000/- per MT.. The difference between the cost of production including reasonable returns and the statutorily fixed selling price is paid as subsidy. Therefore the rate of subsidy on urea varies from unit to unit. The total amount of subsidy paid on other nitrogenous fertilizers.

(d) The cost of production of other fertilizers also varies from unit to unit. The Government gives a concession (subsidy) to the manufacturers and importers of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers and indicates their Maximum Retail Prices (MRP). The MRPs and the rates of concession currently in operation for various P&K fertilizers are indicated below:

Fertilisers	MRP (Rs. per MT)	Concession (Rs. per MT)
DAP (Indigenous)	8300	4400
DAP (Imported)	8300	3400
MOP	3700	3000
SSP	*	900
Complexes	6200-8000	2477-4071

*Fixed by respective State Governments.

Reserved Quotas for SC/ST

2175. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have expressed great concern over the delay in filling the jobs on reserved quotas for SC/ST; and

(b) if so, the details of the Government departments who have not been able to fill up these quotas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE). (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is generally a gap between occurrence of a vacancy and filling up thereof. Therefore, some vacancies including reserved vacancies are expected to remain unfilled at a particular time in the Ministries/Departments, etc.

Reserved Quota for OBCs/Disabled Persons

2176. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to fill up the stipulated reserve quota for OBC's and disabled persons during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of backlog vacancies available for filling up these reserved posts;

(d) the details of recruitment made and the number of OBC's disabled persons recruited during the last one year; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacancies reserved for OBC's/disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The posts reserved for OBCs and the disabled are expected to be filled up by the Ministries/Departments concerned. Recruitment against reserved posts for the aforesaid categories is a continuous process and there is

generally a gap between occurrence of a vacancy and filling up thereof.

(c) and (d) Information will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Instructions already exist in terms of which the appointing authorities are required to make all out efforts to fill up the reserved posts.

Banned Pesticides and Fertilizers

2177. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of chemical formulations, pesticides and fertilizers banned in European and American countries are being used in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have studied the impact of such chemicals on human health and on nature;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) The use of chemical formulations as pesticides and fertilizers are regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 respectively. Pesticides are toxic by nature. Globally, most of the countries permit/ban the use of pesticides depending on their prevalent agro-climatic and environmental conditions. As per the UN Publication, Fifth Issue, 1994 entitled "Consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, severely restricted, withdrawn or not approve by Governments" a total of 13 pesticides are known to have been banned in Europe and USA which are being used in India (Statement). In India, pesticides are registered compulsorily before their introduction for use in the country by a Committee called the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticide Act after satisfying itself regarding safety of the pesticides to the human beings, animals and the environment. Data on various parameters of toxicology which *inter alia* includes the impact on human health and environment are generated and submitted to the Committee for detailed evaluation. In cases where the benefits of the pesticides out weigh the risk, risk management strategies are prescribed either by way of approving safer formulation, prescribing detailed

guidelines regarding mode of their use, restricting the use on specified crops, restricting the use under Government supervision, restricting the use by pest control operators etc.

Depending on the scientific developments Government keep reviewing the use of pesticides by appointing Expert Committees and ban/restrict/continue use as per the recommendation of the Expert Committee and/or Registration Committee.

Unlike pesticides, fertilizers are not hazardous. With regard to banning of any fertilizers, no such

consolidated report has been brought out by UN as has been done in case of pesticides. However, the use of fertilizers in India is about 87 kg./nutrients per hectare (1997-98). This level of consumption is considered quite low and is not expected to be harmful when used as per recommended doses. The consumption in other countries such as Korea (375 kg/ha.), China (370 kg/ha.) Netherlands (542 kg/ha.), United Kingdom (379 kg/ha.) France (252 kg/ha.), Egypt (345 kg/ha.) and even in our neighbouring countries like Pakistan (113 kg/ha.) and Bangladesh (135 kg/ha.) is higher than India.

Statement

(Ref.: Consolidated list of products whose consumption and/or sale have been banned, severely restricted, withdrawn or not approved by Governments, Un Publication, Fifth issue, 1994)

S.No.	Pesticide	Banned	Use Status in India
1	2	3	4
1.	Alachlor	Netherland	No restriction. Mainly used for control of weeds in Soyabean.
2.	Captafol	German Democratic Republic, Hungary Netherland, Norway	As seed dresser.
3.	Captan	Finland	No restriction.
4.	Carbaryl	German Federal Republic	1. Use allowed with beta-Carbaryl less than 0.05%. 2. Spray at flowering stage not permitted.
5.	Chorbanzilate	German Democratic Republic	Banned for use in agriculture. It can be imported by Government/Semi-Government organisations for preparing strips for making available to bee keepers for controlling site of honey bees.
6.	DDT	European community Bulgaria, Finland	Use of DDT in agriculture is banned. Use in public health allowed maximum up to the tune of 10,000 MT per annum.

1	2	3	4
7.	Dieldrin	European Community Bulgaria, Denmark Hungary, Netherland Yugoslavia	Banned for use in agriculture. Only allowed to be used for locust control in Scheduled Desert Area by PPA.
8.	Ethylene dibromide	European Community Cyprus, German Democratic Republic	Only permitted for use by Government and Government Undertakings and pest control operators whose expertise is approved by PPA as fumigants for foodgrains.
9.	Lindane	Cyprus, Hungary Finland	Use as smoke generator is prohibited.
10.	Maleic Hydrazide	USA	Insignificant use.
11.	Oxyfluorfen	German Democratic Republic	Use allowed only without PCE contamination.
12.	Paraquat dichloride	Finland, Norway Sweden	No restriction
13.	Sodium cyanide	Cyprus, German Democratic Republic	Only to be used for fumigation of cotton bales by PPA.

Development of Information Technology

2178. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop information technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects implemented by Department of Electronics in the country for infrastructure development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI

JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development to, *inter-alia*, draft a National Informatics Policy and to suggest measures and policies to enable India to emerge as an information technology superpower within the next ten years. The Task Force has submitted two reports on Information Technology Action Plan. In the first report, the Task Force has made 108 recommendations aiming to accomplish (i) Infrastructure Drive (ii) Target of IT Exports of \$50 billion and (iii) IT for all by 2008. The recommendations of the second report mainly relate to Soft-Bonded IT Unit, Fiscal and Financial Policies, Procedural Simplifications, Export, Investment and RBI related issues, Banking Issues, Company Law Issues, Labour Laws, Information Technology Units in DTA, Information Technology Product Design and Development etc.

(c) Software Technology Parks and Education and Research Network are the two major infrastructure IT Sector set up by Department of Electronics. Other initiatives include: Developing indigenous capability in Supercomputer; R&D in Software Technology; Localisation of Software; Programme related to Govt. Computerisation and Electronic Governance; National Information Infrastructure (NII) Test Beds; Develop a Framework for Cyberlaws; Work towards providing better Datacom Infrastructure; Framework & Policy for Proliferation of Internet use; Focus for software export through Software Technology Parks of India; Manpower Development including Department of Electronics — Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) Scheme; Programme related to Software Quality Assurance & Certification; Multimedia Promotion Programme; Setting-up JAVA Competency Centre of India etc.

Per-Capita Income

2179. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made by the Government to increase the per-capita income after 1970 and to what it has increased;

(b) whether there has been increase in the population of India after 1970 and if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether there has been any cut in infant mortality after 1970 if so, to what extent, state the life expectancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Since, 1970, five Five Year Plans, from the fourth Five Year Plan to eighth Five Year Plan have been implemented. The ninth Five Year Plan is now in operation. Increase in per capita income has been one of the main objectives in all these Plans. The strategy to raise the rate of growth of income, alongwith the overall development strategy, has evolved over successive plan periods reflecting the growing strength of the economy, structural transformation in the domestic economy and also development in the world economy. The policy orientation in the 1980s was towards relaxing Government controls in the areas where it was over-active. In the 1990s, a wide ranging programme of economic reforms aimed at decontrolling and liberalising the economy was initiated. As a result of these efforts, the per capita included in the country, measured by per capita Net National Product at factor cost, increased from Rs. 1520

in 1970-71 to Rs. 2847 in 1997-98, both at 1980-81 prices, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 2.35 per cent.

(b) As per census estimates, the population of India increased from 548.2 million in 1971 to 846.3 million in 1991. As per the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission, Indian population in 1999 is projected at 981.3 million.

(c) As per the estimates of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, the infant mortality rate per thousand decline from 129 in 1971 to 71 in 1997. The life expectancy at birth has increased from 45.6 years in 1971 to 62.4 years in 1996.

Vacancies in Embassies

2180. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the fact many of our Embassies and Consulates are under staffed due to which the services provided by the Embassies are neither timely nor adequate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) The staffing of our Missions and Posts abroad is done in a rational manner on the basis of our functional requirements in each country, in the overall framework of India's foreign policy. These requirements, and the staffing pattern of our Missions/Posts abroad are constantly reviewed and changes are made as required and feasible keeping in mind Government's financial and other constraints. The functioning of our missions and Posts abroad is closely and regularly monitored through periodical inspections, visits of audit teams, Government orders, administrative circulars etc. Against this background, in the normal course, the question of services being not timely or adequate does not arise. Complaints and suggestions in this regard are however promptly attended to and corrective action taken as necessary.

INSAT-2E

2181. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the INSAT-2E is likely to be launched; and

(b) the main objectives of this launch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) INSAT-2E spacecraft is likely to be launched between April 2-9, 1999 from Kourou, Frenchh Guyana.

(b) INSAT-2E spacecraft will augment the Normal-C band capacity in the INSAT system. INSAT-2E also carries a 3-channel Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) and a 3-channel CCD camera for Meteorological imaging of the Earth. The coverage of that INSAT-2E spacecraft is wider than its predecessors.

Oustees of Irrigation Project

2182. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL:
SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of families which have been displaced in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa due to construction of dams and irrigation projects;

(b) the number out of them rehabilitated and the details of the compensation paid to them by the Government so far, and

(c) the efforts being taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of remaining displaced persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) to (c) Rehabilitation and Resettlement of families affected due to construction of dams and irrigation projects is done by the State Governments. These details are not maintained in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Appointment of Ambassadors

2183. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where Ambassadors/High Commissioners have not been appointed by the Government of India;

(b) the criteria adopted for appointing the Ambassadors/High Commissioners in the foreign countries; and

(c) the number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners who are career diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government of India have appointed resident Ambassadors/High Commissioners in 110 countries. Among these, our Ambassadors/High Commissioners in 41 countries are concurrently accredited to 78 other countries/regions.

(b) Ambassadors/High Commissions are appointed to their posts on the basis of considerations relating to, *inter alia*, seniority, career background, relevant experience and suitability for the particular post.

(c) Of the total number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners serving at present, 103 are career diplomats.

Private Irrigation Scheme

2184. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether on basis of the recommendation of Sen Committee, the State Government of Bihar has sent any scheme for the drought-prone and naxalite affected areas of the State under the private irrigation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Fisheries and Horticulture

2185. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for approval from the State of Maharashtra for the development of fisheries and horticulture in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to impart training to the farmers in rural areas for promotion of fisheries and other schemes on agriculture to accelerate the pace of general economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the schemes for development of Freshwater Aquaculture and Brackishwater Aquaculture fish farmers are given training in modern aquaculture practices. Under a separate scheme for training and extension, training is imparted for fish farmers and fishermen and training material in simple language is distributed for their use.

Schemes for integrated development of fruits, development of mushroom, bee keeping etc. also have a component for training under them. These measures help to promote use of modern technology resulting in increased food production.

ICAR

2186. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to revitalise ICAR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The working of ICAR was reviewed by a high power committee headed by Dr. G.V.K. Rao, Former Member, Planning Commission. The terms of reference of the committee were:

1. To review the existing role and organizational structure of the ICAR and its Institutes and the State Agricultural Universities and to suggest appropriate modifications with a view to meeting the new challenges of agricultural production and raising productivity economically.
2. To review the institutional arrangements and to suggest improvements for augmenting national research facilities, revitalizing education and reorientation extension education mechanism.

3. To review the relative proportions of three kinds of research, viz. basic/fundamental, applied and operational/outreach.
4. To review the present linkages between agricultural research and extension and suggest arrangements for effective and expeditious application of new technologies for optimum utilization of resources.
5. To review the role of the ICAR in agricultural education through its own Institutes and the State Agricultural Universities with special emphasis on raising the standards of education and training.
6. To review the personnel policies with a view to attracting talent and building up the requisite technical expertise, especially in highly specialized but critical disciplines.
7. To review the linkages of the ICAR with various client departments and other organizations to facilitate inter-institutional functioning in a complementary fashion with reference to national priorities.
8. To consider institutionalizing the participation of the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation in developing the research programmes.

(b) The Committee submitted its report to the Council in March, 1988 and made several recommendations regarding organisational Structure of ICAR, ICAR Institutes and their role and relationship with ICAR Headquarter, personnel policies, linkages of ICAR with SAUs, Transfer of Technology programmes, Research Planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and identifying thrust areas.

(c) The Committee had made 83 recommendations and many have been already implemented and the rest are at various stage of implementation. On the basis of these recommendations, ICAR has taken steps to revitalize ICAR which include modernization and automation of office, building up and maintaining infrastructural facilities, administrative, financial and personnel reforms, institution of awards and incentive systems; guidelines on resource generation; review of all India Coordinated Research Projects, strengthening linkages with related Ministries/Departments; Review of QRT Guidelines; decentralisation, enforcing accountability, human resource development, strengthening of information technology etc.

Vigilance Department of Kendriya Bhandar

2187. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3869 on December, 23, 1998 regarding vigilance department of Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the investigations and enquiries in all the 11 cases have since been completed, if so, the action taken by the Government in each case;

(b) the number of new cases which have come to light involving irregularities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Kendriya Bhandar are competent to deal with such cases and have informed that investigation and enquiries have been completed in 4 cases and penalty imposed in two cases. In the remaining cases, the allegations were found to be not substantiated and the cases were closed.

(b) No new case has been reported.

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects

2188. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects and programmes being executed in the country with foreign funds, State-wise;

(b) the details of the countries/agencies which are financing these projects/programmes, country-wise and agency-wise;

(c) the stage at which these projects stand at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their expeditious completion and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The details of projects being implemented with assistance from the World Bank, EEC, Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan, KfW-Germany, Canadian International Development Agency and countries like the Netherlands, in irrigation sector is given as under:—

Sl. No.	Agency/ Country	Projects	Category of irrigation project	State	Assistance Amount (in million)	Cumulative Utilisation Upto 31.1.99 (in million)	Scheduled date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	World Bank	1. Adhra Pradesh Third Irrigation Project	Major	Andhra Pradesh	US\$ 325.00	US\$ 63.154	31.01.2002
		2. Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Haryana	US\$ 258.00	US\$ 103.525	31.12.2002
		3. Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Orissa	US\$ 290.900	US\$ 95.973	30.09.2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		4. Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	Major	Tamil Nadu	US\$ 282.90	US\$ 22.047	31.03.2002
		5. Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project	Safety of dams	Multi-State	US\$ 102.973	US\$ 58.199	30.09.1999
		6. Hydrology Project	Develop Comprehensive data bases covering all Aspects Hydrological Cycle	Multi-State	US\$ 142.00	US\$ 22.172	31.03.2002
II.	OECD, Japan	1. Modernisation of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal	Major	Andhra Pradesh	Yen 16049.00	Yen 95.09	26.03.2003
		2. Rajghat Canal Project	Major	Madhya Pradesh	Yen 13222.00	Yen 438.7	25.02.2002
		3. Rengali Irrigation Project	Major	Orissa	Yen 7760.0	Yen 649.7	05.02.2003
III.	KfW Germany	1. Lift Irrigation Project	Medium	Orissa	DM 55.00	DM 31.14	31.12.2000
IV.	Netherlands	1. Community Irrigation Project	Minor	Kerala	NLG 11.02	NLG 1.49	30.06.2000
		2. APWELL	Minor	Andhra Pradesh	NLG 37.00	NLG 1.06	14.11.1999
		3. Bundelkhand Water Resources Management Project	Minor	Uttar Pradesh	NLG 13.39	NLG 1.35	31.05.1999
V.	Canada	1. Rajathan Agricultural & Drainage Research Project	Research	Rajasthan	C.\$ 62.07	C.\$ 9.38	31.12.1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
VI.	EEC	1. Tank Irrigation System Phase-II	Minor	Tamil Nadu	ECU 24.5	ECU 19.7	31.12.1999
		2. Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Proj	Medium	Rajasthan	ECU 45.00	ECU 32.7	31.12.2000
		3. Kerala Minor Irrigation Project	Minor	Kerala	ECU 11.8	ECU 2.770	31.12.2000
		4. Saline Land Reclamation Project Phase-II	Minor	Maharashtra	ECU 14.3	—	31.12.2000
		5. Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	Medium	Orissa	ECU 10.70	ECU 0.465	31.12.2004
		6. Tank Rehabilitation Project	Minor	Pondicherry	ECU 6.650	—	28.02.2003

(d) Project are monitored regularly by the implementing agencies/States Govts. and by the Central Agencies like Central Water Commission, Ministry of Water Resources and Deptt. of Economic Affairs to remove the bottle necks and expedite completion as scheduled.

Development of Agricultural Land

2189. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be developed in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of agricultural land in Assam; and

(c) the total areas of agricultural land developed in Assam with Union Government assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Of the total cultivable land of 29.24 lakh ha. in the state of Assam, about 5.72 lakh ha. of land is irrigated. The remaining area of 23.52 lakh ha. is Rainfed. Various soil and water conservation measures are adopted to improve such land thereby increasing its productivity. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various schemes namely (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, (ii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in NE Region, and (iii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas for the development of agricultural land in Assam. In area of 1.11 lakh hectares has been treated so far under these schemes at a total financial assistance of Rs. 33.34 crores.

[Translation]

Subarnarekha Irrigation Project

2190. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Subarnarekha multi-purpose irrigation project is not progressing satisfactorily according to the plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any corruption and negligence of work has been noticed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) The progress on the Subarnarekha Multi-purpose project in Bihar State is slow due to low budget locations for works by the State Government, pending rehabilitation and resettlement works, and pending compliance by the State Government to observations/conditions of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) No such case is reported to Union Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Task Force on Employment

2191. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently decided to float a special task force on creation of employment opportunities in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed special task force;

(c) the details of terms and reference of the special task force; and

(d) the time by which the task force is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Government has already set up a "Task Force on Employment Opportunities" with Economists, Statisticians, Administrators and representatives of Industries as members.

(c) The terms of reference of the Task Force are (i) to examine the existing employment and unemployment situation in the country, (ii) to suggest strategies of

employment generation for achieving the target of providing employment opportunities to 10 crore people over the next ten years. This implies strategies for providing employment opportunities to one crore people per year on an average, and (iii) to consider any other matter related with or incidental to the above Terms of Reference.

(d) As per the notification of the "Task Force", the report is to be submitted by 31st July, 1999.

Branches of Kendriya Bhandar

2192. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Bhandar stores functioning at present in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more stores of Kendriya Bhandar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) 111, as follows:—

1	2
Delhi	— 73 (including 4 mobile vans)
Maharashtra	— 1
Tamil Nadu	— 11
Pondicherry	— 1
Andhra Pradesh	— 4
Karnataka	— 2
Kerala	— 2
Haryana	— 3

1		2
Punjab	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	8
Madhya Pradesh	—	1
Goa	—	1
Chandigarh	—	2
Daman	—	1

(b) and (c) Stores of Kendriya Bhandar are opened in colonies having a concentration of Central Government Employees wherever suitable accommodation is allotted to Kendriya Bhandar on a nominal rent of Rs. 1/- p.m. and opening of the store is considered viable. 10 new Stores are planned to be open in 1999-2000 as follows:

Delhi	—	7
Kerala	—	1
Rajasthan (Jaipur)	—	1
Gujarat (Ahmedabad)	—	1

Production of Vegetables

2193. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme for production of vegetables have been undertaken by the National Horticulture Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of the Hybrid vegetable research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) National Horticulture Board (NHB) do not undertake direct production programme for vegetables. However, financial assistance is provided by NHB under the following Schemes being implemented by it:

- (i) Under the Scheme 'Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan', integrated projects of various sectors i.e., floriculture, mushroom, fruits & vegetables marketing, processing and tissue culture etc., are considered. The quantum of soft loan provided under this scheme is 40% of total term loan restricted to Rs. 100.00 lakhs @4% service charges. The amount is provided to cooperative societies, public limited companies, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), registered farmers associations and corporate sector.
- (ii) Under the Scheme titled; 'Introduction of New Technologies and Concepts in Horticulture', financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid upto Rs. 20.00 lakhs to different implementing agencies for transfer of proven technologies on commercial basis through pilot testing and demonstration of technologies including production & post harvest management of vegetable crops.

(c) Hybrid vegetable research is carried out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its research institutes and the State Agricultural Universities which has resulted in release of 31 F1 hybrids of vegetable crops so far. Hybrid technology has been most successful in tomato and cabbage. Details of vegetable hybrids released/identified are given in Statement.

Statement

Vegetable hybrids released/identified through All India Coordinated Vegetable Improvement Project

Crop	F1 Hybrids
1	2
Tomato (determinate)	Pusa Hybrid-2, Pusa Hybrid-4, ARTH-3, NA-501
Tomato (indeterminate)	Arka Vardaa, KT-4, ARTH-4, MTII-6, NA-601, FMH-1, BSS-22
Brinjal(round)	Arka Navneet, Pusa Hybrid-6, NDBH-1

1	2
Brinjal (long)	Pusa Hybrid-5, NDBH-6, ARBH-201
Brinjal (semiround)	ABH-1, ABH-2, MHB-39, MHB-10
Cabbage	Sri Ganesh Gol, BSS-32
Cauliflower	Pusa Hybrid-2
Muskmelon	Pb hybrid-1
Watermelon	Arka Jyoti
Cucumber	Pusa Sanyog
Pumpkin	Pusa Hybrid-1
Capsicum	Pusa Deepti

ELITEX-99

2194. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhibition-cum-seminar was held recently in New Delhi entitled Electronic and Information Technology Exposition (ELITEX)-99.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in promoting interaction among Research and Development Institutions and to identify key thrust areas?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics has organised ELITEX-99 (Electronics and Information Technology Exposition) during February 2 & 3, 1999 in New Delhi on technologies developed through the Department supported projects with the aim to stimulate technology development as well as its absorption and to strengthen efforts towards global competitiveness in Electronics. The Seminar covered subjects on Information Technology, Strategic Electronics,

Communications, Micro-Electronics & Photonics, Technology Development Programmes of the Department, Material and Components. The industry has expressed its satisfaction and shown keen interest to take the know-how for some of the products developed by R&D institutions. New Software products viz. Multimail, Leap office Ver 2.0, communication co-processor chip and CD on Bilingual Hindi Dictionary have also been released during the exhibition. The exhibition has shown tremendous potential and created impact in terms of awareness and availability of indigenous technologies products. Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were signed in respect of the following three technologies:—

- Micro Remote Technical Unit developed by Electronics Research and Development Centre (ER&DCI), Trivandrum to M/s Micromax Systems Pvt. Ltd.
- Versatile Colour Sensor by ER&DCI, Trivandrum to M/s. ECIL, Hyderabad.
- Integrated Receiver Decoder System by CEERI, Pilani to M/s. Nanak Antenna, New Delhi.

Threat from Pakistan

2195. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government perceives any threat from the ongoing military co-operation between Pakistan and France;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such eventualities;

(c) whether any negotiations have taken place with France in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government closely monitors all developments which have a bearing on our national security, and will continue to take all steps necessary to effectively safeguard our security interests.

(c) and (d) India has an ongoing, wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue with France covering, *inter-alia*, bilateral co-operation, regional developments as well as security and nuclear disarmament. In this framework, several rounds of discussions have been held between the two countries. These have provided an opportunity for sharing assessments on various issues including those relating to security, and to convey our concerns.

Deportation of Indian Nationals

2196. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals deported from foreign countries during the period from September, 1995 till date, and

(b) the amount of financial assistance given by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) A total of 2,36,085 Indian nationals were deported to India from various countries from September 1995 to February 1999.

(b) A sum of Rs. 74,90,075 was spent by Government on the deportation of these Indian nationals.

Economic Relations with East African Nations

2197. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is seeking and promoting a new era of economic partnership with the East African Nations;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also considering induction and upgradation of intermediate technology;

(c) whether this will help the companies to secure a larger niche in the Kenyan markets;

(d) if so, the projects on which co-operation with Kenya is being sought;

(e) whether the African countries need large aid and assistance in developing their industry; and

(f) if so, to what extent India has agreed to help and assist the African nations in promoting industry?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. India proposes to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic cooperation with East African Community comprising Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. As the East African Community is likely to come into being only by July, 1999, it is proposed to sign the MOU after its establishment.

(b) The MOU with East African Community will include, *inter alia*, cooperation for promotion of Small and Medium Scale Industries, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Communications, Agriculture, Water Resources Management and Human Resource Development, which will entail induction and upgradation of intermediate technology in East Africa. The proposed MOU also envisages, and emphasises, enterprise development through private sector involvement, investment and technology flows from India to countries of East Africa, as also introduction of value added services.

(c) and (d) With a view to sensitizing the Kenyan markets about intermediate technology available with Indian companies, a "Made in India" Exhibition in August, 1996 and Indiatech '98 were organised in Nairobi, in cooperation with Kenyan authorities. These exhibitions had a special focus on engineering products, industrial technology, telecommunications, tourism, non-conventional energy, chemicals and mini-hydro-electric power projects. Also in December 1997, the Exim Bank has extended lines of credit for US\$ 5 million to Industrial Development Bank of Kenya. Another line of credit has been extended in September 1998, to Eastern & Southern African Trade & Development Bank for US\$ 4.5 million. These two steps are expected to enable Indian companies to secure a larger niche in the Kenyan markets. India proposes to cooperate with Kenya in bidding for project funded by African Development Bank, from time to time.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) India has agreed to help and assist various African nations for promoting industry, both bilaterally, through the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation programme and multilaterally, through programmes/projects under the auspices of G-15, and Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-II). Indian cooperation and assistance for promotion of Industry is also extended through Regional Organizations in Africa, like Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Cooperation (EAC). 56 ITEC-assisted projects have been implemented/are being implemented in various countries of Africa. These include projects in field of Small Scale Industry, establishment of Vocational Training Centres, establishment of Entrepreneur and Technology Development Centres, preparation of feasibility studies for establishment of industry, establishment of Industrial Estates, supply of capital machinery etc. India has also agreed to provide upto 600 training slots annually to 50 countries in Africa, under ITEC programme, for development of Human Resources, including in a wide variety of fields related to promotion of Industry, like Tool Designing, Telecommunications, Technology Research, Electronics, Entrepreneurship Development, Banking, Finance and Management etc.

Alkali Soil

2198. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Centrally sponsored schemes for reclamation of alkali soils in the country;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to the States by the Government for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soils is under implementation in the States of Haryana, Punjab and U.P. since 7th Five Year Plan (1985-86). The Scheme was extended to the States of Gujarat, M.P. and Rajasthan apart from the ongoing States. The scheme provides for adoption of package of technology for alkali soil reclamation by application of soil amendment, provision of assured irrigation for leaching, application of green manure, cultivation of salt tolerant wheat and rice variety, plantation of salt tolerant species of fruits, fuel-wood and fodder trees.

(c) The details of funds released to the States during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Funds released
1995-96	999.99
1996-97	261.64
1997-98	338.00

Software Industry

2199. SHRI S. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is a second largest importer of Indian Software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Japanese firms are looking for joint venture in the software industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of proposals for joint ventures received by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NAFED

2200. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed any irregularities/corruption in the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the finding of the enquiry and the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) Some irregularities were alleged in the affairs of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) in respect of expenses on entertainment, donations, advertisements, General Body/Board meetings, foreign tours and appointment of consultants etc. The allegations were got enquired into.

(d) Based on the enquiry conducted by the Department and some other complaints received in the matter, the case was referred to C.B.I. for further investigation. The C.B.I. has registered a First Information Report against certain officials of NAFED in connection with alleged irregularities. NAFED has also been directed to devise transparent and prudential norms/guidelines on expenses on entertainment, donations, advertisement, gifts, expenditure on General Body/Board meetings and appointment of consultants etc.

Exports of Onion

2201. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses incurred by the farmers due to an inordinate delay in Government's decision to allow them to export onions;

(b) whether the Government propose to compensate the farmers for such losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the compensation is likely to be given; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (d) There was no delay in Government decision to allow export of onion as ban was partially lifted on February 1, 1999 and export of Bangalore Rose onion and Krishnapuram onion was partially allowed. Permission was also granted to export 3,000 tonnes of onion to Sri Lanka on Government to Government basis. Permission to export 25,000 metric tonnes of onion per month for next 3 months through canalising agencies was also notified on 12th February, 1999. As such, there is no proposal to grant compensation to the onion farmers.

[Translation]

Estimation of National Income and Growth Rate

2202. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government under a new method have chosen 1993-94 as a base year for estimation of national income and growth rate;

(b) whether the annual growth rate works out more by adopting new method taking 1993-94 as a base year than the earlier one;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the reasons for choosing 1993-94 as a base year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not so always.

(c) The annual growth rates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices in the new series (1993-94 base) and old series (1980-81 base) are as under:

Year	Growth rate in GDP	
	New Series	Old Series
1994-95	7.8	7.8
1995-96	7.6	7.2
1996-97	7.8	7.5
1997-98	5.0	5.1

(d) 1993-94 has been chosen as the base year as it is the latest year for which information on work-force is available through the Employment and Unemployment Survey, 1993-94 conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

[English]

New World Economic Order

2203. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister on UN Human Rights Day had called for evolving a new world economic order to obliterate the divide between the North and South abundance of wealth and heart wrenching poverty and lack of health care;

(b) if so, the steps taken to carry the message through the UN or other world forum; and

(c) the response of the different economic powers of the world thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI

JASWANT SINGH): (a) On 10th December, 1998, UN Human Rights Day, the Prime Minister, in a speech marking the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, noted that the world today is divided in sharp contours between the rich and the poor, the North and the South, between over-abundance of wealth and heart-wrenching poverty, and called for these distinctions to be obliterated and for the evolution and adoption of a new international economic order.)

(b) and (c) India is actively engaged in bilateral discussions in the UN and other forums on ways of addressing global economic inequalities and of enhancing international cooperation and equity in international structures for trade, finance and investment. India is a Co-Chairman of a Working Group established by the UN General Assembly to work out the modalities and agenda for a high level meeting on finance for development.

Agriculture Scenario

2204. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's agriculture scenario is looking very bleak;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Seed Production

2205. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several public sector units are engaged in seed production in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the units engaged in seed production during 1998-99;

(c) the quantity of seeds of wheat, rice, pulses and edible oils produced by them during 1996-97, 1997-98;

(d) whether the Government have made additional capital investment in these units during these years;

(e) if so, the amount of additional capital investment during these years separately; and

(f) the total losses suffered by these units during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the units engaged in seed production during 1998-99:

1. Andhra Pradesh State Seeds Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad, A.P. (APSSDC).

2. Assam State Seeds Corporation Ltd., Dispur, Guwahati, Assam (ASSC).

3. Bihar Rajya Beej Nigam Ltd., Patna, Bihar (BRBN).

4. Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Ltd., Gandhinagar, Gujarat (GSSC).

5. Haryana State Seed Development Corporation Ltd. Panchkula, Haryana (HSDC).

6. Karnataka State Seeds Corporation Ltd., Hebbal, Karnataka (KSSC).

7. Madhya Pradesh State Seeds and Farm Development Corporation Ltd. (MPSSFDC), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

8. Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Akola, Maharashtra (MSSC).

9. Orissa State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Bhubaneswar, Orissa (OSSC).

10. Punjab State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Chandigarh (PSSC).

11. Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Jaipur, Rajasthan (RSSC).

12. U.P. Seeds & Tarai Development Corporation Ltd. Pantnagar, Haldwari, Udham Singh Nagar (UPS&TDC).

13. West Bengal State Seeds Corporation Ltd.
Calcutta, West Bengal (WBSSC).

14. National Seeds Corporation Ltd., New Delhi
(NSC).

15. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi
(SFCI).

(c) The quantity of seeds of wheat, rice, pulses and edible oils produced by APSSDC, GSSC, HSDC, NSC & SFCI during 1996-97 & 1997-98 is as under:

(Qty. in lakh Qtls.)

S.No.	Crop Group	Quantity of Seed Produced	
		1996-97	1997-98
1.	Wheat	4.52	3.89
2.	Rice	6.12	5.74
3.	Pulses	0.69	0.73
4.	Edible Oil Seeds	0.82	0.94

Information from remaining units is being collected.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 1806.64 lakh and Rs. 100.00 lakh has been released to these units during 1996-97 & 1997-98 respectively.

(f) Information is being collected from these units.

Implementation of Pay Package of Scientists

2206. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission pay package has not been implemented in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum for the implementation of the pay package in ICAR; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) and (b) The pay scales of ICAR Scientists have already been revised vide Council's letter No. 1(15)/98-Per.IV dated 27th February, 1999, keeping in view the revised pay scales notified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the teachers of Universities and Colleges.

(c) and (d) A particular unit of the Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum made representations for early implementation of UGC pay package for ICAR Scientists. Pay-scales of ICAR Scientists have already been revised vide Council's letter No. 1(15)/98-Per.IV dated 27th February, 1999.

[Translation]

Bhagirath Magazine

2207. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms laid down by the Government for selecting and publishing the articles of the writers of various fields in the Bhagirath magazine;

(b) whether norms for publishing the articles in the magazine are being violated by the editors;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures being taken by the authorities to ensure strict compliance of the norms; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) No specific norms are laid down for selecting and publishing the articles in the Bhagirath Magazine. Considering the objectives of publication of the magazine, efforts are made to select and publish articles relating to plans, progress, achievements and activities in various aspects of water resources development in the country, which are informative and easily comprehensible. The articles are published after vetting by the members of the Editorial Boards, set up separately for Hindi and English versions of the magazine. The main considerations in the selection of the articles are that these should be original, normally be exclusive to the journals, concise and contain fresh material or present a new approach to

available information and existing problems relating to water resources development.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Visa Norms

2208. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to liberalise the visa regime for Pakistani nationals visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have requested Pakistan to liberalise its visa procedure on reciprocal basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith response received from Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) During Prime Minister's recent visit to Pakistan on 20-21 February 1999, and following his meetings with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, it was decided that India and Pakistan would hold consultations with a view to further liberalising the visa and travel regimes.

In keeping with Government's policy of promoting people-to-people contact, India had unilaterally eased its visa regime in 1997 for Pakistani nationals. Some salient features of these unilateral concessions are: (i) An increase in the maximum number of cities to which Pakistani nationals can travel during a visit to India from eight to twelve; (ii) Grant of one-year multiple-entry visas to eligible Pakistani businessmen whenever necessary, with a provision for different checkpoints for entry into and exit from India; (iii) The international airport at Chennai has been designated as an additional checkpoint for the arrival and departure of Pakistani nationals in addition to Delhi and Mumbai airports and the Attari railhead; (iv) Grant of exemption from police reporting (EPR) visas as far as possible to, *inter alia*, artistes, journalists, students, businessmen, senior citizens and children; (v) Visa fees for, *inter alia*, senior citizens, artistes, students and journalists have been waived; and (vi) Provision to grant visas to eligible reputed Pakistani artistes.

During the first round of the composite dialogue process, India informed Pakistan of these unilateral

measures and urged Pakistan to consider taking similar measures. The Pakistan side informed that they were issuing more visas than in the past to Indian nationals.

Visa to Pakistani Nationals

2209. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani Nationals who applied for visa to meet their relatives in India during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of them allowed to visit India;

(c) the number of persons from Pakistan occupied Kashmir granted visa during each of the last three years;

(d) whether any criteria has been fixed by the Ministry to allow Pakistani Nationals to visit India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The figures are as follows:

	1996	1997	1998
Number of Pakistani nationals who applied for visas to visit relatives in India.	46936	78593	75323
Number of them allowed to visit India	40583	72140	71918
Number of persons from POK granted visa	05	15	35

(d) and (e) Government place great emphasis on encouraging and promoting people to people contact between India and Pakistan. In pursuit of this policy, Government have, in 1997, unilaterally taken measures to ease the visa regime for Pakistani nationals visiting India. In addition grant of visas to Pakistani nationals is governed by the India-Pakistan Visa agreement of 1974 which was revised in 1990.

Y-2K Problem

2210. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to solve Y-2K problem in Computer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has constituted a High Level Empowered Action Force on managing the Impact of Year 2000 problem in India under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission. The composition and Terms of Reference of the Action Force are given in the Statement.

2. Government Departments are already seized of the issue and have set up internal task forces/initiated action to co-ordinate the exercise for Y-2K compliance. Their progress is being reviewed by the Task Force at the highest levels in the Government.

3. The Department of Electronics has issued: 'Year 2000 Survival: A Practitioner's Guide' to all concerned and jointly with the software industry has also brought out a directory of Indian Y-2K solution providers and complaint companies. A website Y2K.GOV.IN has been created which carries all relevant information. It has hyperlinks to Y2K site of important countries.

Statement

Subject: Constitution of High Level Empowered Action Force on Managing the Impact of Year 2000 Problem in India

Following is the composition:

1. Member (A), Planning Commission	Chairman
2. Special Secretary, Planning Commission & Director General, NIC	Member-Convener
3. Secretary (Expenditure)	Member
4. Secretary, Department of Electronics	Member
5. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications	Member
6. Secretary, Defence	Member
7. Chairman, State Bank of India	Member

8. Chairman, Railway Board	Member
9. President, CII	Member
10. President FICCI	Member
11. President MAIT	Member
12. Executive Director, NASSCOM	Member

The Terms of Reference of the Action Force are as follows:

- (i) To identify critical sectors in the country which are required to be monitored for handling the Year 2000 Problem in the country.
- (ii) To get Sector-specific action plan prepared by the respective organizations/agencies for remedial work related to the Year 2000 Problem.
- (iii) Periodically monitor the implementation of the Action Plans.
- (iv) To make plans for awareness building among the affected categories of organizations, the Parliament, the Press and the Public.
- (v) To take necessary steps for the establishment of a corpus fund of Rs. 700 crores to address the Year 2000 Problem in India.
- (vi) To evolve a mechanism for providing financial support, out of the corpus fund, to various Government organizations/PSUs/Companies and other affected organizations/activities in handling the impact of Year 2000 problem on the computer based activities and services offered by them.
- (vii) To keep contingent action plans for various sectors in readiness to meet possible post 1999 outbreak situations.

Below Poverty Line

2211. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any comprehensive scheme for the development of those States where 40% of the people have been living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Gujarat has been brought under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The development of a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government via various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. There are a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in both rural and urban areas for poverty alleviation and employment generation. These schemes include Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). Furthermore, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being implemented to provide employment to the educated, unemployed youth. There are area development programmes like Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development of drought-prone areas, desert areas, and tribal areas. All these programmes are also being implemented in the State of Gujarat.

Relations with Neighbouring Countries

2212. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to improve the relations with the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh; and

(b) the details of the above countries who have taken positive steps for cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A Statement is given below.

Statement

Government of India has taken a number of steps during the past year to further develop and improve relations with Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The details are as under:

Pakistan: Government's policy is to work with Pakistan to build a relationship of peace, friendship and co-operation. During 1998 we took the initiative to activate a composite dialogue process with Pakistan, aimed at building trust and confidence, promoting mutually beneficial

cooperation and addressing outstanding issues. The first round of the renewed composite dialogue process took place in October-November, 1998. This has enabled the two sides to identify confidence building measures and possibilities of cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit as well as to discuss outstanding issues on a direct bilateral basis. There has been progress on some specific aspects of bilateral cooperation. The possibility of purchase of power from Pakistan has been discussed. Two rounds of technical level talks on this subject have been held and the next round is scheduled to take place in March, 1999 in Islamabad. A number of humanitarian issues regarding fishermen and civilian prisoners have been successfully addressed. Proposals and ideas in other areas have also been exchanged. Of particular note was the visit to Pakistan by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore Bus Service (February 20-21). The visit provided an opportunity for India to reaffirm its policy towards Pakistan, and for discussions between the two Prime Ministers on the development of bilateral relations. It was also agreed that there would be regular meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers to discuss matters of mutual interest. Dates for the next round of the official level composite dialogue and for a meeting between the Foreign Ministers are being worked out through bilateral consultations.

Our traditionally close and friendly relations with Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka also developed further during the year.

Nepal: A number of high level contacts took place with Nepal during the year. These include, in particular, the visit by the President of India to Nepal in May, 1998 and a visit by the King and Queen of Nepal to India in January, 1999. The visits served to consolidate the goodwill and warmth that characterise our relations with Nepal and promoted mutual respect and understanding. They provided a valuable opportunity for a comprehensive overview of the bilateral relations and perspectives for long-term cooperation. On the economic front, the renewal of the Transit Treaty with Nepal represents a major development. Mutually beneficial cooperation particularly in water resources, trade and investment, tourism and human resource development is being strengthened.

Sri Lanka: High-level political contact with Sri Lanka was sustained during this year. The President of Sri Lanka visited India from December 27-30, 1998. A Free Trade Agreement was signed between the two countries during this visit. The agreement is expected to lead to the steady expansion of bilateral trade and investment through the gradual reduction of tariffs. The two countries have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of an India-Sri Lanka Foundation, for working towards

promoting exchanges in the field of art, culture, trade, commerce and Science & Technology. The President's visit was preceded by the Fourth Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held on December 18, 1998, which discussed a wide range of issues connected with bilateral cooperation. At the Third Session of the India-Sri Lanka Sub-Commission on Science and Technology held from October 27-28, 1998, it was agreed that cooperation in biotechnology, ocean development, energy management, information technology, fisheries, earth and atmospheric studies, agriculture and transfer of technology to the small and medium sector would be enhanced. The Fourth Session of the Sub-Commission on Social, Cultural and Educational matters held at New Delhi from December 14-15, 1998, identified new areas for cooperation, including Indian assistance for development of curriculum for technical institutions in Sri Lanka and for devising a school assessment system, joint production of films, dramas and television software. A draft Cultural Exchange Programme, valid for three years, was also discussed.

Bangladesh: High-level contacts with Bangladesh were continued during the year. These included visits to India by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June, 1998 and January, 1999, by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Minister of Agriculture as well as Chief of Army Staff, and visits to Bangladesh by I&B Minister, Minister of Surface Transport, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff as well as Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary and Commerce Secretary. The Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh also met during the 10th SAARC Summit in Colombo in July, 1998. Minister of External Affairs met the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during her visit to Calcutta in January, 1999.

During the year, wide-ranging discussions were held at all levels on issues of mutual concern including border management, security and transit facilities. Trade and economic cooperation were discussed at the bilateral Trade Review Talks held in December, 1998. Negotiations were continued on concluding the Motor Vehicles Agreement. An agreement for a Calcutta-Dhaka bus services was initialled on February 17, 1999. This service is expected to commence in March, 1999.

Cooperation in Culture, Education and other functional areas also developed satisfactorily during the year.

Research Centres

2213. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Research Centres and Projects set-up under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Government on each of them during the last three years;

(c) the details of the achievements made by them; and

(d) the impact thereof on the agricultural production in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) The details are given in Statement-I.

(b) The details are given in Statement-II.

(c) The details are given in Statement-III.

(d) The details are given in Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Details of Research Centres and Projects setup under ICAR in Tamil Nadu

Name of Research Centres/Projects	Location
1	2
Institutes	
Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Chennai
Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Coimbatore
National Research Centre	
NRC-Banana	Trichy
Project Directorate	
PD-Biological Control	Coimbatore
All India Coordinated Research Projects	
AICRP Cotton	Coimbatore Kovilpatti Srivilliputhur
AICRP Jute & Allied Fibres	Aduthurai
AICRP Sugarcane	Cuddalore
AICRP Nematode	Coimbatore

1	2
AICRP Pesticide Residue	Coimbatore
AICRP Acarology	Coimbatore
AICRP Rice	Aduthurai Madurai Coimbatore Pondicherry
AICRP Maize	Coimbatore
AICRP Small Millets	Coimbatore
AICRP Peral Millet	Coimbatore
AICRP Sorghum	Coimbatore
AICRP Forage Corps	Coimbatore
AICRP Oilseed	Coimbatore Vrindhachalam Tindivanam
AICRP Soybean	Coimbatore
AICRP Groundnut	Aliyarnagar Bhawanisagar Vrindhachalam
AICRP MULLARP	Vamban
AICRP pigeon pea	Coimbatore
AICRP U&U Crops	Mettupalyam
AICRP M&SNSP	Coimbatore
AICRP BNF	Coimbatore Annamalainagar
AICRP LTFE	Coimbatore
AICRP STCR	Coimbatore
AICRP TR	Coimbatore
Adhoc Fly-ash	Coimbatore
Adhoc legumes	Coimbatore
Adhoc Azolla	Coimbatore
AICRP Agroforestry	Kattupakam

1	2
Adhoc Agroforestry	Nammakkal Madurai Chennai Chennai Chennai
AICRP Weed Control	Coimbatore
AICRP Agrometeorology	Coimbatore
AICRP Dyland Agriculture	Coimbatore
AICRP CSR	Coimbatore
AICRP Water Management	Bhawanisagar & Madurai
AICRP Well and pumps	Poondi
AICRP SAS	Coimbatore
AICRP Tropical fruits	Coimbatore
AICRP Sub Tropical fruits	Periyakulam
AICRP Arid Zone fruit	Aruppukotai
AICRP PHT	Periyakulam
AICRP Palm	Veppakulam
AICRP Spices	Coimbatore
AICRP Cashew	Vrindhachalam
AICRP Betelvine	Sirugamani
AICRP Vegetable	Coimbatore
AICRP Mushroom	Coimbatore
AICRP Tuber Crops	Coimbatore
AICRP Tuber Crops	Coimbatore
AICRP floriculture	Coimbatore
AICRP ERAS	Coimbatore
AICRP FIM	Coimbatore
AICRP Hesa	Coimbatore

1	2	1	2
AICRP PHT Engg.	Coimbatore	NSP (CICR)	Coimbatore
AICRP - Power tiller	Coimbatore	NSP	Penyakulam
AICRP-Renewable Energy Resources	Courtallam	Krishi Vigyan Kendras	
	Coimbatore	Krishi Vigyan Kendras	Salem
AICRP Pig	Kottupakkam		Trichy
AICRP Foot and Mouth Disease	Ranipet		Vrindhachalam
Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources	Chennai		Kattupakkam
Network Project on Sheep Improvement	Kattupakkam		Kundrakudi
Network Project on Embryo Transfer Technology	Chennai		Dharmapuri
Network Project on Micro Nutrient	Chennai		Tenkasi
Hybrid Seed Project (TNAU)	Coimbatore		Madurai
National Seed Project (TNAU)	Coimbatore		Kamrajar
HSP (CICR)	Coimbatore		Tanjavur
			Tirunelveli
			Coimbatore
			Coonoor
			Dindigul
			Periyar
			Samabuvarayar
		National Agricultural Technology Project	New Delhi

Statement-II*Details of Funds Allocated and Expenditure Incurred for the last three years*

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	Location	Funds Allocated			Expenditure Incurred		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Chennai	245.98	280.00	387.00	245.98	285.60	364.04
Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Coimbatore	378.89	387.95	476.08	378.89	387.95	476.08
NRC-Banana	Trichy	61.90	79.99	43.57	61.90	79.99	43.57
PD-Biological Control	Coimbatore	2.15	2.17	2.42	2.15	2.17	2.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AICRP Cotton	Coimbatore	5.91	6.67	6.67	8.10	6.67	8.60
	Kovilapatti	3.67	4.12	4.12	5.39	4.12	6.81
	Srivilliputhur	6.20	6.94	6.94	3.35	6.94	9.30
AICRP Jute & Allied Fibres	Aduthurai	1.88	1.83	2.67	3.00	1.93	2.67
AICRP Sugarcane	Cuddalore	2.76	2.82	2.82	2.76	2.82	2.12
AICRP Nematode	Coimbatore	3.34	6.96	5.98	3.34	6.96	5.98
AICRP Pesticide Residue	Coimbatore	3.40	4.53	3.63	3.40	4.53	3.63
AICRP Agril. Acarology	Coimbatore	1.64	1.68	1.69	1.64	1.68	1.69
AICRP Rice	Aduthurai	9.18	8.65	11.44	9.18	8.65	11.44
	Madurai	1.68	0.93	0.93	1.68	0.93	0.93
	Coimbatore	10.91	7.86	10.73	10.91	7.86	10.73
	Pondicherry	6.25	5.35	5.25	6.25	5.35	5.25
AICRP Maize	Coimbatore	3.83	4.77	4.71	3.83	4.77	2.69
AICRP Small Millets	Coimbatore	6.00	6.12	6.94	6.00	6.12	7.68
AICRP Peral Millet	Coimbatore	4.91	5.13	5.77	5.97	5.13	5.77
AICRP Sorghum	Coimbatore	8.38	6.24	10.76	8.38	6.24	10.76
AICRP Forage Crops	Coimbatore	5.83	8.69	4.93	5.83	8.69	4.93
AICRP Oilseed	Coimbatore	5.04	4.76	5.53	3.34	4.75	15.20
	Vrindhachalam	3.61	3.79	4.77	1.18	3.79	8.42
	Tindivanam	2.57	2.70	3.13	2.44	2.70	7.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AICRP Soybean	Coimbatore	1.88	1.58	1.78	3.00	1.56	3.23
AICRP Groundnut	Aliyarnagar	2.61	2.69	2.81	2.61	2.69	2.81
	Bhawanisagar	1.58	1.63	1.15	1.58	1.63	1.15
	Vrindhachalam	6.71	6.97	7.01	6.71	6.97	7.01
AICRP MULLARP	Vamban	11.63	12.26	12.75	11.63	12.25	15.75
AICRP Pigeon pea	Coimbatore	11.77	12.40	12.70	11.78	12.40	10.25
AICRP U&U Crops	Mettupalyam	1.94	2.00	2.48	1.94	2.00	2.48
AICRP M&SNSP	Coimbatore	5.09	5.70	6.75	5.09	5.70	6.75
AICRP BNF	Coimbatore	2.37	2.49	3.27	2.37	2.49	3.27
	Arnamalainagar	3.27	3.42	3.55	3.27	3.42	3.55
AICRP LTFE	Coimbatore	1.62	1.77	1.92	1.62	1.77	1.92
AICRP STCR	Coimbatore	5.28	5.76	5.55	5.28	5.76	5.55
AICRP TR	Coimbatore	3.72	3.66	5.00	3.72	3.66	5.00
Adhoc Fly-ash	Coimbatore	3.33			2.78		
Adhoc legumes	Coimbatore	3.34			2.00		
Adhoc Azolla	Coimbatore	4.19			0.75		
AICRP Agroforestry	Kattupakkam	4.50	11.30	11.98	4.50	11.30	11.98
Adhoc Agroforestry	Nammakkal	1.10	1.15		1.10	1.15	
	Madurai	1.10	1.18		1.10	1.18	
	Chennai	1.15	1.34		1.15	1.34	
	Chennai	1.52	1.53		1.52	1.53	
	Chennai	1.50			150		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AICRP Weed Control	Coimbatore	2.98	3.07	7.24	2.98	3.07	7.24
AICRP Agrometeorology	Coimbatore	1.52	1.65	2.68	1.52	1.65	2.68
AICRP Dyland Agriculture	Coimbatore	6.97	5.61	11.11	6.97	5.61	11.11
AICRP CSR	Coimbatore	16.95	16.69	20.91	16.95	16.69	20.91
AICRP Water Management	Bhawanisagar Madurai	21.05	17.62	18.71	21.05	17.62	18.71
AICRP Well and pumps	Poondi			7.92			7.92
AICRP SAS	Coimbatore		6.93	10.61		6.93	10.61
AICRP Tropical Fruits	Coimbatore	8.63	11.78	13.27	8.63	11.78	13.27
AICRP Sub Tropical fruits	Periyakulam	1.64	1.65	4.42	1.64	1.65	4.42
AICRP Arid Zone Fruits	Aruppukotai	3.57	6.41	4.70	3.57	6.41	4.70
AICRP PHT	Periyakulam	2.24	2.30	2.78	2.24	2.30	2.78
AICRP Palm	Veppakulam	16.11	16.08	17.47	16.11	16.08	17.47
AICRP Spices	Coimbatore	50.3	3.94	4.11	5.03	3.94	4.11
AICRP Cashew	Vrindhachalam	3.88	6.73	5.10	3.88	6.73	5.10
AICRP Betevine	Sirugamani	4.40	4.51	4.91	4.40	4.51	4.91
AICRP Vegetable	Coimbatore	3.71	5.85	4.99	3.71	5.85	4.99
NSP	Periyakulam	2.79	2.28	2.57	2.79	2.28	2.57
AICRP Mushroom	Coimbatore	0.88	3.30	4.39	0.88	3.30	4.39
AICRP Tuber Crops	Coimbatore	3.37	2.50	4.92	3.37	2.50	4.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AICRP floriculture	Coimbatore	6.68	3.97	5.35	6.68	3.97	5.35
AICRP ERAS	Coimbatore	7.66	8.87	9.19	7.66	8.87	9.19
AICRP FIM	Coimbatore	15.62	18.16	12.68	15.62	18.16	12.68
AICRP HESA	Coimbatore		4.35	3.09		4.35	3.09
AICRP PHT Engg.	Coimbatore	10.94	8.87	16.00	10.94	8.87	16.00
AICRP—Power tiller	Coimbatore	0.66	8.74	5.18	0.66	8.74	5.18
AICRP—Renewable Energy Resources	Courtallam	5.79	4.50	6.11	5.79	4.50	6.11
	Coimbatore	14.34	18.38	31.04	14.34	18.38	31.04
AICRP Pig	Kattupakkam	8.59	9.88	12.15	8.36	12.48	12.15
AICRP Foot and Mouth Disease	Ranipet	0.60	0.92	1.14	0.60	0.92	1.14
Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources	Chennai	27.22	22.50	17.00	10.88	17.00	12.97
Network Project on Sheep Improvement	Kattupakkam	5.90	6.11	7.84	6.89	8.24	7.84
Network Project on Embryo Transfer Technology	Chennai	7.89	5.04	5.81	5.70	5.04	5.81
Network Project on Micro Nutrient	Chennai	4.69	5.62	8.55	10.57	5.62	8.55
HSP (TNAU)	Coimbatore	14.88	16.46	12.89	11.44	2.69	10.51
NSP (TNAU)	Coimbatore	17.56	17.54	11.05	2.57	14.75	8.05
HSP (CICR)	Coimbatore	4.79	4.97	4.24	4.79	4.97	4.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NSP (CICR)	Coimbatore	2.58	2.22	1.45	2.58	2.22	1.45
Krishi Vigyan Kendras	Salem			30.42			30.42
	Trichy			32.40			32.40
	Vrindhachalam			24.15			24.15
	Kattupakkam			29.45			29.45
	Kundrakudi			20.15			20.15
	Dharmapuri			30.88			30.88
	Tenkasi			72.41			72.41
	Madurai			48.23			48.23
	Kamrajar			44.39			44.39
	Tanjavur			38.65			38.65
	Tirunelveli			50.20			50.20
	Coimbatore			24.86			24.86
	Coonoor			35.61			35.61
	Dindigul			31.09			31.09
	Periyar			29.51			29.51
	Samabuvayar			62.35			62.35
NATP				2.69			2.69
Total		1129.22	1215.48	2028.19	1093.68	1200.81	2020.69

Statement-III

The details of achievements made by the ICAR Institutes/NRC/PD/AICRP located in Tamil Nadu

Crop Science

The research work related to development of improved varieties and bids and matching production and protection technologies for Tamil Nadu in different crops is being carried out through National Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects. As a result a number of improved varieties and hybrids have been developed and some of the important ones are:

Cereal crops:

Rice	—	Nidhi, Pusa 677, ADTRH(H), ASD-43, CoRH-1, ADT-42, Co-46, PKU-2
Wheat	—	DDK 1009, Ganga, Bhawani
Sorghum	—	K-10, K-9, MLSII-14(II), CSII-16(II), CSII13(II)
Maize	—	KII-5981(II), KII 5991(II) Pusa hybrid Makka-I (II), Pusa hybrid Makka 2(II), MMII-133(II)

Pearl millet	—	GK 1004(II), PAC 903(II)
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Small millet

Finger millet	—	VR 708, Champawati
Little millet	—	TNAU-63
Foxtail millet	—	TNAU-186, PS-4

Forage

Dinanath	—	Coimbatore Dinanath-1 (TNDN-1)
Napier-Bajra	—	Co-3

Oilseed

Soybean	—	PK 1029, Co-2
Sunflower	—	Jwalamukhi (II), Sungene-85(II), PAC-36(II), PAC-1091(II)

Castor	—	DCII-32(II)
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Pulses

Pigeonpea	—	CopII-I(II), CopII-2(II)
Urdbean	—	WBU-108, KBG 512, Vamban 2

Commercial Crops

Cotton	—	Surabhi, NBHB 11(II), TM-1312(II), SVPR-2, KC-2
Sugarcane	—	Co87025, Co87044, Co86032, Com88121, CoJn 86141

Horticulture

At NRC-Banana 697 accessions were collected and conserved in the gene bank. Protects for in-vitro multiplications of Banana varieties have been refined. Among tropical fruits, Gandevi selection from Dwarf Cavandish was found promising in Tamil Nadu. Application of 150-200 g N and K₂O in reproductive phases were found effective in Palayankondan and Basrai Banana. In Papaya a total of 81 accessions consisting of 28 dioecious and 46 gyanodioecious were maintain and evaluated.

In potato varieties viz., Kufri, Pukhraj and Kufri Thenamalai resistant late blight and cyst nematode found suitable for cultivation in Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu. Among Yams, diascorca alata Col was identified as promising in Tamil Nadu. Sequential cropping studies conducted with vegetables cowpea under varying level FYM and Phosphorus indicated that FYM 12.5 t/ha + 30 kg/ha P₂O₅ is superior to other treatments. For oyster mushroom cultivation, paddy straw was best substrate and soaking of paddy straw for 18 hours and supplementing with neem leaves gave higher yield of paddy straw mushroom. Rosa indica variety Odorata was the best root stock rose under Tamil Nadu Conditions. Application of diuron @ 2.5 kg/ha and oxyfluorfen @ 1.0 kg/ha were recommended for control of weeds in roses under Tamil Nadu conditions.

In plantation crops, 45 accessions were evaluated and the highest green berry yield of 1.3 kg/vine was obtained in PN-10 accession in black pepper. On evaluation low accession SA-I shared vigorous growth and accession CV-3 recorded highest bark yield. In turmeric, BSR-2 and a scinnamous variety YCD-1 was released for cultivation in Tamil Nadu. Seed treatments with tricchoderma viride with CFU-10⁶ @4g/kg controlled wilt disease of coriander. Application of neem cake @ 150 kg/ha was effective for control of wilt disease.

A total of 255 germ plasm accessions of cashew are maintained. The highest cumulative yield of 8.27 kg/tree was recorded in M-33/3. In betelvine SGM-I selected from Palaghat cultivar was released for cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

Natural Resource Management

The critical limits of micronutrients were evaluated under different agro-ecological conditions. The strains of rhizobium and blue green algae have been developed which are giving popularity among the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Fertilizer recommendations for targeted yield for different soil types have been worked out. The long term experiments has revealed that conjunctive use of organic and inorganic help in sustaining the crop productivity.

In agro-forestry, the survey indicated that the farmers of Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Kamraj districts have shown interest to grow trees in their marginal and sub-marginal lands. Among the tree species most of the farmers prefer to grow *Azadirachta indica* and *Acacia nilotica*.

The traditional *in-situ* soil moisture conservation technique like compartmental bundi and tied inter-rows have recorded higher seed cotton yield of 9.6 and 8.8 q/ha respectively. Vertical mulch at 4 m horizontal interval has increased soil moisture. Dust mulching in cotton and black gram had enhanced seed cotton yield and increased the return of Rs. 9545/ha over not mulched plot having a return of Rs. 7114/ha. Planting vetivar as vegetable barriers influenced in retention of higher soil moisture resulting in higher seed cotton yield and grain yield in cotton and black gram inter-cropping system.

Agricultural Engineering

The efficient farm equipments viz. terracer-cum-leveller groundnut planter, manual pre-germinated rice seeder, power weeder, power tiller operated boom sprayer, power tiller operated and self propelled reapers, forage harvester, groundnut thresher, power tiller operated auger digger and axial flow pump have been developed for the use of farmers of Tamil Nadu. Besides, seed cleaner-cum-grader, groundnut grader, continuous flow heated sand medium drier, bin drier, dal mill-cum-grinder and chilli seed extractor for processing farm produce have also been developed. Some of these equipments have also been commercialised.

Fisheries

A breakthrough in captive broodstock development, induced maturation, breeding and seep production of the seabass *Lates calcarifer* has been achieved. Developed technology package for the captive brood stock maturation

of tiger shrimp. Achieved induced maturation and breeding of the mud crabs. Developed technology package for production of micro particulate feed for the post larvae of *Penacus indicus*. Conducted extensive investigation on shrimp diseases. Rapid diagnostic techniques developed for the diagnosis of white spot disease in tiger shrimp. Conducted extensive investigation on the environmental impact assessment of shrimp farming. A computerised data base information system has been developed for brackishwater fishery resources. Effective transfer of technology on various aspects of brackishwater aquaculture has been carried out.

The Chennai research centre has estimated an average annual production of 1.5 lakh tonnes of marine fish landings of which shrimp constituted 15% of these landings. Pearl culture was successfully conducted in on-shore culture facility. The causative factors of certain fish diseases have been identified. The Mandapam Research Centre has estimated about 1.5 lakh tonnes of marine fish landings of which 15000 tonnes were exportable shrimps. Tuticorin centre has estimated about 1.2 lakh tonnes of marine landings of which 10000 tonnes constitute exportable shrimp. Five million baby per oyster in a year were produced in the hatchery and sold to entrepreneurs for farming and propagation. For optimising fish yields in the Amaravati, Palar-poranthalar, Uppar, Pillor, Gunderipallam and Varatupallam reservoirs, assessment of their production potentials has been carried out.

Animal Science

Survey has been completed on Umblachery breed of cattle. Established core laboratory for genetic characterization of Animal Genetic Resources of Southern region. An epidemiological study for foot and mouth disease has been carried out which resulted in lowering the incidence of disease.

Superovulatory oestrus response was 100% in crossbred and Kangayams donor cows. Cattle and goat embryos were cryopreserved.

Agricultural Extension

During the period, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras organised various activities in crop production live stock production and management fruits and vegetable cultivation home science and use of improved machinery and tools. 829 training courses were conducted benefitting 19871 farmers. 249 training courses were conducted benefitting 5204 rural youths. 189 training courses were conducted benefitting 2974 extension personnel. 10005 various extension activities were conducted including field days, kisan melas goshties, field visits, Radio talks and TV talks.

Statement-IV*Impact of Achievements made by the ICAR Institutes on the Agricultural Production in Tamil Nadu*

The Institute/Projects/Research Centres as listed in Annexe-I have made significant contribution in the efforts on varietal/breed improvement and technology development programmes and also support in multi locational testing in Tamil Nadu.

Several high yielding and promising varieties and hybrids were evolved and released. These varieties are for food crops, fodder crops, pulses, oilseeds, commercial crops, horticultural crops (fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, mushroom, flowers). The techniques have been developed in integrated pest management, nutrient management, input use efficiency, soil and water management, cropping system including crop rotations, post harvest technology, small farm implements and tools. High yielding breeds of cattle, poultry, sheep, goat and other livestock have also been evolved.

There are 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Tamil Nadu which are engaged in organising training programmes for farmers and extension functionaries and youth. These also organise frontline demonstrations in large areas to demonstrate the production potential of important crops.

The targeted yield equations have helped in the fertilizer recommendations based on soil test values in economising the use of fertilisers. The soil test laboratories situated in Tamil Nadu are advocating the fertilizer use based on the soil test values.

The technologies generated are being disseminated to the farmers as package of practices to enhance productivity.

The development of technology for breeding and seed production of seabass is a milestone in brackishwater fish breeding. Package of practices for seaweed culture was a disseminated to the entrepreneurs.

The use of farm implements and machinery equipments resulted in timely field operation, reduction in labour, cost and drudgery thus resulting in increase in yield and value added projects.

A shift to cultivation of horticultural and cash crops for better economic return have been noticed. Studies on energy consumption pattern in dairy, poultry production system and energy consumption in rice mills have also been assessed and improved.

The project/research centres have generated data and technologies for improvement of the livestock as well as production of superior germplasm for the farmers of Tamil Nadu. There is also improvement in fertility, lactation period, reduction in the cases of abortion and milk yield of cows and buffaloes when the trace minerals were supplemented in the diet.

[*Translation*]

Electronics Industry

2214. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state the achievements made by the country in the field of electronics during the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Some of the major achievements are given:—

- (i) Parallel Processing Computer (Super Computer)
- (ii) Technologies related to Indian languages in Computer.
- (iii) Electronics Switching for Telephone Exchange.
- (iv) High Voltage Direct Current transmission.
- (v) Linear accelerator for cancer radiation therapy (LINAC).
- (vi) Computer Networking.
- (vii) Strategic Electronics.
- (viii) Electronic System for use in Railways, Sugar, Textile industry etc.

[*English*]

SAARC Meet

2215. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a bold initiative to strengthen economic cooperation among member-countries of SAARC during the meet at Colombo;

(b) if so, the details of packages announced and follow-up action taken for implementation of the package and likely impact thereof;

(c) the reaction of other SAARC member-countries to the initiatives taken by India; and

(d) the present status of economic cooperation among member countries of SAARC and further initiatives/proposals under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI
JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d):

1. At the Tenth SAARC Summit in Colombo in July, 1998 India took some bold initiatives to strengthen economic cooperation among Member States. The Prime Minister announced that all Quantitative Restrictions maintain by India for Balance of Payments reasons would be lifted on a preferential basis for SAARC countries with effect from 1st August, 1998. The ceiling for Indian investments under fast track procedures was also increased from \$8 million to \$15 million.
2. The notifications giving effect to these decisions were issued in August 1998. These initiative will provide substantially enhanced opportunities for SAARC Member States to access the Indian market and have been widely welcomed.
3. The Prime Minister also suggested at the Summit that negotiations should commence on a Treaty for establishing a South Asia Free Trade Area with the aim of concluding the Treaty and having it in place by the year 2001. This suggestion was accepted at the Summit. In terms of the Colombo Declaration, a Group of Experts is being set up to commence negotiations on a SAFTA Treaty. The Group is likely to meet in July-August this year. The Treaty will spell out legally binding schedules for freeing trade and provide a predictable and transparent road map for establishing SAFTA.
4. The Prime Minister also offered to consider bilateral free trade agreements with those countries which were interested in moving faster. This offer was taken up by Sri Lanka. A bilateral Free Trade Agreement was concluded with Sri Lanka on Deember 28, 1998. This Agreement provides for phased elimination of tariffs on bilateral trade. India will abolish tariff on Sri Lankan goods in three years while Sri Lanka will abolish tariff on Indian goods in eight years. This Agreement is complementary to the SAARC trade liberalisation process and is

expected to impart added momentum to this process.

5. Negotiations for deepening and widening trade preferences under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement are continuing, in parallel. The Third Round of Trade Negotiations under SAPTA concluded on 23rd November, 1998. A total of 3456 tariff line were covered under concessional tariffs ranging from 5 to 50% in this Round. India offered more than half the concessions. A significant feature is that India has extended a minimum tariff concession of 50% for nearly half the basket of tradable products for Bangladesh and Maldivess, SAARC LDCs. These concessions are in addition to the zero tariff already offered to Bhutan and Nepal under bilateral trade agreements.
6. SAARC Member States have agreed to commence the Fourth Round of SAPTA negotiations in July/august 1999. The Commerce Ministers who met in February 1999 in Dhaka have directed that these negotiations should, preferably, be conducted on a Chapter-wise basis to speed up trade liberalisation. They have also directed that the Round should preferably be concluded in two meetings by the end of August 1999.
7. Several new area of economic cooperation and regional arrangements, like Intra-regional Investment Promotion and Protection, Avoidance of Double Taxation and setting up a Regional Mechanism for settlement of commercial disputes are being considered. Harmonisation and Simplification of Customs Procedures is the subject of another on-going exercise for which a Standing group on Customs Coordination has been constituted. This Group has held three meetings and drawn up a Customs Action Plan. A Working Group on Standards is also being set up and is expected to meet shortly.
8. SAARC Countries have also agreed to intensify consultations for coordination of SAARC positions at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting in the USA in November 1999. India has offered to host the first preparatory meeting.
9. At the bilateral level, a revised Transit Treaty with Nepal was signed on January 5, 1999. The renewed Treaty, valid for a period of seven years upto January 5, 2006, contains liberalised procedures for the transit of Nepalese goods. Nepal's request for "automatic renewal" of the

Treaty for further seven year periods was accepted. However, the Protocol and Memorandum to the Treaty, containing modalities and other arrangements, would be subject to review and modification every seven years or earlier, if warranted. The working of the Phulbari transit route has also been further streamlined.

10. Indo-Bangladesh Trade Review talks were held in Dhaka from 8-9 December, 1998. The talks covered a number of issues including cooperation in infrastructure development including rail, road and inland water transport.
11. Bilateral discussions on trade and economic cooperation, including the possibility of purchasing power, have also been held with Pakistan as part of the composite dialogue process.

Transfer Missile Technology

2216. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is supplying nuclear material, missiles and related technology to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether transfer of space technology to Pakistan could advance its ballistic missile programme;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the issue of transfer of missile technology to Pakistan with China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The role of external assistance in Pakistan's nuclear weaponisation and missile development programme is well known. Government are aware of the long-standing defence co-operation relationship between China and Pakistan including also supply of materials, equipment and technology. Transfer of space technology to Pakistan without a demonstrated need for a civilian space programme and without adequate transparency could contribute to its ballistic missile programme.

Our concerns in this regard have been made known to the Chinese side, at various levels.

Government continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard India's security. Government closely monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measure to safeguard the national interest.

Fast Breeder Reactor, Kalpakkam

2217. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:
SHRI VAIKO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to generate electricity through fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including cost of production;

(c) the details of the possibilities of use of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide in this plant; and

(d) the time by which the production is likely to commence for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The proposed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor is of 500 MWe capacity and use plutonium and uranium as its fuel. The project for construction (which is yet to be sanctioned) is expected to commence during the last year of the IX Plan and commissioned in 2009 A.D. The finalisation of the detailed design of the Reactor and technology development for manufacture of critical components, involving Indian Industries for indigenisation efforts, is on. The anticipated cost of production of electricity will be around Rs. 5.25/KWh.

(d) The production for commercial use is expected to start by 2010 A.D.

Poorest of Poor

2218. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to engage some community based organisations/NGOs to undertake house to house survey to find out the poorest of the poor in Rajasthan;

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

(c) the time by which such kind of survey is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) There is no such proposal to engage some community based organisations/NGOs to undertake house to house survey to find out the poorest of the poor in Rajasthan at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

2219. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to the farmers under the crop Insurance Scheme during the current financial year 1998-99;

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

(c) the amount claimed by the farmers under this scheme alongwith the payment made to them during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) the Central/State Governments settle claims of the farmers (sharing the liability in the ratio of 2:1) and provide 50% subsidy (equally shared by the Central and the State Governments) to the small and marginal farmers towards the insurance charges payable. State-wise details of subsidy provided during Kharif 1998 season are at Statement-I.

Settlement of claims is done after the yield-data prescribed is received by the General Insurance Corporation of India (SIC) from the State Governments and the claims payable are worked out. Rabi 1998-99 season is not yet over. The required yield data for working out claims of Kharif 1998 season have been received from most of the implementing States (list of such States is at Statement-II) and the process of working out the

claims by the implementing agency is in progress. Therefore, the amount of claims payable to the farmers during 1998-99 will be reported by the implementing agency i.e. GIC only when this process is over.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Subsidy (Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	N.A.
2.	A & N Islands	6454.50
3.	Assam	34361.45
4.	Bihar	1389254.17
5.	Goa	6753.50
6.	Gujarat	8209811.50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3067.00
8.	Karnataka	3053179.00
9.	Kerala	395620.50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4145284.52
11.	Maharashtra	5394136.25
12.	Meghalaya	6961.50
13.	Orissa*	N.A.
14.	Pondicherry	109988.25
15.	Tamilnadu	287492.00
16.	Tripura*	N.A.
17.	West Bengal*	N.A.
Total:		22943364.14

*The figures are yet to be finalised.

Statement-II

Sl.No.	State/UTs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh (partly)
2.	Assam
3.	Goa
4.	Gujarat (partly)
5.	Kerala
6.	Madhya Pradesh (partly)
7.	Maharashtra
8.	Meghalaya
9.	Pondicherry (partly)
10.	Tamil Nadu (partly)
11.	Tripura
12.	West Bengal

*[English]***Agricultural Production**

2220. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce in the country due to soil erosion during the last three years; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government so far to control the soil erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) It is acknowledged that soil erosion leads to loss in soil fertility thereby adversely affecting agricultural

productivity. However, there is no estimate based on scientific survey, for loss of agricultural produce due to soil erosion.

(b) In order to control soil erosion various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented, namely:

1. Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects;
2. Soil Conservation in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers;
3. Reclamation of Alkali Soils;
4. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas;
5. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas;
6. Integrated Wasteland Development Project;
7. Drought Prone Area Programme;
8. Desert Development Programme.

*[Translation]***Role of Members of Parliament**

2221. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the role of the Members of Parliament effective in the implementation of the centrally sponsored programmes/schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament are not given their due effectiveness by the state administration in the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Members of Parliament (MPs) are already associated with the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (C.S.S.) like the Integrated Rural Development

Programme (IRDP), the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

MPs are members of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Governing Body which provides guidance and direction to the DRDAs in the implementation of rural development programmes. All schemes/projects are approved by the Governing Body of the DRDA. MPs participating in the meetings of the DRDA are apprised in regard to criteria of selection of beneficiaries and projects, as laid down in the schematic guidelines and their views in this regard are discussed.

The State Governments have been advised to constitute District and Block Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, with MPs representing their respective districts, on them. These Committees supervise, exercise vigilance, and monitor the implementation of all programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.

The MPs are also members of the District and Block Level EAS Committees which supervise the implementation of the EAS and may suggest, from time to time, to the State Government, such steps as, in their opinion, are necessary for more effective implementation of the scheme.

Fund for Backward Areas

2222. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for allotment of special fund for the development of backward areas of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether Eastern U.P. and Bundelkhand have also been enlisted in the concerned list;

(c) whether the people's representatives of Eastern U.P. and Bundelkhand have been continuously demanding for special plan and fund for the area; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se.

However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various States, including Uttar Pradesh for Special Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(c) No, Sir, there is no such request with Planning Commission.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Agricultural Research

2223. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of our agricultural research findings have remained confined to laboratories and technical journals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to make the agricultural research findings more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country to benefit the farmers. The activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in-service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations of various agricultural technologies.

In addition, 42 Centres for Technology Assessment & Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technologies on location-specific basis.

(c) During 1997-98, KVKs have organised:

- (i) 11,365 training programmes benefiting 2.57 lakhs farmers.
- (ii) 1,095 training courses benefiting 22,838 extension functionaries.

- (iii) frontline demonstration on 4400 hectares in order to demonstrate production potential of important oilseed and pulse crops.
- (vi) 2299 extension activities such as field days, kisan melas, gosthies, and exhibitions, and
- (v) Published 21,573 extension literatures

Under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), the Council propose to strengthen 53 Zonal Research Stations to take up additional functions of KVK.

[Translation]

Passport Office

2224. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct a new building for the Regional Passport Office in Jaipur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve service in this Passport Office by increasing this staff strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) Yes.

(b) A plot of land measuring 2298 sq. mts. was purchased in 1983 from Jaipur Development Authority at a cost of Rs. 9.85 lakhs. The possession of the plot was handed over only in 1990. The Construction could not start as there was encroachment on the plot, which was removed in 1995. The plot was later found unsuitable for the purpose of constructing Passport Office, Jaipur Development Authority has been approached for allotment of an alternative plot in Julana Dhungri area.

(c) There is no specific proposal with the Government to increase the staff strength at a Passport Office Jaipur. However, a number of steps have been taken to simplify and streamline the procedures for expeditious issue of Passports which, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) upgradation of office facilities including computerisation leading to faster screening and processing of applications;
- (ii) self-attested documents being accepted;
- (iii) issue of Passports on post-police verification basis in case where police reports are not received during the prescribed time limit of four weeks;
- (iv) a thorough scrutiny of applications at the acceptance stage itself to check their completeness/correctness in all respects;

- (v) provision to issue passports in cases of specified emergencies on out of turn basis on the strength of Verification Certificate issued by authorised officials;
- (vi) expansion of the list of officials authorised to sign Verification Certificates;
- (vii) introduction of Passports for 20 years; and
- (viii) automatic reissue of passports on expiry on post-police verification basis.

[English]

Withdrawal of Vatican's Ambassador

2225. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Vatican's Ambassador to India has been withdrawn; and
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Subsidies to Farm Sector

2226. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the subsidies granted to farm sector at present;
- (b) whether the Government propose to withdraw the subsidies;
- (c) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the subsidies; and
- (d) the ways by which the farmers are proposed to be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) Major agricultural input subsidies given to the farmers are fertilisers, irrigation and power. The details of subsidies granted to farm sector, at present, are given in the Statement.

(b) The policy of the Government is to provide inputs to the farmers at affordable prices while keeping the subsidy within reasonable limits.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement*Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector*

(Rs. Crores)

Item	1993-94 Actuals	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 Actuals	1996-97 Actuals	1997-98 Actuals	1998-99 RE	1999-2000 BE
<i>Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through inputs</i>							
1. Fertiliser (Total)	4562	5769	6735	7578	9918	11388	13250
1.1 Indigenous fertiliser	3800	4075	4300	4743	6600	7360	8000
1.2 Imported fertiliser	762	1166	1935	1163	722	238	750
1.3 Fertiliser Subsidy to Small & Marginal farmers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1.4 Sale of decontrolled Fertiliser with concession to farmers	—	528	500	1672	2596	3790	4500
2. Electricity**	2400	2338	1828	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3. Irrigation##	5872	6769	7909	9256	9778+	N.A.	N.A.
4. Other subsidies given to marginal farmers in the form of seed, development of oil-seeds, pulses and farmers co-operative societies etc.	1169	1176	262	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Source : 1. Fertiliser: Expenditure Budget 1999-2000, Vol. I of Central Government.

2. Electricity and Irrigation: Central Statistical Organisation

Note : N.A. Not available.

** Electricity includes all subsidies to electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.

The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

+ Quick estimates.

RE Revised estimates.

BE Budget estimates.

Fertility of Land

2227. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertility of land is declining very rapidly in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the measure taken by the Government to arrest the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Intensive cultivation leads to depletion of the soils of their nutrients affecting overall soil fertility. According to research findings, deficiency of iron, zinc, sulphur and other micronutrients has been noticed in various States. The details are given in Statement.

(c) Following remedial measures are taken by the Govt. to prevent declining fertility of the soil.

- (i) Application of micronutrients is advocated in the concept of integrated plant nutrient management in which conjunctive use of chemical fertilisers including micro-nutrients, organic manures, compost and bio-fertilisers is required to be practised.
- (ii) A national project on development and use of bio-fertilisers is being implemented by the Central Govt. for improving soil fertility through the use of bio-fertilisers.
- (iii) Judicious use of fertiliser is advocated based on soil test based fertiliser use recommendations.
- (iv) The concept of balanced fertiliser use is also propogated through electronic media in the form of Krishi Darshan/Krishi Talks.

Statement*Extent of Micronutrient Deficiency in Soils of different States of India*

S.No.	State	No. of Samples analysed	Percentage of Sample deficient in						
			Zinc	Copper	Iron	Manga-nese	Molybdenum	Boron	Sulphur
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh (1)	6031	56	<1	2	<1	—	—	38
2.	Assam (2)	12165	34	—	—	—	—	17	—
3.	Bihar (3)	22735	55	3	6	1	41	—	23
4.	Gujarat (3)	29532	24	4	8	4	10(1991)	2(489)	37
5.	Haryana (3)	23312	53	3	22	4	—	—	31
6.	Karnataka (4)	52457	80	3	31	8	25	—	34
7.	Madhya Pradesh (3)	31491	62	1	3	1	18(92)	22(1249)	40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Maharashtra (5)	4877	28	4	31	<1	<1	10	—
9.	Orissa (2)	16041	54	<1	—	—	—	69(882)	45
10.	Punjab (1)	15989	47	1	27	2	—	—	24
11.	Tamil Nadu (1)	20279	52	27	17	6	—	—	21
12.	Uttar Pradesh (3)	28477	40	<1	4	2	<1	—	64
13.	West Bengal (2)	6547	36	—	—	3	—	68	—

() Number of samples analysed.

(1) Based on State Agricultural University information.

(2) Based on district surveys of Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project (IBFEP)

(3) Based on ICAR Micronutrient Coordinated Project, PDIL survey and IBFEP information

(4) Based on State Department of Agriculture information

(5) Information supplied by Agricultural University, Parbhani and Rahuri.

Source.— Market Survey of Micronutrient Fertilizers in India—Study by Projects and Development India Ltd., 1996.

*Progress Report (1993-94 and 1994-95), All India Coordinated Research Project of Micro-and Secondary-Nutrients and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants.

Review of Five Year Plans

2228. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to review the present process of planning of Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No such proposal is before the Planning Commission at present. However, the Planning process has evolved over time to reflect the changes in the economy and the advances made in the planning methodology.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relations with Morocco

2229. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish good relations with Morocco;

(b) whether India-Morocco bilateral talks were held when the Prime Minister visited the country; and

(c) if so, the main issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Relations with Morocco are marked by warmth and friendship. Every effort is being made by Government to further deepen and strengthen these relations.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister visited Morocco on 13-14 February, 1999. Detailed discussions were held by Prime Minister with King Hassan II and Prime Minister

Abderrahmane El Youssoufi of Morocco. Views were exchanged on important global and regional issues, and on ways and means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. The discussions revealed similarity of approach on most issues. Morocco also expressed understanding for our concerns.

During the visit, a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Tourism Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) for mutual professional cooperation, were signed.

[*Translation*]

Central Assistance

2230. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Central assistance to Uttaranchal to achieve the targets announced by the Hon. Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the time by which the Central assistance is likely to be provided;

(c) whether such proposals has also been received from Uttar Pradesh asking for this assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have been highlighting the economic backwardness of the Uttaranchal region and requesting for Additional Central Assistance for the region.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) under the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is being provided to benefit the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. During 1998-99, Rs. 237.41 crore were sanctioned as SCA under HADP. Also, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 100 crore has been provided during 1998-99 to augment the HADP to benefit Uttaranchal region.

[*English*]

Contaminated Milk

2231. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad has found all the widely sold brands of milk distributed in polypacks as contaminated with health-threatening bacteria; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Health and Family Welfare Department of Government of Gujarat has stated that one leading brand and one sample drawn from milk selling shop was found to contain *Staphylococcus Aurous*. The State Government has further stated that the samples are being tested microbiologically at Food and Drugs Laboratory, Baroda. Dairy premises is being inspected by Food Inspectors to ensure Hygienic conditions prevailing at the places of collection, storage, production and distribution of the milk to ensure its quality.

Review of Deep Sea Fishing Policy

2232. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Deep Sea Fishing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Action has been initiated to constitute an Expert Committee to formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Marine Fisheries.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Production of Cereals

2233. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE.
DP. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI S. S. OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per acre yield of cereals and pulses in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether this yield has been up to the international standards;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the yield to the international standards?

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

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) The State-wise yields of cereals and pulses during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) The yields of cereals and pulses in India have been generally lower than the world average due to a number of constraints like their cultivation largely in rainfed areas, climatic aberrations, lack of genetic breakthrough and application of very low levels of inputs by the farmers.

(d) In order to increase productivity, the Government is implementing various Centrally sponsored/Central sector crop specific schemes relating to rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next ten year by enhancing productivity through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Statement

State-wise Yield of Total Cereals and Total Pulses during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Yield: Kgs./hectare)

State	Total Cereals			Total Pulses		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2063	2264	2105	479	519	391
Assam	1338	1328	1349	534	572	547
Bihar	1535	1684	1548	608	801	704
Gujarat	1253	1477	1601	543	721	685
Haryana	2725	3076	2921	974	827	883
Himachal Pradesh	1663	1617	1653	287	325	361
Jammu & Kashmir	1718	1530	1640	483	543	543
Karnataka	1491	1518	1536	453	407	291
Kerala	1995	1932	1615	719	716	716

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	1214	1261	1106	598	705	647
Maharashtra	1000	1199	855	496	613	381
Orissa	1346	982	1353	464	343	351
Punjab	3520	3838	3641	818	821	681
Rajasthan	974	1207	1219	407	491	600
Tamil Nadu	2235	2250	2396	404	400	445
Uttar Pradesh	2066	2276	2216	774	927	825
West Bengal	2003	2187	2241	671	741	689
All India	1703	1831	1772	552	635	572

Construction of Dams

2334. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana has urged the Union Government to build Kishan and Renuka Dams across the river of Yamuna to improve irrigation facilities in the State;

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

(c) the time by which these dams are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the project reports submitted by the concerned State Governments, the construction time for Kishan and Renuka Dams have been indicated as about 9 years and 6 years respectively.

Water Sharing Agreement

2235. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of river water sharing agreements signed between India and Bangladesh during the last three years, Year-wise;

(b) whether any protest against these agreements has been registered by the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A Treaty on sharing of Ganga Water at Farakka has been signed between India and Bangladesh in December 1996. Since signing the Treaty has been in operation for the last two years.

(b) and (c) Government of Bihar has conveyed its apprehension in December, 1996 anticipating shortage in availability of water in Ganga. The apprehension was not based on facts as the Treaty has taken into consideration

the needs and requirements of the Ganga Basin States during the signing of the Treaty. Government of West Bengal has not protested.

Organic Farming

2236. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are encouraging organic farming;

(b) if so, the details of farm area under organic farming, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring out comprehensive policy for promotion of organic farming; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. Organic farming implies the use of organic and biological sources of nutrients and discourages the excessive use of chemical fertilisers. However, the high nutrient demands of intensive production system cannot be met fully with the use of organic and biofertilisers alone. Government is promoting the Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply System (IPNS) involving the use of organic manures, farm waste, biofertilisers, bio-pesticides and chemical fertilisers.

(b) The use of organic manures depends upon its availability with farmers. Therefore, no separate statistics of farm area has been maintained.

(c) and (d) The Government is promoting the integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management by implementing following schemes:

- (i) National Project on Development and Use of Biofertilisers.
- (ii) Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers.
- (iii) Integrated Pest Management.

No separate policy has been made for promoting the organic farming.

Milk Production

2237. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote dairy farming on cooperative basis;

(b) if so, the achievement made in dairy farming during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have drawn plans to increase milk production in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the target fixed and the efforts proposed to be made to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) The primary responsibility for development of dairying on cooperative basis is that of their respective State Governments. However, the Government of India has implemented the following major dairy development programmes during the Eighth Plan Period to augment the efforts of the State Governments:—

(i) Operation Flood III (ii) Integrated Dairy Development Project (iii) Technology Mission on Dairy Development. State-wise achievement upto the end of Eighth Plan in respect of the above three schemes are given in Statements-I, II, III respectively.

(c) and (d) Government continues to lay emphasis on Dairy Development in Ninth Plan also. The Operation Flood Programme which was externally aided project has come to an end in April, 96. The NDDB is, however financing dairy projects in States in the post Operation Flood Period out of its own resources. A Statement indicating details of projects sanctioned by NDDB in post Operation Flood Period in all the States is given in Statement-IV. Apart from continuing all the projects under IDDP the Central Government has approved 7 new projects during the first two years of Ninth Plan as per details in Statement-V.

Statement-I

*Statement showing Physical Progress of Key Components of Operation Flood III
Project at the end of VIIIth Plan (Cumulative)*

Region/State	DCS Organised	Farmer Members (‘000)	Rural Milk Procurement (‘000 KG/D)	Milk Marketing (‘000 L/D)	Capacity	
					Liquid Milk (‘000 L/D)	Powder (MT/D)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Western Region</i>						
Gujarat	11900	2019	3885	1546	6960	453.0
Maharashtra	5807	1134	2125	2015	3970	60.0
Madhya Pradesh	4152	210	187	236	1030	30.0
Goa	155	16	22	61	75	
Total	22014	3379	6219	3857	12035	543.0
<i>Southern Region</i>						
Tamilnadu	7870	1892	1216	1333	2421	70.0
Karnataka	7419	1434	1408	1224	2030	37.0
Andhra Pradesh	5338	707	639	593	2397	126.0
Kerala	1462	382	312	382	410	10.0
Pondicherry	82	23	29	34	50	
Total	22171	4438	3604	3566	7308	243.0
<i>Northern Region</i>						
Punjab	6032	347	695	337	1460	100.5
Rajasthan	5248	376	538	279	1050	60.0
Uttar Pradesh	10784	574	642	366	1140	60.0
Haryana	2347	156	135	60	530	25.0
Himachal Pradesh	250	15	15	23	30	
Jammu & Kashmir	←—Reports Not Received—→				10	
Delhi				1116	1150	
Total	24661	1468	2025	2181	5370.00	245.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Eastern Region</i>						
Bihar	2627	135	193	204	586	12.5
West Bengal	1337	86	134	594	1570	10.0
Orissa	1129	79	67	90	125	
Sikkim	137	5	6	6	15	
Tripura	80	4	2	4	10	
Assam	123	2	4	6	60	
Nagaland	35	1	1	1		
A & Nicobar Islands	<—Reports Not Received—>				5	
Total	5468	312	408	906	2371	22.5
Grand Total	74314	9597	12255	10510	27084	1054.0

Statement-II

Statement Indicating Progress of Key Component under IDDP at the end of 8th Plan Period (31.3.97)

Sl. No.	State	Year of sanction	Physical Achievement		
			DCS Organised (Nos.)	DCS Membership ('000)	Daily Milk Procurement TLPD
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A&N Islands	1995-96	8	0.24	0.20
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1995-96	183	7.57	12.39
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1993-94	22	0.21	0.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Assam	1994-95	197	13.22	7.20
5.	Bihar-I	1994-95	54	2.51	0.00
	Bihar-II	1995-96	140	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	1993-94	235	19.40	1469
7	Haryana	1995-96	23	0.37	9.06
8	J&K—Jammu	1995-96	Activities not started by State Govt.		
	J&K—Kashmir	1995-96			
9.	M.P. I, II & III	1993-94	204	7.86	5.95
	M.P. IV	1995-96	200	8.06	10.58
10.	Maharashtra-I	1995-96	452	49.70	53.80
11.	Manipur	1993-94	30	1.00	1.30
12.	Meghalaya	1994-95	36	1.66	4.05
3.	Mizoram-I	1993-94	26	3.63	3.96
	Mizoram-II	1995-96	20	0.60	0.00
14.	Nagaland-I	1993-94	50	1.58	1.40
15.	Orissa-I	1993-94	247	14.72	15.84
	Orissa-II	1994-95	150	14.00	11.83
16.	Sikkim—I & II	1993-94	156	4.94	7.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Tamil Nadu	1995-96	535	126.70	31.10
18.	Tripura-I	1993-94	64	4.74	3.30
	Tripura-II	1994-95	25	0.64	0.00
19.	U.P.—I, II & III	1993-94	876	31.29	21.90
20.	West Bengal	1994-95	113	6.63	4.84

TLPD = Thousand Liter Per Day.

Statement-III

Statement showing Physical Progress on Key Components of TMDD at the end of VIIIth Plan (Cumulative)

State	DCS Covered by Dept. of AH for				
	First Aid	Emergency	A.I. Services	Vety. Camp	Officer's Oriented
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.P.	2274	1204	1454	207	138
Bihar	198	460	0	158	67
Gujarat	3212	430	1998	746	143
Haryana	483	313	453	122	47
Karnataka	2134	2123	2395	676	184
M.P.	1136	1144	890	32	150
Orissa	238	478	474	197	74
Punjab	1890	930	2222	382	170

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	520	477	324	565	91
Tamil Nadu	675	664	930	90	128
U.P.	1835	2402	2160	680	284
West Bengal	5	150	21	150	9
Goa	165	155	155	76	7
Pondicherry	41	45	41	50	0
Total	14806	10975	13517	4131	1492

Statement-IV

Statement showing details of Projects Sanctioned by National Dairy Development after the closure of III Project out of its own Resources

	Original Capacity (TLPD)	Final Capacity (TLPD)	Incremental Capacity (TLPD)	Total (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3*	4	5
Gujarat				
* Sugam Bairy Baroda Ice-cream Plant Expansion	6	12	6	450.00
** Banaskantha Dairy Exp — New Dairy with 40 MTD Butter & 60 MTD Drying Facilities	—	650	650	12547.74
—New Chilling Centre	—	100	100	327.04
—Cattle Feed Plant Exp. (MTD)	100	200	100	320.42
*Valsad Dairy Expansion	100	200	100	128.48

1	2	3	4	5
**Valsad Ice-Cream Plant	—	25	25	1030.00
**Baroda Milk Union ETP Expansion	—	—	—	80.00
**Sabarkantha Cattle Feed Plant Expansion (MTD)	100	200	100	260.00
Maharashtra				
*Kolhapur Dairy Expn. (Spillover of OF-III)	200	700	500	585.00
—Chandgad CC	—	100	100	45.00
—Gogave CC	—	50	50	93.66
—Gadhinglaj CC	75	125	50	4.60
—Bidri CC	50	100	50	19.35
*Wardha Dairy (Spillover of OF-III)	—	30	30	33.10
Delhi				
* Mother Dairy, Delhi (Spill-over of OF-III)				86.19
* Mother Dairy Delhi Ice-Cream Plant Expansion	10	20	10	1280.00
* Mother Dairy Delhi Addl. Bulk Vending Booths	500 (Nos.)	575 (Nos)	75 (Nos)	633.00
* Mother Dairy Delhi Modernisation of Refrigeration Plant				1125.00
* Noida Dairy (Spill-Over of OF-III)				550.00

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana				
*Model Dairy Karnal (Spill-Over of OF-III)				85.16
Punjab				
**Gurdaspur Milk Union Ghee Packing Machine				7.25
Bihar				
*Mithila Milk Union—Bihar Rossera CC (Spillover of OF-III)	—	20	20	21.00
Karnataka				
*Strengthening of Dempo Dairy				46.00
*CFP, Hassan (MTD)	—	100	100	435.00
**Bangalore Mega Dairy				4315.00
—New Dairy	—	600	600	
—Hoskote CC	—	150	150	
**Kolar Dairy Exp	100	200	100	995.25
Gowribidnaur CC Exp	60	100	40	
Sadli CC Exp	60	100	40	
Andhra Pradesh				
*Renovation/Strengthening of Balaji Dairy				246.00
Kerala				
*Malabar Milk Union (North Kerala Dairy Project)				
—Khozikode Dairy Expansion	60	150	90	142.35
—Palakkad Dairy Expansion	40	100	60	162.91
—Pattambi New CC	—	20	20	129.12
—Attappadi New CC	—	20	20	121.22
—Strengthening of CCS				52.80
—Road Milk Tankers				33.00

*100% Loan from NDDB

**90% of the Project cost would be financed by NDDB as 100% Loan and Balance 10% would be met by respective Unions from their own resources.

Statement-V

Statement indicating Projects approved under IDDP during the 9th Plan

Sl. No.	State Project	Year	Approved outlay (Amount Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Bihar-III (Kaimur)	1997-98	67.25
2.	Bihar-IV (Madhubani)	1997-98	66.30
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1997-98	805.95
4.	Maharashtra-II	1997-98	1941.55
5.	Nagaland-II	1998-99	347.49
6.	Orissa-III	1998-99	621.84
7.	West Bengal-II	1998-99	140.83

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

2238. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has any plan for health care and to promote use of radionuclides in medicine for both diagnosis and therapy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BARC is also setting up cyclotron and pet scan facility research centres in key areas of the brain and heart in different cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) A nuclear medicine centre called Radiation Medicine Centre (RMC) is already in existence in the

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Mumbai since 1963, which is the first premier centre in the country on nuclear medicine. This centre has played a pioneering role in applying nuclear medicine for health care. The use of radio pharmaceuticals for diagnosis and therapy is being carried out regularly at the Radiation Medicine Centre (RMC), BARC, Mumbai. Based on research at BARC, the following benefits for health care have been realised.

1. Radiopharmaceuticals supplied by the Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT) are used in 420 medical centres in the country for diagnosis and therapy. Some examples are:

1A. 2500-3000 new thyroid cancer cases are treated every year using radioiodine I^{131} in nuclear medicine departments.

1B. 6000 new hyperthyroidism cases are treated every year using radioiodine I^{131} .

1C. 200 cases of bone cancer are given SR^{89}/P^{32} for pain relief.

1D. I^{131} therapy for neuroendocrine tumours especially in children - 15 cases per year.

2. There are over 200 Cobalt-60 teletherapy units in the country for cancer treatment dealing with nearly 1.5 million treatment cases per year.

3. In addition, BRIT supplies radioactive sources for brachytherapy of cancer.

4. Multi-Centric trials have recently been started in the country on the use of P-32 labelled stents to inhibit restenosis after angioplasty.

5. There are 3 main large scale gamma irradiators in the country offering service for radiation sterilisation of medical products; one each in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi.

(c) and (d) BARC is actively pursuing a proposal to install a medical cyclotron and associate facilities to enhance the range of pharmaceuticals for diagnosis. The cyclotron will be installed at RMC and the position emitting radionuclides that will be produced would enhance the range of radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis including in key areas of the brain and heart.

*[Translation]***World Bank Loan**

2239. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France persuaded the World Bank not to withhold the loans likely to be sanctioned to India;

(b) whether any talks have been held between India and France in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) France has voted in favour of a World Bank loan for the Andhra Pradesh Power APL-1 project which came up for consideration on 18 February 1999. It had also voted in favour of a loan by the International Finance Corporation for the Integrated Coal Mining Private Limited, India which had come up for consideration on 2 February 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) France has indicated that it opposes the use of political criteria to place any restrictions on World Bank funding to India.

*[English]***Study on Poverty**

2240. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is launching a new study on poverty in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Domestic Electronic Industry

2241. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether easing of curbs on the import of electronic gadgets is likely to adversely affect the domestic electronic industry;

(b) if so, the incentive being given to domestic electronic industry to keep itself in the market;

(c) whether any new inventions/research are being undertaken in the field of electronics;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Information Technology Agreement of the World Trade Organisation, access has to be given to items in the Agreement. In order to enable the indigenous industry to face the new market dynamics, India has negotiated and extended time-phasing upto 2005 for reduction in imports duties.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Some of the major achievements are given below:—

- (i) Parallel Processing Computer (Super Computer)
- (ii) Technologies related to Indian languages in Computer
- (iii) Electronics Switching for Telephone Exchange
- (iv) High Voltage Direct Current transmission.
- (v) Linear accelerator for cancer radiation therapy (LINAC).
- (vi) Computer Networking
- (vii) Strategic Electronics
- (viii) Electronic System for use in Railways, Sugar, Textile Industry etc.

*[Translation]***Production of Fruits and Vegetables**

2242. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge potential to increase the production of fruits and vegetables in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last two years;

(c) whether the Union Government are extending support for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount released to Madhya Pradesh during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India is implementing following Central Sector Schemes on fruits and vegetables in the States including Madhya Pradesh and is providing financial assistance to the States:—

(1) Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits:

Under this scheme assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and tissue-culture units for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers and taking up publicity measures.

(2) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds:

Assistance is being provided for distribution vegetable seed minikits.

(3) Promoting cultivation of Root & Tuber Crops:

Assistance is being provided for distribution of minikits, laying out demonstration plots and setting up of True Potato Seed (TPS) Centres.

(4) Mushroom Production:

Assistance is being provided for setting up of pasteurised compost and spawn production units and training to the farmers.

(5) Use of Plastics in Agriculture:

Assistance is provided for drip system of irrigation, mulching and green house etc.

(e) The amount released during the last two years to Madhya Pradesh under various Central Sector Schemes is as under:

Year	Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	61.17
1997-98	297.66

Construction of Dam

2243. SHRI BALIRAM KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has created water crisis in Bustar division of Madhya Pradesh by constructing a dam across the river Indrawati near Jhaliaguda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any instructions has been issued by the Union Government to the State Government of Orissa in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government of Orissa in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (d) No such matter has been reported by both the State Governments to the Union Government.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

2244. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stones of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Sariya in Muzzafarpur district and in Vaishali were laid in the year 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting their operations so far; and

(c) the time by which both Vigyan Kendras would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. Both the Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Saraiya in Muzzafarpur and Vaishali districts have started their operations by organizing various activities including vocational training for farmers and frontline demonstrations on oilseeds and pulses.

During the period, 1349 farmers participated in training programmes and 1012 farmers in various extension activities such as Kisan Diwas, Kisan Gosthies and diagnostic visits.

During 1996-97 to 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 18.50 lakhs have been released by the Council to these Kendras.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

[English]

Space Laboratories

2245. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up space laboratories to make research on Cosmic-Rays; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Passport to Pakistani Agents

2246. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several instances of issue of Indian passports to Pakistani Agents have come to the knowledge of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the issue of passport to Pakistani Agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Commutation of Pension

2247. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a National Policy for the welfare of the senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to consider that the commuted portion of pension be restored after ten years;

(c) whether as per the existing rules, the pensions is reduced pro rata where the pensioner has put in less 33 years of service; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enhance the pension *pro rata* in cases where a pensioner has served for more than 33 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) A National Policy for Older Persons has been announced by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The policy seeks to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other development needs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Funds for Seed Development

2248. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government agricultural farms running in losses in the country, State-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the total amount provided by the Union Government to the State Government for seed development programme in Government agriculture farm during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government during the current financial year for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Information is being collected from the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Central Government was implementing a scheme under which assistance was provided to the States, part of which was to be spent on seed development in agricultural farms. The scheme is "National Programme for Varietal Development (NPVD)". The amount released during 1997-98 under this scheme is Rs. 220.00 lakhs. There is no proposal to release any fund under this scheme during 1998-99, because the scheme is under revision.

National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture

2249. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture Production was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subjects discussed in the said symposium; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the farmers to boost productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) A National Symposium on "Sustainable Agriculture Production Lessons from Traditional Technologies" was

held on 30-31st January, 1999 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The objectives of the Symposium were:

- (i) To bring together farmers and grassroot agencies involved in the practice of traditional technologies and to recognize the importance of these technology for sustainable agriculture production;
- (ii) To share experience of NGOs, Farmers' Organizations, individual farmers involved in successful practice of traditional technologies with agriculture scientists, government functionaries, policy makers and industry;
- (iii) To initiate a process for documentation and wherever possible adaptation, refinement and validation of these technologies for wider applicability.

The participants at this Symposium included senior officers from Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water Resources, Food etc., scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural University System, officers from State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, NGOs, progressive farmers, corporate sector and industry etc.

(c) The Symposium have five main Technical Session, namely:

- (i) Traditional Technologies in Crop Production System-1
 - Seed Development
 - Nutrient management
- (ii) Traditional Technologies in Crop Production System-2
 - Plant Protection
 - Farm Implements
- (iii) Traditional Technologies in Post Harvest Management
 - Storage
 - Processing
- (iv) Traditional Technologies in Water Management.
- (v) Traditional Technologies in Animal Husbandry.

(d) The participants of the Symposium have been sensitized regarding the importance of indigenous technologies and practices for sustainable agriculture production and the need for evaluating them in the context of modern scientific and technological environment.

Women in Agriculture

2250. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture in the country;

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

(c) whether the scheme is not being implemented in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the funds provided to the State Governments under the above schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme was launched during the VIIIth Plan Period on pilot basis in one district each of the 7 States of the country. They are:

State	District
1. Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
2. Punjab	Jalandhar
3. Haryana	Hissar
4. U.P.	Bulandshar
5. Rajasthan	Udaipur
6. Maharashtra	Thane
7. Kerala	Palakkad

(c) and (d) The Scheme is being implemented in Thane district of Maharashtra State.

(e) The details of funds released to State Governments under the above Scheme is given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of funds released to State Govts. under the Scheme

Name of the State	Release of funds (in Rupees)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Haryana	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Himachal Pradesh	6,64,580	2,54,580	—
Kerala	6,64,580	5,54,580	6,64,580
Maharashtra	6,64,580	13,60,020	6,64,580
Punjab	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Rajasthan	6,64,580	5,54,580	6,64,580
Uttar Pradesh	6,64,580	6,54,580	6,64,580
Total	64,52,060	46,87,500	39,87,480

Development of Backward Areas of Assam

2251. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved any scheme for the development of backward areas of Assam during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Assam for the purpose during the above period;

(d) the details of other schemes submitted by the Assam Government to the Union Government for seeking financial assistance; and

(e) the time by which the project are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The planning and development of an area allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula for distribution of Normal Central Assistance among the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various States, including Assam, for Special Area Programmes such as the Border Area Development Programme, the Hill Area Development Programme and the Tribal Sub-Plan.

(d) and (e) No Schemes are pending with the Planning Commission at present.

Indians in Pak Jails

2252. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as 1,622 Indian service personnel including 54 officers and several para-military persons are present in the Pak jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above service personnel were declared dead and their family members are getting pension;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the matter relating to their release was discussed with the Pakistan delegation during the meeting of Indo-Pak Officers; and

(f) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) According to available information, 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. Pakistan has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody.

Government have extended to the families of the 54 missing defence personnel believed to be in Pakistan's custody liberalised family pension, family gratuity and education allowance for children.

The matter has been taken up on several occasions with Pakistan at various levels, including that the Prime Minister. During his visit to Pakistan from 20-21 February 1999, Prime Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and it was decided that the two sides shall appoint a 2 member committee at ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of missing POWs.

[Translation]

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2253. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to transfer the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the National Development Council held recently on 19.2.99, it was decided to constitute a sub-committee of the National Development Council to go into the issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and the modalities involved therein. The sub-committee will be under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, with members from both Central Ministries and States.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Securing Release of Mortal Remains

2254. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working out any proposal with the Government of Saudi Arabia for expediting the

despatch of mortal remains of Indian citizens who have died in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for the inordinate delay in securing release of dead bodies from Saudi Arabia;

(d) whether any representation have been received during 1997-98 regarding the delay in obtaining release of such mortal remains; and

(e) if so, action taken on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The mortal remains of Indian nationals are transported to India at the cost of employers/sponsors in accordance with the prevailing practices in Saudi Arabia and in keeping with the obligations under employment contract. No separate proposal is being mooted with the Government of Saudi Arabia for the purpose.

(c) The delay in securing the release of dead bodies is due to the stringent local procedures. In cases of natural death, the release of dead bodies and their transportation could take upto 6 weeks. In cases of accidents, suicides, murders, etc. the delay could be much longer, since police investigation by the local authorities is a prerequisite and, until this is completed, other formalities such as the local District Governor's Clearance, attestation of relevant documents, etc. cannot be undertaken. On receipt of information regarding the death of an Indian national, the Indian Mission liaises with the family members and employer/sponsor to facilitate expeditious procedural clearances for transportation of the mortal remains of the deceased to India.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Whenever such representations are received, the Indian Missions and Posts in the Gulf countries are advised to take immediate action for the expeditious transportation of the mortal remains to India. They in turn take prompt action and extend the necessary assistance in completing the procedural requirements.

Dhara Edible Oil

2255. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacture of Dhara brand of edible oil in National Dairy Development Board has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NDDDB has ten units all over the country which collect oil from the manufactures, test it for quality, package it and market the final product;

(d) if so, whether any proof has come to the notice of the Government about the international conspiracy on the adulterated edible oil; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Dhara oil is packaged at 12 stations spread all over the country. Sourcing of oil is done from oil Co-operatives/through imports after following rigorous test procedures. The final product is marketed through Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation.

(d) Nothing has been established so far.

(e) Question does not arise.

Glut in Sale of Potato

2256. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the glut in sale of potato in the market of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce "market intervention scheme" through NAFED to save the potato growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government of U.P. in December, 1998 reported a bumper crop of potato and approached the Government of India for implementation of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of potato.

Government of India agreed, in principle to implement the MIS but the Government of U.P., withdrew their proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Rural Employment in Dairy

2257. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rural employment generated through Technology Mission for Dairy Development (TMDD) during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any target for providing rural employment under this scheme by 2000 AD; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) There were no targets under the Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD) for generation of rural employment. The TMDD was launched to support and supplement the efforts of the Operation Flood programme by dovetailing the activities and sources of various agencies working for the dairy development such as dairy cooperative under Operation Flood, Animal Husbandry Departments, DRDAs and NGOs etc.

Wastage of Foodgrains

2258. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains are wasted due to non-utilisation of necessary post harvest techniques by the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to develop a post harvest technique to avoid this loss of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wastages in foodgrains occur during different unit operations such as harvesting, threshing, on-farm handling, transportation, storage and processing.

According to the estimates made by different committees including All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology (ICAR), the extent of losses during different post harvest operations have been estimated at 13-15% of the production, varying from crop-to-crop and place-to-place.

It could therefore, be inferred that India losses about 13-15% of the foodgrains produced because of inadequate post harvest technology use.

(c) The Government has made significant efforts in the area of developing post harvest techniques to avoid losses of food-grains in the country at technology development institutes like, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal, Indian Grain Storage Institute, Hapur Departments of Food Science and Technology Departments of Post Harvest Engineering, Agricultural Structures and Process Engineering in State Agricultural Universities. IIT, Kharagpur established Rice Process Engineering Centre now, called as Post Harvest Technology Centre, Deptt. of Food established Paddy Processing Research Centre in Thiruvavur/Thanjavur. Efforts were also directed towards developing human resource at post-graduate level as well as vocational. Indian Council of Agricultural Research established All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology, Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana and sponsored a number of other programme addressing to harvest and post-harvest loss prevention and on-farm value addition.

Important technologies developed for reduction in post harvest losses specially at farmer's level are crop dryers, improved storage structures for foodgrains, mechanised grain markets and post harvest technologies for value addition and generation of income & employment in rural areas.

Nuclear Bomb

2259. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Are Pak N-Arms more dangerous" appearing in *Times of India*, dated January 18, 1999, referring to a CIA revelation that the material used in the nuclear tests by Pakistan in May, 1998 contains low levels of weapon grade plutonium;

(b) if so, in what respects the Nuclear bombs tested by Pakistan were more dangerous than the ones developed in India; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and steps taken by the Government to raise a matching Nuclear deterrent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Nuclear devices, whether based on fission of Uranium or Plutonium, cause the same effect if the yield is identical. However, the CIA revelations, about the possibility of transfer of Plutonium from a third country to Pakistan, if correct, would be a matter of concern. Government's decisions relating to our nuclear policy will continue to be taken in accordance with our own assessment of national security requirements.

[Translation]

Appointment and Deputation

2260. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provision for appointment and appointment on deputation to the Gazetted posts in the Government Departments and Commissions;

(b) the maximum period of deputation and the provision for repatriation of the officer on expiry of his deputation period;

(c) whether the said provisions are also applicable to the Public Service Commission, Law Commission, Human Rights Commission, Water Commission and Inquiry Commission; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Appointments to the Gazetted posts in the Government Departments are made as per provisions contained in Recruitment Rules for such posts under the respective Departments. The method of appointment for a post is decided keeping in view of its nature of duties, qualifications and experience required. Under deputation rules, an officer from outside the cadre is appointed for

a limited period by the end of which, he is reverted to his parent cadre. The appointments in the Commissions are regulated as per the terms and conditions of appointment regulated under the Act under which such commissions are set up.

(b) The period of deputation for a particular grade or cadre is dependent upon the pay scale of the post to which the deputation is made. While for top level posts, the normal period of deputation is 5 years, for Middle Management level this period is 4 years and for other lower levels, the normal period of deputation is 3 years. The Ministries/Departments decide the period of deputation in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training and UPSC taking into account their requirement, the field of availability and qualification prescribed for the post. The maximum period of deputation is therefore indicated in the Recruitment Rules for various posts or the Central Staffing Scheme, as the case may be, and at the end of that period the officer has to be reverted to his parent cadre.

(c) and (d) Since the Commission are set up under the provisions of the Constitution of India or relevant statutory rules and are, therefore, statutory in nature, the appointments in the Commissions are regulated as per the terms and conditions of appointment regulated under the Act whereby such Commissions are set up.

Animal Research Farms

2261. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of Animal Research Farms in the country and existing farms are not functioning efficiently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the places where such farms are located; and

(c) the names of different breeds developed in these farms during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No new breeds of livestock have been developed and released during the last two years.

*[English]***Class IV Employees**

2262. DR. SAROJA V: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to appoint regular employees for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises;

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

(c) the number of persons appointed as Class-IV employees in Government/Subordinate offices during the last three years for the purpose mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) the number of contractors hired and contract labourer working at present for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have not issued any orders in the recent past extending or curtailing regular employment for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of the office premises, as administrative ministries concerned take into account the functional and administrative needs while deciding such arrangement.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The respective Ministries/Departments/offices of the Central Government are empowered to make recruitment in the Group 'D' cadre for performing duties of sweeping, cleaning, dusting etc. The information on such recruitment is not maintained on a centralised basis.

Credit Institutions

2263. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement radical reforms in providing adequate credit to the farmers as per recommendations of the Expert Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan drawn for the year 1998-99;

(c) the detail of rural credit made available to farmers for agricultural operations and inputs, State-wise during the last three years; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen Rural Credit Institutes and simplify credit delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India appointed a High Level Committee (RV Gupta Committee) on agricultural credit through Commercial Banks to study the working of the credit delivery system and make suggestions for simplification of procedures. The Committee made several recommendations which include greater flexibility and discretion to banks in the matter of collateral, margin, security; dispensing with "No Dues Certificates"; introduction of composite cash credit limits to cover farmer's production, post-harvest and household requirements etc. These recommendations have been accepted and commended to banks for implementation. Besides, the banks have also been advised to formulate Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP), since 1994-95. As per the SACP drawn up for the year 1998-99, the projected disbursement for agriculture are Rs. 18503 crore.

State-wise details of agricultural credit disbursed through institutional agencies during the last three years are given in the Statement-I to III.

With a view to strengthening the Rural Financial Institutions and simplify credit delivery system, following steps have been taken:—

- A proposal has been initiated for revamping of Cooperative Credit Structure.
- Steps have been taken for reformulation of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, with a view to restoring the autonomy of the cooperative institutions.
- Action has been initiated to amend the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Act, 1962 to diversify its activities and to provide it operational freedom and access to resources.
- Application forms for obtaining loans have been simplified and made available in regional language.
- Instructions have been issued to banks for disposal of loan application upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those above Rs. 25,000/- within 8-9 weeks.
- Guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortgage have been liberalised.
- A Kisan Credit Card scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible and cost effective manner, has been launched.

Statement-I*State-wise/Agency-wise Ground Level Credit flow for Agricultural Credit during 1995-96*

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/U.T.	CBs	SCB/CCBs	LDRs	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chandigarh	4960.00				4960.00
2.	New Delhi	8168.00	53.00			8221.00
3.	Haryana	33050.00	96550.00	16514.00	4942.00	154056.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4850.00	1138.00	909.00	270.00	7167.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	380.00	775.00	214.00	297.00	1566.00
	Punjab	76380.00	98932.00	16680.00	3908.00	195900.00
	Rajasthan	24460.00	42944.00	14092.00	6179.00	87675.00
	Arunachal Pradesh		36.00		61.00	97.00
	Assam	2457.00	108.00		642.00	3207.00
	Manipur	176.00			15.00	191.00
	Meghalaya	165.00	129.00		104.00	398.00
	Mizoram	17.00	8.00		90.00	115.00
	Nagaland	210.00	114.00		1.00	325.00
	Tripura	329.00	207.00	55.00	92.00	683.00
	Sikkim	98.00				98.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Bihar	24286.00	8049.00	1400.00	2935.00	36670.00
17.	Orissa	19300.00	17350.00	264.00	4727.00	41641.00
18.	West Bengal	33040.00	21647.00	2291.00	2802.00	59780.00
19.	A&N Islands		87.00			87.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	45330.00	70185.00	7550.00	7785.00	130850.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	82030.00	96304.00	22115.00	22880.00	223116.00
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	34.00	3.00			37.00
23.	Daman & Diu	44.00	11.00			55.00
24.	Gujarat	30000.00	73489.00	9441.00	6171.00	149101.00
25.	Goa	2730.00	498.00			3228.00
26.	Maharashtra	105530.00	150730.00	12886.00	3814.00	272980.00
27.	Andhra Pradesh#	178750.00	103431.00		28080.00	308261.00
28.	Karnataka	85680.00	45798.00	9839.00	27233.00	168550.00
29.	Lakshadweep	36.00				36.00
30.	Kerala	46205.00	28090.00	7195.00	12690.00	94180.00
31.	Pondicherry	3580.00	461.00	109.00		4150.00
32.	Tamil Nadu	174970.00	64050.00	5158.00	4602.00	248780.00
Total		1017245.00	921177.00	126712.00	138109.00	2203243.00

Note: Disbursements through other agencies (if any) included in SCB/CCBs
 # Unified Structure

Statement-II*State-wise/Agency-wise Ground Level Credit flow for Agricultural Credit during 1996-97*

(Rs lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/U.T.	CBs	SCB/CCBs	LDRs	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chandigarh	3057.00				3057.00
2.	New Delhi*	8880.00	77.00			8957.00
3.	Haryana*	37140.00	120888.00	17148.00	7085.00	182261.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4945.00	1922.00	1173.00	475.00	8515.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	460.00	846.00	236.00	608.00	2150.00
6.	Punjab*	97140.00	116821.00	20375.00	5317.00	239653.00
7.	Rajasthan*	32525.00	53553.00	16279.00	8530.00	110887.00
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.00	174.00		91.00	274.00
9.	Assam	3459.00	50.00		378.00	3885.00
10.	Manipur	404.00	22.00		10.00	436.00
11.	Meghalaya	185.00	68.00		116.00	369.00
12.	Mizoram	203.00	82.00		70.00	355.00
13.	Nagaland	262.00	175.00			437.00
14.	Tripura	474.00	221.00	83.00	112.00	890.00
15.	Sikkim	244.00				244.00
16.	Bihar	30033.00	7944.00	1902.00	5550.00	45429.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Orissa*	21780.00	6743.00	15741.00	866.00	45130.00
18.	West Bengal*	43567.00	23181.00	3189.00	3381.00	73318.00
19.	A&N Islands	11.00	178.00			189.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh*	65000.00	85171.00	7513.00	8444.00	166128.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh*	107500.00	88524.00	32771.00	27485.00	256280.00
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	56.00				56.00
23.	Daman & Diu	57.00	19.00			76.00
24.	Gujarat	84360.00	85233.00	11918.00	7637.00	189146.00
25.	Goa	2260.00	393.00			2653.00
26.	Maharashtra	120200.00	141719.00	14483.00	5087.00	281469.00
27.	Andhra Pradesh#	201100.00	132600.00		34900.00	368600.00
28.	Karnataka*	101785.00	46057.00	11306.00	29437.00	188585.00
29.	Lakshadweep	43.00				43.00
30.	Kerala	74612.00	33596.00	8823.00	16290.00	133321.00
31.	Pondicherry	1800.00	496.00	108.00		2404.00
32.	Tamil Nadu*	201451.00	75722.00	8945.00	6566.00	292684.00
Total		1278271.00@	1022475.00	171993.00	168393.00	2641132.00@

Note: Disbursements through other agencies (if any) included in SCB/CCBs.

@ Including Rs. 332.69 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Unified Structure

* Data Provisional.

Statement-III*State-wise/Agency-wise flow of Ground Level Credit (GLC) for Agriculture and allied activities during 1997-98*

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/U.T.	CBs	SCB/CCBs	LDRs	RRBs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chandigarh	6474				6474
2.	Haryana	50016	130968	21011	11226	213221
3.	Punjab	127056	125559	23468	6785	264865
4.	New Delhi	21517	25			21542
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5598	2327	925	711	9561
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	595	789	206	614	2204
7.	Rajasthan	47561	68287	18152	12208	146208
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	166	39		141	346
9.	Assam	5851	9198		361	15410
10.	Manipur	253	25		14	292
11.	Meghalaya	313	20		48	381
12.	Mizoram	42	116		30	107
13.	Nagaland	257	154			411
14.	Tripura	486	423	64	141	1114
15.	Sikkim	191				191
16.	Bihar	28662	4819	3237	5270	41986

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Orissa	21484	20089	142	6711	48428
13.	West Bengal	38255	22924	3563	2539	67261
19.	A&N Islands	99	199			298
20.	Madhya Pradesh	81098	97776	8219	11506	198599
21.	Uttar Pradesh	120143	111721	29242	24392	286498
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	74	33			107
23.	Daman & Diu	83	7			90
24.	Gujarat	101407	102625	17467	9286	230785
25.	Goa	2794	570			3354
26.	Maharashtra	129143	168340	9311	5374	312168
27.	Andhra Pradesh@	211216	154143		42276	407635
28.	Karnataka	131799	66865	12312	34954	245930
29.	Kerala	77731	41519	9027	19659	147936
30.	Lakshadweep	43				43
31.	Tamil Nadu	245405	97784	10465	9583	363237
32.	Pondicherry	2213	436	81		2730
Total		1569331\$	1227780	168892	203838	3169841

@ Unified Structure

* Excludes Rs. 228.10 crore disbursed under RIDF and includes Rs. 1113.06 crore disbursed by Private Sector Banks. State-wise data not available.

* Data in respect of Private Sector Banks not available.

Note: Disbursements through other agencies included in SCB/CCBs

Source:

CO, ROI, RPCD, Co-operative and RRDs, NABARD

Kashmir Issue

2264. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States again rejected on Tuesday February 2, 1999, Pakistan's call for mediation in Kashmir, but promised all help to resolve the problem; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto, indicating whether any move has since been made by the US or Pakistan Government's in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In a speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad on February 2, 1999, after the 8th round of Pak-US dialogue, the US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, referring to India's consistent opposition to any third party mediation in the bilateral issue, reportedly stated that the US was not in a position to act as a "mediator or broker". A joint statement was issued at the end of 8th round of Pak-US dialogue on 2nd February, 1999, wherein "the US expressed its strong support for the current talks between Pakistan and India.....".

(b) Government position on the issue of Kashmir is clear and consistent. We have always maintained that there is no scope for outside intervention in bilateral matters.

Recently, on February 20-21, 1999, PM visited Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service. During the visit, Prime Ministers of the two countries signed the Lahore Declaration wherein they "agreed that the two countries will intensify efforts to resolve all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through the composite dialogue process; refrain from intervention and interference in each other's internal affairs, combat the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.....".

Prawn Culture

2265. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from NGO's functioning in the coastal areas regarding non-implementation of directions of the Supreme Court concerning prawn culture in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote environment friendly schemes of prawn cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from a few quarters alleging unauthorised shrimp farming activities by some firms in violation of Supreme Court's directions. The allegations include violation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, fresh stocking of shrimp seed in ponds meant for demolition, use of chemicals and fertilizers, drawal of ground water for shrimp culture purposes etc. Writ Petitions have also been filed against setting up of shrimp culture farmers in some States. The matter is subjudice.

(c) In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court, an Aquaculture Authority has been set up to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Authority has evolved rules of procedures and State Level and District Level Committees have been set up to screen applications for setting up of shrimp culture pond in coastal areas for approval of the Aquaculture Authority. The Authority has also evolved guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming in an eco-friendly manner. Shrimp farming activities which have the effect of causing environmental degradation are not allowed by the Authority

[Translation]

Bhander Irrigation Project

2266. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in regard to sharing of water of Bhandar Inter-State canal projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is violating the norms of the agreement and releasing lesser quantity of water in the canal as compared to that mentioned in the agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for strict compliance of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) An agreement was signed between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh regarding ownership of the Bhandar Canal system on 18th October, 1995.

(c) No such matter is reported to Union Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to Farmers

2267. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance is provided/proposed to be provided to farmers doing agricultural work through non-conventional energy;

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

(c) whether the farmers of different States have also been supplied equipments for agricultural work through non-conventional energy;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources have informed that they do not have any specific Scheme for providing assistance to the farmers. However, some of the non-conventional energy devices are being subsidised among the beneficiaries which includes farmers as well. The devices on which subsidy is provided includes Bio-gas plants, Solar Photo Voltaic Water pump sets, Improved chullah, Wind pumps, Water mills, Bio mass gasifier systems for mechanical applications.

Relations with Bulgaria

2268. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to improve bilateral relation with Bulgaria;

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding have been signed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Indo-Bulgarian relations have been traditionally marked by warmth and friendship. Regular exchange of visits has taken place between the two countries. Recent high-level visits include those of the former President, Hon'ble Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, to Bulgaria from May 26-29, 1994 and of the Bulgarian President, H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov, to India from October 25-30, 1998.

(b) and (c) A large number of Inter-Governmental Agreements have been signed between India and Bulgaria encompassing all areas including political consultations, trade and economic cooperation, science & technology and culture.

During the above two Presidential visits, the following agreements were signed:

- Agreement on combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism, Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances;
- Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation;
- Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism;
- Agreement on Quarantine & Plant Protection;
- Veterinary & Sanitary Agreement;
- A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations;
- Indo-Bulgarian Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA);
- Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and the International Fair Inc. Plovdiv;
- MOU between the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) and the Bulgarian Export Promotion Centre; and
- MOU between the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Bulgarian Industrial Association.

[*Translation*]**Beetal Development Scheme**

2269. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing beetal development scheme in the country;

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

(c) whether the administrative clearance has been given and the amount has been provided to Madhya Pradesh by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Government of India had been implementing a Central Sector Scheme on the Development of Betelvine during VIII Plan. The implementation of the scheme has been phased out from 1997-98. Thus, there is no scheme under which administrative approval to Madhya Pradesh can be given and funds provided for beetal development.

Special Pilot Scheme

2270. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the implementation of special pilot scheme for maize under the United Nations Development Programme in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) U.P. special pilot scheme for maize under the United Nations Development Programme is a part of the "Sub-programme on Maize based cropping System" in India to be funded by UNDP for implementation in three States namely: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan at a

total cost of Rs. 3,43,26,380/- (US\$ 814,000/-) covering six districts, namely: Baharaich, Bulandshahar, Deoria and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh and one each i.e. Banswara in Rajasthan and Begusarai in Bihar. The Sub-programme will cover the development and dissemination of maize related technology in the covered areas.

(c) The implementation of the programme will start after the approval of the competent authority and the Sub-programme document is signed by DEA, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and UNDP. The procedure is likely to be completed soon.

[*English*]**Central Ground Water Authority**

2271. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority is doing registration of ground water extracting structures in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any comprehensive door-to-door inventory survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Authority so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated amount spent by the authority in conducting this survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Ground Water Authority is at present, doing registration of ground water extracting structures in Delhi and Municipal Corporation areas of Faridabad and Ballabhgarh in Haryana.

(c) and (d) The Central Ground Water Authority has carried out door-to-door inventory survey to register existing ground water extraction structures in different villages on Nazafgarh block of Delhi and has registered 13894 ground water extraction structures in the block. The Central Ground Water Board has done it by deploying their existing resources. Therefore, no separate accounts of expenditure for this activity has been maintained.

New Poverty Line

2272. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any final decision in regard to the proposal of new poverty plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main feature of the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) No, Sir, there is no such plan, at present. However, specifically designed anti-poverty programmes for generation of both self-employment and wage-employment in rural areas will continue in the Ninth Plan. These are being redesigned in order to improve their efficacy. Under the self-employment programme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) a holistic approach would be adopted with an integration of the existing sub-schemes of Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisan (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) into a single self-employment programme. There would also be a strategic shift from an individual beneficiary approach to a group or cluster approach under IRDP. To facilitate this process, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will be formed. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) will be confined to the creation of rural infrastructure according to the felt needs of the people at the village level through panchayats. At the block and district level Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) would be the single wage-employment programme. National Social Assistance Programme which was introduced as a social security programme for the welfare of the poor households would be expanded in the Ninth Plan. Efforts would be made to bring about a greater integration between the poverty alleviation programmes and the various sectoral programmes as well as the area development programmes within the umbrella of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The poverty

alleviation programmes will be implemented with greater participation of gram panchayats.

[Translation]

Artificial Insemination Centres

2273. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated to set up artificial insemination centres to improve the breed of lactative animals during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the time by which the said schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Department has formulated a National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) which envisages bringing the entire bovine population under organised breeding programme making use of both A.I. as well as natural service. The A.I. workers will be mobile and deliver services at the doorstep of the farmers. The number of A.I. workers will also increase accordingly. Inferior quality bulls used for natural services are proposed to be replaced with good quality pedigree bulls.

(b) The Expenditure Finance Committee has already approved the proposal. Concurrence of the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is required before the scheme is formally launched. These are likely to be obtained by the first quarter of 1999-2000.

[English]

Ban on Fertilizers

2274. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban imposed on use of certain fertilisers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The fertilizers included/notified in schedule I of Fertilizer

(Control) Order, 1985 are recognised as fertilizers meant for the application in soils for crop production. There is no ban on use of such fertilizers which are under schedule I of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), question does not arise.

Production of Coconut

2275. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coconut in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is a stagnation in the production of coconuts during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to increase the production of coconut;

(d) whether there is any proposal in the Ninth Five Year Plan to boost the production of coconut; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) The total production of coconut in the country for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 is given below:—

Year	Production (Million nuts)
1995-96	12952.3
1996-97	13060.9
1997-98	13096.0

(b) and (c) There is no stagnation in production of coconuts during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98. However, for increasing production of coconut, the Coconut Development Board is providing financial support for production and distribution of planting material; new planting; cutting and removal of diseased/senile palms; replanting with quality seedlings; promotion of fertiliser & plant protection chemicals; multi-species cropping; and control of leaf eating caterpillar.

(d) and (e) For increasing production and productivity of coconuts in the country, following projects of the Coconut Development Board are being implemented.—

(i) Production and distribution of planting material;

(ii) Area expansion;

(iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement; and

(iv) Integrated programme for control of leaf eating caterpillar.

During 1998-99, an allocation of Rs. 23.00 crores has been made for implementing various programmes of the Coconut Development Board. These projects will continue during the IX Plan period.

Welfare of SC/ST Farmers

2276. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken special care towards the welfare of SC/ST farmers;

(b) if so, the details of schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of SC/ST farmers;

(c) the amount of assistance provided by the Government under the said schemes to farmers of Maharashtra; and

(d) the number of farmers of SC/ST community benefited so far therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing a number of Central/Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of agriculture in the country. However, there is no specific separate scheme exclusively devoted to the welfare of SC/ST farmers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

ICDP-Coarse Cereals

2277. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centrally Sponsored ICDP-Coarse cereals Programmes is being implemented in the country;

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

(c) the allocation made to these States as Central share so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover some more blocks under the programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) was launched in 1994-95 and is being implemented in six States viz. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (except Chhatisgarh region), Rajasthan (except Sri Ganganagar & Hanumangarh districts) and Sikkim. The expenditure is shared mostly 75:25 basis between Government of India and States. Assistance is provided for transfer of technology through field demonstration and farmer's training as well as supply of critical inputs like seed, farm implements, sprinkler sets, contingencies for monitoring of scheme etc. Demonstration & farmers training are to be implemented only in identified blocks having yield of cereals less than State/National average.

(c) The State-wise allocation (Central Share) so far is given in the Statement

(d) and (e) During remaining period of 9th Plan, all blocks will be covered in the identified States.

Statement

State-wise Allocation (Central Share) since 1994-95 to 1998-99 (till 5.3.1999)

Sl.No.	State	Amount (Rupees in lakh)
1.	Gujarat	1272.23
2.	Karnataka	1518.77
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2562.50
4.	Maharashtra	3348.53
5.	Rajasthan	2929.23
6.	Sikkim	92.03

Paddy Seeds

2278. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the paddy cultivators in Assam are not in a position to undertake their agricultural activities as they lost their quality seeds in the recent floods;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide paddy seeds to Assam free of cost through the National Seeds Corporation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No information has been received in this connection.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Trade ties with Australia

2279. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia and India have shown keenness for better trade ties and also improved relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached; and

(c) the fields on which further improvement of relations with Australia are being considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE):

(a) At the Australian initiative, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade of Australia Mr. Tim Fischer visited India from 25-27 February, 1999 to co-chair the Joint Ministerial Commission meeting with the Commerce Minister. Meeting of the Joint Business Council was held back-to-back with JMC meeting. Both sides reviewed the bilateral trade relationship and agreed to expand direct investment.

(b) A Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, an MoU on sports cooperation, and two agreements on agricultural cooperation were signed during the visit.

(c) Both sides expressed support for the establishment of a joint working group on energy and mining and examined the possibilities of establishing a joint working group on information technology. Possible cooperation in several other sectors such as Railways, trade information etc. was also discussed.

Transit Treaty

2280. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have signed a new transit treaty;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the date till which the new treaty will remain valid?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A renewed Transit Treaty between India and Nepal was signed on January 5, 1999 in Kathmandu by Commerce Minister Shri Ram Krishna Hegde and his Nepalese counterpart, Mr. Purna Bahadur Khadka.

(b) and (c) The renewed Treaty contains liberalised procedures for the transit of Nepalese goods. It is valid for a period of seven years up to January 5, 2006, and shall, thereafter, be automatically extended for a further period of seven years at a time, unless either of the parties gives to the other a written notice, six months in advance, of its intention to terminate the Treaty, provided further that the Protocol and Memorandum to the Treaty, containing modalities and other arrangements, would be subject to review and modification every seven years or earlier, if warranted.

Development of Agriculture

2281. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released to each State for the development of agriculture during the year 1989-99;

(b) whether share of investment is being given to States in accordance with any norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The details of funds released to each State during the year 1998-99 is given in Statement.

(b) and (c) Funds are released to the State Governments under various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes based on proposals received from the States, total allocation in the budget of the Department and the amount remaining unutilised out of earlier releases made.

Statement

Statewise Releases of Funds for Development of Agriculture under Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1998-99.

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Fund Released during 1998-99 as on 1.10.98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3513.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	216.34
3.	Assam	256.90
4.	Bihar	335.91
5.	Goa	122.40
6.	Gujarat	3105.54
7.	Haryana	1111.06
8.	Himachal Pradesh	451.43
9.	J & K	896.77
10.	Karnataka	5641.11

1	2	3
11.	Kerala	2413.33
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3238.15
13.	Maharashtra	8357.51
14.	Manipur	292.52
15.	Meghalaya	180.05
16.	Mizoram	619.55
17.	Nagaland	349.77
18.	Orissa	1943.76
19.	Punjab	1146.04
20.	Rajasthan	7341.39
21.	Sikkim	260.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	3864.15
23.	Tripura	360.85
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3557.51
25.	West Bengal	530.36
Total		50106.72

NAFED

2282. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Limited is facing financial crisis;

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

(c) whether the employees of NAFED has gone on strike recently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith demands of the employees; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) No, Sir. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is earning profits for the last several years.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Some of the employees of NAFED had a grievance with the then Managing Director and their main demand was for his removal. Shri B.L. Bhadu has been relieved from his duties of the post of Managing Director, NAFED w.e.f. 30.1.1999.

National Hydrology Projects

2283. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented under the "National Hydrology Project" in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the total funds provided by the Government to each State under the above project since its inception;

(c) whether the funds allocated by the Government has been fully utilised by each State Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the optimum utilization of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) The Government of India has launched Hydrology Project of six year duration in September, 1995 with the World Bank credit assistance to improve the institutional and organisational arrangements, technical capabilities and physical facilities available for measurement, validation,

collation, analysis, transfer and dissemination of hydrological, hydrometeorological and water quality data and for basic water resource evaluations within the concerned Central and State participating agencies. The project is being implemented by five Central agencies viz. Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, National Institute of Hydrology, Central Water & Power Research Station and India Meteorological Department; and eight States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The total base cost of the project is Rs. 458.06 crores and the size of Tamil Nadu state component in it is Rs. 38.63 crores. No projects of any State have been taken up for implementation under the Hydrology Project.

(b) No funds are being provided by the Government of India to the States under the Hydrology Project. The funds for the State component under the Hydrology Project (HP) are provided by the respective State Governments out of their plan funds. The funds spent by them on HP activities are reimbursed by the World Bank in agreed proportions.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Public Sector Projects

2284. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector projects in infrastructure sector identified for clearance by the Government in order to kick start the economy;

(b) the details of time bound action plan drawn to push through the infrastructure projects;

(c) whether the Union Government have reviewed the ongoing projects in infrastructure sector recently; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Recognising the crucial role being played by infrastructure the Government have decided to take certain

effective steps to implement infrastructure projects particularly in power, telecom, railways, roads and port sectors.

A detailed Action Plan for rapid improvement in Physical infrastructure was prepared, appropriately integrated with the 9th Five year Plan and the same was approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 19.2.1999. The concerned Central Ministries will implement the projects in the light of directions and suggestions given in the Ninth Plan Document.

A Task Force on Infrastructure has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, comprising both Government and industry representatives, with the aim of attracting investment to specific projects of national and regional importance and ensuring their timely completion. The Task Force would deal with projects announced by the Prime Minister relating to development/upgradation of National Highways and international airports. The Task Force may be assigned such other tasks as may be found necessary from time to time.

A group of Telecommunications has been set up to make policy recommendations on various issues concerning the telecom sector including the proposed new Telecom Policy, existing licensee of basic and cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the framework of new Telecom Policy and issues pertaining to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(c) and (d) The Department of Programme Implementation (DPI) has been identified as the nodal agency for monitoring projects. The major projects in this sector are monitored by that Department each month through the Flash Report.

As on 1st February, 1999, a total of 204 projects each costing Rs. 100 crore and above were on the monitor of the DPI. This included 128 projects relating to infrastructure (civil aviation, railways, roads, port, power and telecom). 65 infrastructure projects were behind schedule with respect to their revised schedule. The anticipated cost of the infrastructure projects indicate a cost overrun of 35.44% with respect to the revised cost of Rs. 54466.43 crore.

Development Schemes for Spices, Coconut and Tassar Silk

2285. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether development schemes are being formulated to increase the production of spices, coconut and tassar silk in Northern and Southern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) For development of spices in India, Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Programme for Development of Spices" is being implemented, for which an outlay of Rs. 37.50 crores has been provided for the year, 1998-99.

Similarly for the development of coconut, the Coconut Development Board is implementing following projects with an allocation of Rs. 23.00 crores for 1998-99:—

- (i) Production & distribution of planting material;
- (ii) Area expansion;
- (iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;
- (iv) Integrated programme for control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Establishment of coconut technology development centre;
- (vi) Extension and publicity;
- (vii) Establishment of Integrated information and demonstration centre.

As regards tasser silk development, following Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for implementation during IX Plan:—

- (i) Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure;
- (ii) Support to agencies (NGOs/Cooperative Societies) for upgradation and popularisation of improved reeling/spinning devices for tropical tasser;
- (iii) Crop Insurance Support for Tasser.

Besides, there are general schemes under Catalytic Development Schemes which cover development of silk including tasser silk. In addition, Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken implementation of a project with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, assistance for tasser sericulture. The project envisages development of 4000 hectares of tasser food plants and increased production of 75 tonnes of tasser raw silk per annum after the project period.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Areas

2286. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes sanctioned by the Union Government during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for the development of backward areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government annually during the above period for these schemes;

(c) the details of the schemes submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government for sanction; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government to sanction these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward *per se*. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, additional Assistance is allocated to various States, including Madhya Pradesh, for Special Area Programmes and various poverty alleviation schemes.

(c) and (d) There are no schemes of the State Government pending with Planning Commission.

Commission for Agriculture Cost and Price

2287. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Price has constituted a High Level Standing Committee to regularly discuss the problems of food department;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition; and

(c) the details of the recommendations given by the Standing Committee so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) has recommended in its Report on Price Policy for Rabi Crops of 1998-99, that the Department of Food, the Food Corporation of India and the Railways may set up a High Level Standing Committee to discuss the problems of foodgrains movement on a regular basis. No such Committee has been set up by the Department of Food & Civil Supplies who feel that this would only duplicate the work already being done by them.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Rengali Canal

2288. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of main canal of Rengali irrigation project, Orissa has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious completion of the project; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of the canal is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for delay in completion of canal works are constraint of funds, land acquisition and priority accorded by the State.

(c) and (d) The right main canal upto a length of 95 km. has been included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme and is likely to be completed by 2001. The left main canal upto a length of 71.3 km. is now receiving external assistance and is likely to be completed by 2003.

Central Ground Water Authority

2289. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has declared Faridabad and Ballabhgarh as "Critical Areas" as the ground water has traces of chemical contaminants and is not fit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop supply of ground water to various colonies of Faridabad and Ballabhgarh and alternative arrangements made for the supply of safe potable water to the residents of these colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):
(a) The Central Ground Water Authority has notified the Municipal Corporation areas of Faridabad and Ballabhgarh in Haryana as "Critical Areas" in view of depletion in ground water resources due to over exploitation and presence of traces of chemical contaminants due to industrial activities in the region.

(b) Restrictions have been imposed on the drilling of any new ground water extraction structures by any person, agency, industry or Government organisation without prior permission of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). As per directive issued by the Authority the Deputy Commissioner of Faridabad has been authorised to take action as deemed fit for imposing restrictions on the construction and installation of any ground water extraction structures in notified areas of Faridabad and Ballabhgarh.

As regards alternative arrangements for survey of potable water to the residents of Faridabad and Ballabhgarh, it is the responsibility of Municipal Authorities of these urban centres. However, the Central Ground Water Board is providing technical assistance to local authorities in locating sources of fresh ground water.

National Co-operative Development Corporation

2290. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) in the co-operative sector during the last three years;

(b) whether NCDC has constructed storages/Cold storage in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) NCDC has provided financial assistance of Rs. 975.70 crores for various post-harvest agricultural and allied cooperative activities in the country during the last three years, i.e. from the year 1995-96 to 1997-98. The details of which are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(b) NCDC does not itself set up cold storages or storage godowns. However, NCDC provides financial assistance to cooperative through State Govts. for construction of cold storages/storage godowns in the country.

(c) The details of financial assistance provided for construction of cold storages and storage godown by the Corporation till 31.3.98 is as under:

Cold Storage

250 cold storage units with a total capacity of 7.71 lakh tons have been sanctioned and an assistance of Rs. 90 crores provided to State Governments for establishment of cold storages by cooperatives.

Storage

As on 31.3.98, net programme for construction of 56258 rural and 9512 marketing godowns by cooperatives with a total capacity of 139.86 lakh tonnes has been approved and an assistance of Rs. 596.31 crores provided to State Governments for construction of storage godowns in the country.

Statement

Statement showing Activity-wise position of release made by NCDC during the last 3 years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Activity	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
<i>All India</i>			
1. Marketing	7350.243	4160.570	4362.920
2. Inputs	11.304	5154.850	420.380
3. Agro-Processing			
(a) Sugar	11693.240	4359.730	8955.885
(b) Spinning Mills	126.770	702.550	0.000
(c) Oilseed Proc.	0.000	0.000	223.370
(d) Other Proc.	3116.273	1957.442	5269.903
Total	14936.283	7019.722	14443.150

1	2	3	4
4. Storage			
(a) Godowns	1311.103	895.559	903.840
(b) Cold Storage	281.215	460.349	574.156
Total	1592.318	1355.908	1477.996
5. Rural Consumers	125.050	175.218	188.928
6. ICDP	5103.476	4322.909	5460.811
7. Weaker Sections			
(a) Fishery	2687.269	3181.904	3861.170
(b) Dairy	374.710	263.100	171.317
(c) Tribal	1676.858	305.800	224.429
(d) Handloom	593.224	1293.128	431.991
(e) Others	1531.858	940.613	1190.287
Total	6863.919	5984.553	5879.194
8. Prom. & Misc.	295.592	148.151	130.369
9. Credits	0.00	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	36278.185	28921.881	32369.764

Administrative Reforms

2291. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to abolish the direct recruitment of I.A.S., I.P.S. to give more effective administrative skills by selecting the serving personnel in same field after five years of efficient service and with merit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Regarding Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

2292. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cultural centres set up abroad so far;

(b) the location of those cultural centres;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new cultural centre abroad during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has set up 14 Cultural Centres abroad. These Centres are located at Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Suriname), Port Louis (Mauritius), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russia), Berlin (Germany), Cairo (Egypt), London (U.K.), Johannesburg (South Africa), Durban (South Africa), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

(c) and (d) The ICCR has in hand several proposals for opening new Cultural Centres. These proposals are being examined in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs. These Centres will be opened depending upon the assessment of their requirements and the availability of additional funds.

Poverty Alleviation Programme

2293. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete measures are being worked out by the Government to improve the Poverty Alleviation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Poverty Alleviation Programmes have not so far achieved the desired results; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Despite the fact that there has been a consistent decline in the incidence of poverty over the past two decades—millions continue to live below the poverty line, large proportion of whom reside in rural areas. Therefore, specifically designed anti-poverty programmes for generation of both self-employment and wage-employment in rural areas will continue in the Ninth Plan. However, these are being redesigned in order to improve their efficacy. Under the self-employment programme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) a holistic approach would be adopted with an integration of the existing sub-schemes of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisan (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) into a single self-employment programme. There would also be a strategic shift from an individual beneficiary approach to a group or cluster approach under the IRDP. To facilitate this process, Self Help Groups (SHGs) will be formed. The cluster approach would focus on identification of a few specified viable activities based on local resource endowments and occupational skills of the people of that area. Initiative will be taken to build and strengthen the organisations of the poor with the objective of enhancing their capabilities. Recognizing that the level of investment is the most crucial variable in determining the incremental income generated under self-employment programme, the credit flows and the average level of investment per family for the Ninth Plan would aim at achieving enhanced levels of investment. The IRDP would service the beneficiaries through a package approach, wherein the beneficiary would have access to credit, training as per requirements, upgradation of technology, access to inputs, related infrastructure and marketing tie-ups in an integrated manner.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) will be confined to the creation of rural infrastructure according to the felt needs of the people at the village level through panchayats. At the block and district level Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) would be the single wage-employment programme. Certain precautionary measures would have to be taken in order to make the scheme effective in reaching the poor and the more backward areas of the country, where there is a concentration of the poor and underemployed. National Social Assistance Programme which was introduced as a social security programme for the welfare of the poor households would be expanded in the Ninth Plan. Efforts would be made to bring about a greater integration between the poverty alleviation programmes and the various sectoral programmes as well as the area development programmes within the umbrella of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). It is expected, that in the Ninth Plan, the States would devolve funds on the panchayats both from the Consolidated Funds of the States and the allocations made by the Central Government for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition, the panchayats have to be given their own revenue raising powers, as per the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. The involvement of the voluntary sector in rural development would continue.

(c) and (d) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. While millions of persons have been assisted under these programmes leading to increases in their employment and income, it is not possible to assess the actual contribution of these anti-poverty schemes in reducing poverty.

Exports by NAFED

2294. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of Agriculture Products exported by the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) during the last three years; and

(b) the total foreign exchange earned during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) during the last three years exported agricultural commodities as per details given below:

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	7043
1997-98	5522
1998-99 (upto Jan. 1999)	1475

And earned foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 14,040 lakhs (details are given in Statement).

Statement

*Export of Agriculture Commodities by National
Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation
of India Ltd. (NAFED) during the
last three years*

S.No.	Commodity	Quantity in Mts.	Value in Rs. lakhs
1	2	3	4
1998-99 (upto Jan, 99)			
1.	Bajra	200	11
2.	Rice	18	2
3.	Turmeric	605	234
4.	Onion	5574	541
5.	Potato	277	29
6.	Nigerseed	3037	658
		9711	1475

1	2	3	4
1997-98			
1.	Bajra	500	50
2.	Rice	2000	192
3.	Jowar	360	37
4.	Maize	250	28
5.	Gram	3664	236
6.	Turmeric	634	279
7.	Chillies	4048	81
8.	Black Pepper	30	55
9.	Onion	10974	1040
10.	Potato	3753	334
11.	Fruits & Veg.	—	11
12.	Nigerseed	3739	779
13.	Cotton	4495	2400
		34447	5522
1996-97			
1.	Bajra	435	40
2.	Jowar	327	30

1	2	3	4
3.	Rice	2422	270
4.	Wheat/Flour	376	135
5.	Methiseed	30	4
6.	Turmeric	653	196
7.	Chillies	220	90
8.	Cuminseed	48	29
9.	Other spices	14	7
10.	Onion	24952	2137
11.	Garlic	34	11
12.	Potato	6808	610
13.	Fruits/Veg.	113	26
14.	Apple	42	13
15.	Nigerseed	5146	1348
16.	Safflower	176	26
17.	Cotton	3877	2071
Total		45673	7043

Yearwise foreign exchange earned during the last three years is as under:

Year	Foreign exchange in Rs. Lacs
1998-99 (upto Jan, 99)	1475
1997-98	5522
1996-97	7043

[*Translation*]

Support Price for Linseed

2295. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested the Union Government for declaration of support price for linseed crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the Government would declare the support price of linseed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Drinking Water Projects

2296. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give priority to implement the drinking water project during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of proposals for supply of drinking water submitted by Government of Orissa pending with the Planning Commission; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, the National Agenda for Governance as well as the Ninth Five Year Plan envisage provision of potable drinking water to every settlement in urban as well as rural areas of the country within five years.

(b) No proposal of Government of Orissa for supply of drinking water is pending in the Planning Commission for clearance.

(c) Question does not arise.

Grant of Political Assylum

2297. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Political Assylums are granted comparatively more in India than any other country in the world;

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

(c) the number of Political Assylums given during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil.

Shifting of Subjects

2298. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering shifting some crucial areas from key Ministries to the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details, aims and objectives of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the change is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fund under MPLADS

2299. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned, allocated and released to each Member of Parliament from Kerala since 1995 under MPLADS, year-wise; and

(b) whether there is any delay in releasing the amount; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An amount of Rs. 125 crore 45 lakhs has so far been released for the MPs of Kerala since inception of the MPLAD Scheme. For the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 1 crore per MP per year was released. For the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 a total amount of Rs. 38 crore has so far been released for the MPs of Kerala. Statements showing details of funds released for Lok Sabha constituencies and the Rajya Sabha MPs for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 are placed at Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) From the year 1997-98 MPLADS funds are being released in two instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each in a year for the MPs when their unsanctioned balance goes below Rs. 50 lakhs. As per this criteria funds are released as and when requisite expenditure statement is received from the concerned Districts.

Statement-I

Funds Released under MPLADS for 1997-98 and 1998-99 as on 26.2.99 for Lok Sabha MPs

(Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Constituency	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Adoor (SC)	100.00	—
2.	Alappuzha	100.00	100.00
3.	Badagara	100.00	50.00
4.	Calicut (Kozhikode)	100.00	50.00
5.	Cannanore (Kannur)	100.00	50.00
6.	Chirayinkil	50.00	—
7.	Ernakulam	50.00	50.00
8.	Idukki	100.00	—
9.	Kasaragod	100.00	100.00
10.	Kottayam	100.00	100.00
11.	Manjeri	100.00	—
12.	Mavelikara	100.00	100.00
13.	Mukundapuram	100.00	—
14.	Muvattupuzha	100.00	50.00
15.	Palakkad	100.00	50.00

1	2	3	4
16.	Ponnani	100.00	50.00
17.	Quilon (Kollam)	100.00	50.00
18.	Thrissoor (Trichur)	100.00	50.00
19.	Thiruvananthapuram	100.00	50.00
20.	Ottappalam (SC)	100.00	50.00
Total		1900.00	950.00

Statement-II

Details of Funds Released Under MPLADS for 1997-98 and 1998-99 as on 26.02.99 for Rajya Sabha

(Rs. /Lakhs)

Sl.No.	District Opted	Name of Rajya Sabha MP	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
The Present Sitting Member of Rajya Sabha				
1	Malappuram	Sh. Abdul Samadani	50.00	—
2.	Alappuzha	Sh. Vayalar Ravi	50.00	—
3.	Alappuzha	Sh. Ramachandran Pillai	100.00	—
4.	Emakulam	Sh. E. Balanandan	100.00	—
5.	Kollam	Sh. J. Chitrangan	100.00	50.00
6.	Thrissoor	sh. C.D. Poulose	—	50.00
7.	Kollam	Sh. M.V. Varkey Mattathil	—	100.00
8.	Malappuram	Sh. Korambayil Ahammed Haji	—	50.00
9.	Malappuram	Sh. A. Vijaya Raghavan	—	50.00

1	2	3	4	5
The Ex-Member of Rajya Sabha				
10.	Kollam	Sh. M.A. Baby	100.00	—
11.	Kozhikode	Sh. B.V. Abdulla Koya	100.00	—
12.	Pathanamthitta	Sh. Balakrishna Thennala Pillai	50.00	—
13.	Thrissoor	Sh. K. Karunakaran	—	—
14.	Kottayam	Sh. Joy Nadukkara	—	—
Total			650.00	300.00

Negative Diplomacy

2300. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Negative diplomacy doing India no good: Ackerman" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) At a Republic Day dinner on January 29, 1999, organised by members of the Indian-American community in Washington D.C., US Congressman Gary Ackerman, who is also the new Co-Chairman of the Congressional India Caucus made positive references to India and the contribution of Indian-Americans to Indo-US relations. He stated on this occasion that he would "resolve this evening that in a spirit of unity, you, the Indian-American community and I and the Caucus will work together with our friends from India to accomplish our common objectives". He added that what he called "negative diplomacy" must stop.

Subsequently, Mr. Ackerman visited India in February 1999. He has reportedly gone back very satisfied with the visit. He also made a very positive statement on

Indo-US relations on March 3, 1999, to House International Relations Committee.

(c) Government make all efforts and our Missions take every opportunity to make clear our national interests and concerns and this effort is also directed at the US Congress Government has a positive approach to Congressman Ackerman and members of the Congressional India Caucus and looks forward to working with them on issues of mutual interest.

Agricultural Production

2301. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to double its agricultural production and make India hunger free in 10 years;

(b) if so, whether in the Ninth Five Year Plan more thrust has been provided on the agricultural production;

(c) if so, whether any 3-pronged strategy for food security has been worked out to meet the basic food requirements of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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 WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The agricultural development strategy for the Ninth Five Year Plan is essentially based on the policy of food security announced by the Government to double the food production and make India hunger free in ten years. Food production would include not only foodgrains *i.e.* rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses but also major food items including oil, sugar, fruits and vegetables, egg, meat and fish. While the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is evolving an Action Plan for achieving accelerated growth of livestock for doubling food production in the next ten years in consultation with the Planning Commission, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is preparing an Action Plan for doubling the production of foodgrains in the next 10 years which envisage promotion of cropping system approach for increasing production and productivity of cereal crops, encouraging use of green manure, greater propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties as well as propagation of improved crop production technologies etc.

Nuclear Weapons

2302. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has urged the five nuclear powers to sign a treaty of not to use their nuclear weapons against each other;

(b) if so, whether India has also been asking for the same;

(c) whether China had proposed this policy in 1994 and agreed to hold a discussion on this issue;

(d) whether in view of the tests by India and Pakistan these nuclear powers are agreeable to treat India and Pakistan also as one of the nuclear States; and

(e) if so, whether this is likely to reduce tension in South Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) India has announced a policy of 'no-first-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. We have also indicated our readiness to negotiate binding agreements on no-first-use, bilaterally or multilaterally.

(c) Yes Sir. In March 1994, China renewed an offer it had made on December 23, 1993, wherein it had called on the nuclear weapon State to begin negotiations, in Beijing, aimed at concluding a treaty on the no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

(d) and (e) These states have taken the view that India and Pakistan can not be treated as nuclear-weapon States because of the legal definition contained in the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, India's dialogue with key interlocutors, including US, France, Russia and UK, is based on the premise that India is a state possessing nuclear weapons and will maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent in accordance with its assessment of its national security requirements. Government believes that the validation of India's nuclear capability corrects an imbalance and thus promotes stability in the security environment, regionally and globally, and could provide an impetus for concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Distortion of Kashmir

2303. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hungary and Togo have joined Pakistan in misrepresenting India's external boundaries and as usual the distortion pertains to Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Hungary and Togo about their distorting views on Kashmir;

(c) if so, to what extent India has been able to convince these countries about India's position; and

(d) the extent to which these countries have realised their mistake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) No Sir. An article published in the "Times of India" in September 1998 referred to such misrepresentation. However, the alleged misrepresentation/distortion does not relate to official maps, but to a sketch in a stamp brought out by Togo and to a cancellation mark issued in 1989 by Hungary.

(b) to (d) Whenever cases of distortion or misrepresentation of India's external boundaries comes to our notice, the issue is immediately taken up with the concerned authorities with a view to its rectification.

[*Translation*]

Bonus to Employees of Nuclear Fuel Complex

2304. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order was notified in April, 1993 for the payment of productivity linked bonus to the employees of Nuclear Fuel Complex;

(b) whether irregularities were detected in the payment of productivity linked bonus to these employees during 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) A production incentive scheme for the employees of the Nuclear Fuel Complex was notified in April 1993.

(b) There was no irregularity in payment of incentive to the employees of the Nuclear Fuel Complex for the year 1995-96.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Visit to South Korea

2305. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited South Korea; and

(b) if so, the outcome of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Minister of External Affairs has not visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) since he assumed office. However, the Minister of State for External Affairs [MOS(EA)] paid an official visit to ROK from 21 to 24 January 1999. MOS(EA) called on the Prime Minister of ROK and conveyed PM's invitation to the ROK Prime Minister to visit India in February 1999. She also met the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade and the Minister of State for Trade of ROK. The discussions focussed on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. MOS(EA) met the members of Korea-India Society and the Korea-India Business Council and held discussions with them on the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between our peoples and countries.

The visit has contributed to strengthening bilateral relations with ROK which is one of India's major economic partners. The Prime Minister of ROK visited India on 10-11 February, 1999 in response to PM's invitation.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Copy of Presidential Proclamation dated 8th March, 1999 under Clause (2) of Article 356, relating to Bihar

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): On

behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 8th March, 1999 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier proclamation issued by him on the 12th February, 1999 in relation to the State of Bihar published in Notification No. G.S.R. 198(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1999, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2522/99]

Copy of Demands for Grants of MEA for the year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIR AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2523/99]

Copy of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment for 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2524/99]

Copies of Statements showing action taken by Government on Assurances

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha:—

Eighth Lok Sabha

- (1) Statement No. XLIII Eleventh Session,
1998

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2525/99]

- (2) Statement No. XLII Thirteenth Session,
1989

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2526/99]

- (3) Statement No. XXVII Fourteenth Session,
1989

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2527/99]

Ninth Lok Sabha

- (4) Statement No. XLV Second Session, 1990

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2528/99]

Tenth Lok Sabha

- (5) Statement No. XXXIV Second Session, 1991

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2529/99]

- (6) Statement No. XXXVI Fourth Session, 1992

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2530/99]

- (7) Statement No. XXX Fifth Session, 1992

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2531/99]

- (8) Statement No. XXXIII Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2532/99]

- (9) Statement No. XXVIII Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2533/99]

- (10) Statement No. XXVIII Eighth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2534/99]

- (11) Statement No. XXVI Ninth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2535/99]

- (12) Statement No. XX Twelfth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2536/99]

- (13) Statement No. XVIII Thirteenth Session,
1995

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2537/99]

- (14) Statement No. XV Fourteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2538/99]

Eleventh Lok Sabha

- (15) Statement No. X Second Session, 1996

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2539/99]

- (16) Statement No. IX Third Session, 1996

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2540/99]

- (17) Statement No. VIII Fourth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2541/99]

- (18) Statement No. VI Fifth Session 1997

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2542/99]

- (19) Statement No. VI Sixth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2543/99]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

- (20) Statement No. IV First Session, 1998

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2544/99]

- (21) Statement No. IV Second Session, 1998
(Vol. I+II)

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2545/99]

- (22) Statement No. I Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2546/99]

**Review by the Government of the working
of Electronics Corporation of India Ltd.,
Hyderabad under sub-section (1) of
Section 619A of the Companies
Act, 1956**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2547/99]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, 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 item (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2548/99]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2549/99]

**Copy of Notification fixing prices of Urea etc.
under Sub-section (6) of Section 3 of
Essential Commodities Act, 1955; etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): I
beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 44(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1999 fixing the price of Urea, Zincated Urea and Anhydrous Ammonia, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2550/99]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the State Farms Corporation of India for the year 1997-98 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2551/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2552/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 1997-98.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2553/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative Limited, Pune, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited, Account.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative Limited, Pune, for the year 1997-98.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2554/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2555/99]

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1997-98 within the stipulated period on nine months after the close of the Accounting year:

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2556/99]

- (12) 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 Maharashtra Land Development Corporation Limited, Pune, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Land Development Corporation Limited, Pune, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Account and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2557/99]

- (14) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2558/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (15) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2559/99]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2560/99]

Notifications under Sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 regarding Tamil Nadu Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances etc.) Amendment Rules, 1998 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985:—

- (i) The Tamil Nadu Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 746(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1998.

- (ii) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Staff) (Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 747(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 1998

- (iii) The Central Administrative Tribunal, Stenographers Service (Group 'B' and 'C' Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rule, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 784(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998.

- (iv) The Central Administrative Tribunal (Principal Private Secretary) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 785(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2561/99]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 748(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 1998 fixing the 1st January, 1999, as the date on which the provision of the sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 shall apply to the organisations mentioned therein, issued under section 14 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2562/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

- (i) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Eighteenth

- Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 484(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1998.
- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Eighteenth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1998.
 - (iii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Nineteenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 560(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1998.
 - (iv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Nineteenth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 561(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1998.
 - (v) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 209 in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1998.
 - (vi) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 210 in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1998.
 - (vii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 617(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1998.
 - (viii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rule, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 618(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1998.
 - (ix) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Twentieth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 626(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1998.
 - (x) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Twenty First Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 627(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1998.
 - (xi) The Indian Administrative Services (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 787(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998.
 - (xii) The Indian Administrative Services (Pay) Seventh Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 788(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1998.
 - (xiii) The Indian Police Services (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 105(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 1999.
 - (xiv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 106(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 1999.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2563/99]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for period from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1997.
 - (ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of Commission's Advice.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2564/99]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi, for the year, 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited (Kendriya Bhandar), New Delhi, for the year, 1997-98.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2565/99]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Second Report

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Fifth Action Taken Report

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Department of Urban Development) — Delhi Development Authority.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Second Report

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions (Twelfth Lok Sabha).

12.03³/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 17 December, 1998.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on a point of order... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you please take your seat.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: It is a question of bogus voting, bogus voting has taken place in the House... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, please sit down. What are you saying? First you sit down.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: If the credibility of the House is lost, how the proceedings of the House would go on. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat first.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, you give us assurance.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): You have been giving assurance for many days that it would be discussed.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy:

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on the subject "Renovation and Modernisation of Power Plants".

- (2) Twelfth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (3) Thirteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (4) Fourteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Power.
- (5) Fifteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Coal.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, in the rural area the telephone rates have been hiked by 60 per cent. ... (Interruptions). The hon. Minister is here. It is a good job. I appreciate. But the conditions in the rural area have not been improved. So, I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider the hike. If he can bring it down a bit... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation from the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, there is an observation from the Chair. What is this? You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker Sir, the notice we have given, is not an ordinary matter. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on. You first sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are running behind schedule. A number of important business including Budget and thanks giving on President's Address are yet to be taken up. So, I suggest that there will be no 'Zero Hour' or lunch hour adjournment today. I hope the Members will cooperate. Please cooperate; otherwise it will not be possible to complete the business. We have to pass the Patents Bill today. We can have 'Zero Hour' tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is just an appeal. Please reconsider it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is just an appeal to the hon. Minister to reconsider. Then, I will sit down. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the Members. Tomorrow, we can have 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2566/99]

12.05½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2567/99]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I will take one minute only. It has been hiked today. Raising it tomorrow, it is of no use. It is just an appeal. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the Members to cooperate with the Chair. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the Members to cooperate today. A number of important business are yet to be taken up. So, I am appealing to the Members to cooperate with the Chair, otherwise, we cannot complete the business. Tomorrow, we can have Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: No, Sir. *...(Interruptions)* My request to the hon. Minister is to just consider because 60 per cent hike is very high.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pilot, why do you not raise it tomorrow?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it has been hiked today. Raising it tomorrow, it is of no use. *...(Interruptions)* Today, it is carried all over the country. *...(Interruptions)*. We are not insisting that he should answer today. Our feelings should go to him. That is all.

They have brought rural and urban subscribers at par...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you make your submission in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all appreciate the...*...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised an important question. Prior to Question Hour I made a mention that it is a question of the credibility of the House...*...(Interruptions)* Bogus voting has taken place in the House...*...(Interruptions)* How the proceedings of the

House would go on...*...(Interruptions)* There must be a discussion on it...*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, please hear me first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, please take your seat. You have given a notice and it is under my consideration. That is why I am not allowing you to raise the matter now. After examination only I can give you permission to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, it is under my consideration. Please try to understand the procedure. How can you raise it when it is under my consideration?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising the voice of all my colleagues...*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, what is this? It is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: This is not a question of consideration...*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, this is not good. You have given a notice and it is under my consideration. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must know the procedure. The Chair has already given a ruling. When it is under my consideration, how can you raise it?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): This House represents a thousand million people. Bogus voting has taken place in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik, please tell your Members that this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many people have been raising this issue for so many days. This is for the Secretariat of Lok Sabha to go into the matter. You have just to announce how many days it will take to come to some decision and this matter should not be raised everyday because all types of allegations are being made. So, I shall request you to give a definite time as to how many days you will take and the matter should be over there because it is not to be debated in this House. It is to be decided by you with the help of the Secretariat. So, please give some time so that this controversy stops and we take up the regular task. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already under my consideration. Later, the Member will be informed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, please clarify. This incident took place on 26th of February and today is 10th of March.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sirpotdar. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, this is not the feeling of myself and my party only but is the feeling of the whole House that the task of Communication Ministry is very difficult, we also understand this Demands are coming from villages regarding expansion of communication network there but still there is communication imbalances in urban and rural areas. I myself have witnessed that eighty percent telephones are still lying dead there even today. When you revised the tariff system you put more burden on rural areas and less burden on urban areas, you have kept a difference between them. A steep hike of sixty percent would put more burden on the villages. I do agree that villagers make less use of communication system. I request the Hon'ble Minister to review it and lessen this burden in

rural areas, so that communication system could be promoted and the people of this area could be benefited. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are supporting the same matter.

Now the Minister will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Now, the Minister will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you also on the same point?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Before the Minister says something, I want to supplement.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, services in the rural areas are very poor. The hon. Minister may please also say something about the additional services he is going to introduce. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, as the hon. Members must have noticed, these rates have been notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority which is an independent body. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to me....(Interruptions) I am saying that the Government will look into it and if necessary, I will make a statement before the House. So, the issue is that we do not want any undue hardship to be caused to any section of the society, much less to persons living in the rural areas or in the lower middle income group. We will see to it. We will make a statement in due course. The

* Not Recorded.

rates are not coming into being immediately, they are coming into being from 1st April. Before 1st April, I will look into it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): May I seek the indulgence of the House?

Sir, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Communications, I wish to say that when the proposals first came from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Committee sat and looked into them. We unanimously recommended against any increase in the call charges. For six years, there had not been any increase in rental. We said that there might be some increase in the rental.

So far as call charges are concerned, we were against it. Thereafter, there were meetings and I must thank the hon. Minister because he also took the initiative. There was a meeting between the Telcom Regulatory Authority and the Standing Committee and also with the Minister; the officials were present. We made our position very clear. There was a request to the Standing Committee for reconsideration. We again sat in the matter. We said, "we are unable to change our view because there was no cause or reason for increasing the tariff. As a matter of fact, it will be against national interest because it will affect DoT." I hope, the hon. Minister, in view of the clear expression of the opinion of the Standing Committee and of the House, would take appropriate decision.

SHR JAG MOHAN: I will take appropriate action and due respect will be given to your views. We have been supporting you. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to say thanks.

MR. SPEAKER: To whom.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: To you, Sir, we thank you on behalf of ten crore people of Bihar on the occasion of reinstatement of the daughter of the poor, Rabri Devi as Chief Minister of Bihar. We thank the leader of the Congress Party, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, leader of Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Chandra Shekhar...(*Interruptions*), we thank all the friends in the opposition...(*Interruptions*). We also thank the Prime Minister who at last shown his wisdom to end this black chapter. We also thankful to the rest of the leaders of the House...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tanali): Sir, we, on this side, had raised the issue of corruption, based on the allegations of Shri Mohan Guruswamy. At that time, the hon. Finance Minister and others agreed that the matter could be discussed. I am only submitting that the matter should be taken up some time because outside, the Prime Minister has gone on record rejecting all the allegations. That is not fair. We expected that the matter would be discussed here.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, I made a specific allegation which was not based on Shri Mohan Guruswamy's allegation against H.R. Coil Steel where the floor price had been increased to US\$ 302 per metric tonne. The House and the Government have agreed and your goodself has assured the House that you are going to fix the time in consultation with other leaders in the Business Advisory Committee. According to your own expression today, we are behind schedule. We have got only three days in this week and three more days in the next week. There are so many issues which have to be discussed in this House. There is also the issue relating to Shri Vishnu Bhagwat. I do not know what you are going to do on that. Some time has to be fixed in consultation with the leaders of various groups to discuss this issue. It is not a question of the Prime Minister reacting outside the House. We have raised this issue inside the House and the House and the Government have agreed and you have assured the House that some time would be allotted for this. I know that in regard to other business, we are hard pressed for time. In the meanwhile, I would like to suggest that if the House agrees, we can sit for a little more time. In the past, we were sitting up to seven o'clock or nine o'clock in the night. If everybody agrees, we are prepared to sit now also. This matter must be discussed in the current session itself. There should not be any lapse from the Government's side on this issue. There is no question of our agreeing to it. Please fix the date as to when we would be taking up this issue and announce it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter alone should not be discussed here. Whoever is charged with corruption should also be discussed here...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down. The Minister is on his legs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, as we have already said, this matter can be discussed in the Business Advisory Committee meeting and a decision can be taken there.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: (Baramati): Sir, issue was raised in the House and there was a specific commitment, or assurance, from your side that you would fix a time for this. I do not think that we should wait for the Business Advisory Committee to meet. As hon. Deve Gowda has suggested, we are ready to sit after six o'clock provided some time is allotted to discuss the Mohan Guruswamy issue. We do not mind sitting after six o'clock even today and tomorrow. We can finish the regular business by six o'clock and take up these important issues, whether it is Bhagwat issue or Mohan Guruswamy issue, after six o'clock.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why should it be after six o'clock. Routine matters can be discussed after six. This is an important matter.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bofors and Sub-marine cases should also be discussed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: I understand the eagerness of the Leader of Opposition for a discussion on this issue. These matters are normally settled in the Business Advisory Committee. It would not be proper to convert the entire House into a Business Advisory Committee. We are ready on this. Whenever the Business Advisory Committee meeting takes place ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The Speaker has given a commitment.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why the time has to be decided in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We are appealing to the Speaker to fix the time.

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is what I am also doing.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It should not be done in the BAC.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Even the Speaker had agreed to it based on what we had raised here.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called a meeting at 1 p.m. tomorrow of leaders of all parties. We will decide about the time in that meeting.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: My apprehension is that the Government is trying to delay it purposely. There is not much time left now. Government is trying to take it to next week but then they will say that the Budget and the Motion of Thanks on President's Address are there for discussion. Ultimately we may lose the opportunity, and the right of the Opposition, to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called a meeting of leaders tomorrow.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it is already delayed by four days.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): That was on Vishnu Bhagwat issue. This is on Mohan Guruswamy issue.

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it in the leaders meeting tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we have got the intimation for tomorrow's meeting. We have taken a decision in the Business Advisory Committee meeting that there will be two discussions in this session before the 18th—one on Friday and the other on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I do not know how we will be able to spare time! If you could take a decision as early as possible, it would be helpful for the whole House.

SHRI RAM NAIK: We decided many things in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. We decided that the Patents Bill would be completed yesterday itself and that we would work up to eight o'clock. As you know, the House did not agree to that yesterday. It was also decided that the Government business, which is urgent and important, would be taken first. That was what was decided.

The Patents Bill was not completed yesterday. Motion of Thanks on President's Address is yet to start. We are ready to agree to whatever is decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, from that angle. It is the Opposition which is not following what is being decided in the Business Advisory Committee meetings.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I have a suggestion to make. I do not know whether it will be acceptable to hon. Members of the House or not. We have very sad experience of discussion on corruption matters in the House. For many years we have discussed one or the other corruption issue and we have not come to any conclusion.

May I suggest to the House through you that you should ask some senior Members who are interested in this case that they should bring all the matters before a group of Members of Parliament.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. No. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: All right. So, others will also raise the issue. I do not think that you can only raise the issue. (*Interruptions*) Then you can say, 'no, no' at that time...(*Interruptions*)

I am just making a suggestion. I am nobody to force a decision on you....(*Interruptions*)... If you are the Speaker, I shall address you. Unfortunately, you are not, and I think, the country will be not that unfortunate that you will be becoming Speaker...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just suggesting that you should compose a Committee or a Group of Members of Parliament with senior Members including Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Sharad Pawar, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and some others who are interested in the matter, and bring all these corruption issues before them.

Take first this issue which has been assured to be discussed in this House. And, if they come to some understanding that debate should confine to certain matters, then it can be taken up. Otherwise, there will be wrangling debate for many days and we shall not come to any conclusion excepting mud-slinging in this House. And then, the other side, we will bring other issues. Then you will not be able to, Sir, excuse me for saying so, stop them from bringing that issue.

I think that if we have less time at our disposal and more work to perform, we should try to divide our work in such a way that we do some positive thinking on these issues and come to some results...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Matters Under Rule 377 to be taken up.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Hon. Speaker, Sir, on this matter, they are convening meeting of leaders...(*Interruptions*)... By that time, the Prime Minister is making a statement before the House....(*Interruptions*)...I request you to stop this kind of a statement made by the Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a point of clarification, the hon. Member has raised this

issue. Whether it is the Bofors matter, when it came, I raised the same thing. I have been on record, time and again, that Parliament should not spend its time, should not waste its time on Bofors. It is the matter of the Police Inspector. Even when I was in Parliament, when I was out of Parliament and when I was in the Government, I do not change everyday like you people...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri R.L.P. Verma, now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have a very important matter to raise. The Rural Bank employees are holding *dharna*.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, we will take up the 'Zero Hour' Tomorrow. You can raise your issue tomorrow, not today.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, today the Rural Bank employees are here. They are demanding...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Matter Under Ru : 377—Shri R.L.P. Verma.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, on the same issue I also want to add. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Matters Under Rule 377.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing of what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I have called you for tomorrow and not today.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will take only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri R.L.P. Verma for his matter under Rule 377.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will not take much time. It is a very important issue. Please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

Shri R.L.P. Verma, one minute please. Let Shri Basu Deb Acharia speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, whatever Shri Basu Deb Acharia is saying is going on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, thousands of Rural Bank employees are holding *dharna* today and demanding implementation of extension of the 6th Pay Bipartite settlement. The NIT was set up by the Apex court of our country which has given its verdict in favour of parity of wages and retirement benefits. Sir, several High Courts including Allahabad High Court, Bangalore High Court and Ernakulam High Court have passed orders in favour of restoration of their pay parity with the nationalized banks. But this is not being implemented by the Government.

Their another demand is about the setting up of a National Rural Bank of India which was approved by the RBI.

Therefore, the Government should take immediate action in the matter.

They have also passed orders in favour of restoring pay parity for Regional Rural Bank Officers and the employees. They are being denied the six months wage settlement.

They have been demanding National Rural Bank of India. That was approved by RBI. After being approved by RBI, it is not being set up. This demand for setting up of a National Rural Bank of India should be considered by the Government and the wage settlement should be finalised. The settlement should be extended to the employees of Regional Rural Banks of our country
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri K. Yerrannaidu and Shri P. Upendra are also supporting the same issue.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am supporting it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): I am also supporting it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also supporting the same issue, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East): I do not want to speak on this issue, but I want to speak on corruption issue. On the corruption issue, you have decided to call the leaders of the political parties. I think that the highest corruption which has taken place since independence is regarding false voting in the Lok Sabha. This must be discussed thoroughly. Otherwise, there will be no sanctity of Lok Sabha. This 'A' team of CPI(M) has used their 'B' team of Congress (I) in the last general election for making false voting against us. Kindly look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except matter under Rule 377. Shri R.L.P. Verma will speak now on Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)*

12.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to ensure continuance of the schools/hospitals run by Mica Mining Workers Organisation in Koderma, Bihar**

[English]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Koderma): Sir, Koderma in Bihar is the richest Mica producing belt in the world. Government of India had initiated various labour welfare activities to provide better life and to improve living conditions of labourers engaged in Mica Mining Industry. MMWO, Karma established a primary and a higher secondary school in 1960 to provide educational and medical facilities to the wards of the mica labourers. This organisation has been rendering epoch-making services for eradicating illiteracy among labourers working in Mica Mining, Bidi-making, stone quarries, stone crushers, dolomite and lime stone-making.

* Not Recorded.

In the recent past, Mica Mining activities have started decreasing as resource position of the Mica Mines has deteriorated. The Labour Mining authorities have been pondering over seriously for closing the schools and curtailing hospital beds from 100 to 30. Closure of schools will deprive the poor labourers of the educational facilities. The closure of the schools would also be against our policy to eradicate illiteracy.

I would suggest that resources and revenue of Labour Welfare Organisation, Karma could be enhanced by merging all these labour prone mining activities into Mica Mining Labour Organisation or the presently renamed "LWO" Karma. It is also suggested that abandoned MPI's building may be converted into hostels to provide free boarding and lodging and imparting education facilities as usual without any closure of schools and hospitals of Karma. I would like to draw attention of hon. Labour Minister to take immediate action for continuing of schools of Karma, Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devegowda, do you have any submission?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): I have a submission on one of the suggestions made by our hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar.

Shri Chandra Shekhar is a very senior Member of this House. I love him as my guru. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He has got many *shishyas*!

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: He loves Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the present Prime Minister as his guru always.

I beg to differ from the suggestion that he has made. If this House is not going to take up the issue of corruption, whether 'A' or 'B' is involved in it, then, what is this House meant for? I am not able to understand that.

Shri Chandra Shekhar had said that a Police Sub-inspector can do it. If it could be done by a Police Sub-inspector, then, with all its machinery, for the last six or seven years, why are we unable to get the second portion of the Bofors papers from the Swiss Government? I had also handled the matter and he also handled it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East): Shri Devegowda is a very much respected Member of this House. What is his view on the false voting inside the House? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I am not going to support anybody, whether the corruption charges are against 'X' or 'Y'. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, we are not getting any chance to speak. Only senior Members are always allowed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. They are former Prime Ministers.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Why is it that somebody should be allowed just because he has been a Prime Minister? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not try to understand? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Normally, I do not unnecessarily raise any issue on corruption. Let me make myself clear to Shri Chandra Shekhar and other hon. friends.

When the floor price is Rs. 200 or Rs. 190 and you fix Rs. 302 as the end price, the consumers are the sufferers and not the politicians. Here, this issue has to be discussed from the point of the consumers. I have not made any charge that 'X' or 'Y' has taken money but the issue is, we are here to protect the consumers. *...(Interruptions)* It cannot be discussed in the Speaker's chamber; it is a matter to be discussed in the House. The consumers have been put to a great hardship. This is a matter to be discussed on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar, do you want to say something?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): I would also like to put on record that we do not agree with the suggestion made by Shri Chandra Shekhar. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Chandra Shekhar.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: All right, you may call me later.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I did not say that they should agree with me. But I shall just remind my friend Shri Kurien and also Shri Devegowda that when the Bofors issue was being discussed and I said that it was a matter for the Police Sub-Inspector, I was jeered by the House and the Press, where editorials were written.

In the last Session, those friends who were present here would remember that that matter was again raised when one CBI Director came with certain bags of papers here and it was said that everything was being exposed. My dear friend who is now the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh raised this issue in this House and it was debated vehemently for one or two days. I was sitting just by his side. The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs got up in the end, at four o'clock and aid, 'We have got a message from the Swiss Government that these papers can be referred to only by the Police Sub-Inspector and if charges are to be framed, they can be given to this Court but the papers could not be given to Parliament or the Members.' The whole debate ended there. Then, I said to my friend Shri Jaswant Singh, 'My dear friend, you have got this wisdom only after a decision has come through the verdict of some subordinate judge in the Swiss court.'

My dear friend Shri Devegowda, for whom I have great regard, should learn that whatever we may discuss, we cannot chargesheet a person for corruption in this House, we cannot give redress to the people, to the consumers, by that discussion. The redress to the consumers can be given, the chargesheet can be framed, if these issue are discussed threadbare by those who know about corruption and about the dealings involved.

If the matter comes up, you can always take a decision to refer it to any committee. I am making the suggestion only because people outside should not feel that this Parliament and Lok Sabha has no other business but to discuss about the issue of corruption everyday....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): In 1989, the Government fell only because of charges on account of Bofors.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We can do it tomorrow and not today.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, a very senior Member has given a suggestion and I would like to react to it because there has already been a reaction to that. The views of my party should also be known and recorded. Otherwise, it will by default. We are not agreeing to his suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already started submissions under Rule 377.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, please allow me. Only if you allow me, I will speak; otherwise, I will not.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your intervention?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Shri Chandra Shekhar is a very senior Member; he can have his own views and there is no objection. We respect his views also. But I would submit that we beg to differ with him because this House has a convention for the last 50 years. Umpteen number of times corruption charges had been raised. Such discussions are part and parcel of democratic functioning. Parliament which represents the wishes and aspirations of the people cannot ignore such corruption charge when they are seriously discussed in newspapers. If we ignore those corruption charges, I have no hesitation in saying that we are shirking from our duty.

Therefore, I would like to submit that we do not associate with the feeling or the suggestions expressed by Shri Chandra Shekhar. We want that discussion on both the issues should be held. You have promised to this House that during this week itself time will be allotted. I request to please allot time and allow a discussion on this.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

12.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

[Translation]

(II) Need for early commissioning of TV Centres at Radhanpur and Disha in North Gujarat

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the TV centres at Radhanpur and Disha in North Gujarat. Sophisticated instruments worth crores of rupees have been installed in these two centres but none of these have yet been fully commissioned, as a result of which we are unable to utilise our resources fully. When the attention of the Government was drawn

* Not Recorded.

towards this fact, an assurance for their early commissioning was given by the Government, but still the situation is the same.

I urge upon the Government to fully commission both the T.V. relay centres at the earliest.

(iii) Need to include 'Meena' caste of U.P. in the list of Scheduled Tribe

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government through you that the 'Meena' caste has been enlisted as Scheduled Tribe in Rajasthan but in U.P., this caste has not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, though the people of this community have relations with each other in Rajasthan and U.P. but it is a matter of regret that the people of this community residing in U.P. have not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes and are being deprived of reservation facility whereas the people of the same community are availing this facility in the nearby State of Rajasthan.

I urge upon the Government to issue directions to include 'Meena' caste in the list of Scheduled Tribe in U.P.

(iv) Need to declare 'Bansgaon' in Gorakhpur District as backward area and ensure its developments

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (Bansgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Bansgaon, which falls in Gorakhpur district of U.P., is a most backward area. There is no public sector or private sector industry in this area. It is predominantly an agricultural area but every year the entire crop is either washed away by the disastrous floods or ruined by the drought with the result the poor people have to face starvation. Due to this phenomena development is not taking place there.

The allround development of this area is possible if this area is declared national backward area and public sector or private sector industry are established there on priority basis and an agricultural university is set up by formulating a scheme to check the large scale devastation caused by floods.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to formulate schemes on priority basis for the development of Bansgaon Parliamentary Constituency without any further delay.

[*English*]

(v) Need for early set up of Rural Telephone Exchange at Kurum Hat in Katihar District of Bihar

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar): About a year ago it was decided that a Rural Telephone Exchange would be set up at Kurum Hat, in Katihar Dist. in Bihar. But the Exchange has not been set up so far. The Exchanges sanctioned much later for other places have since been set up and are functioning, but the Exchange at Kurum Hat, is yet to be materialised.

I urge upon the Government that urgent necessary steps should be taken to make the Exchange at Kurum Hat functional immediately.

(vi) Need to ensure preservation of mangroves in Northern Districts of Kerala

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): Northern districts of the State of Kerala, especially Calicut, Cannanore and Kasargod have the largest extent of mangroves, next only to the Sundarbans of West Bengal. Preservation of these mangrove, which is a boon from nature, needs to be given top most priority both by the Government and the people. However, these mangroves are being destroyed under the pretext of 'development work'.

Nature lovers from all walks of life have time and again protested against this wanton destruction. However, the destruction seems to be continuing unabated.

It is, therefore, my humble submission that the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Centre must necessarily intervene and take urgent steps to stop the destruction and also emergent measures to ensure preservation of the invaluable mangroves in northern districts of Kerala.

[*Translation*]

(vii) Need to provide sufficient funds to State Government of Himachal Pradesh for providing adequate relief to the people affected by fire particularly in Shimla Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many houses have been damaged in fire in Himachal Pradesh and the State Government is unable to give full compensation to the affected people. They are given a meagre amount as per the existing rules. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri H.P. Singh, you are unnecessarily disturbing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: The people of this area can neither establish their business nor construct their houses. The houses in Shimla, Theog, Nahan, Rajgarh, Rohad Jubal etc., which fall in my constituency, are made of precious wood and thus cannot withstand fire. They do not have the right to cut woods from forest as they are not the right holders. It is seen that a number of shopkeepers, whose shops have been gutted in fire, have totally been ruined and it has become impossible for them to earn livelihood for their children.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to obtain a loss assessment report from the State Government and on the basis of that report Government should extend full assistance to the State Government so that the affected people do not feel helpless. I hope that the Prime Minister would extend full help to Himachal Pradesh Government for this purpose.

[English]

(viii) Need to ensure revival package for the eight Public Sector Undertakings

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I want to draw the attention of the House that I raised the issue regarding the closure of eight public sector undertakings like MAMC Ltd, BOGL, RIC Ltd., Cycle Corporation of India Ltd., Weighbourd Corporation Ltd., National Instrumentation Ltd., BPMEL and Tannery Footwear Ltd., earlier but no concrete steps have so far been taken by the Government.

According to the news item appeared in *The Statement Patrika* on 24.2.99, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which met on 23.2.99, decided to set up a fresh Committee to review the decision and find ways to work out a revival package for these PSUs.

Again, on 2.3.99 that news item appeared in all newspapers, especially those published in Calcutta that the Prime Minister had written a letter to the leader of his allies that the PSUs would not be closed. At the same time, the Budget paper shows that no allocation has been made for the revival package. It is very painful for the workers of public sector undertakings, whether these will be revived within a short period or the options for VSS are extended for three months. I request the

Union Government to clarify the position and make a statement in the House in this regard.

[Translation]

(ix) Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Bihar for all round development of Jahanabad

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir I want to draw the attention of Government, through the House, towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Jahanabad. Naxalite activities are on the increase in the absence of development there. There are no roads, no special rail facility and no heavy industry in this area and the youth of this area are falling in the trap of naxalites as there are no job opportunities for them. If some developmental work is done here, the influence of the naxalites can be curbed to some extent.

I urge upon the Government to undertake development activities like providing rail, road and other civil amenities so as to check the increasing influence of naxalites in the area. State Government should be provided required funds for this purpose.

[English]

(x) Need to develop mechanism to monitor the functioning of Non-Government Organisations

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Ahmednagar): Non-government organisations have a crucial role to play, particularly so far as rural development is concerned. But unfortunately, of late many NGOs have played this role quite erroneously. A large number of NGOs depend only on the funds which they receive from foreign donor agencies. It is a matter of great regret that these NGOs have lost their autonomy in return for such financial assistance. Not only this, NGOs have quite frequently misutilised and misappropriated money. In many cases, funds have been used by voluntary workers for them or their relatives' benefits. There are NGOs leaders who adopt pompous life style with the help of the organisation's money. Some NGOs have even maintained links with foreign donor agencies to finance programmes which have nothing to do with the objectives they have pledged for. Many NGOs are serving a particular community and nurturing sectarian deals thereby causing harm to the social fabric of the society. There are serious lacunae in the functioning of NGOs which have become closed entities and lost their transparency.

I, therefore, strongly appeal to the Government to develop a mechanism to monitor the functioning of the NGOs so that the funds and grants given to these are properly utilised.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati): Sir, what about Lunch-break?

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested the Members to forego the Lunch-break today. There will be no Lunch-break today.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: But, Sir, the sense of the House was not taken.

MR. SPEAKER: I request the Members to cooperate with the Chair.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): It is only a procedural matter. You have to take the sense of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I now take the sense of the House and request the Members to forego the Lunch-break today.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, we will go by your ruling but please do not deny our right.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Members forego lunch for one day, it is also good for their health!

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: We agree with it but you have to take the sense of the House.

13.00 hrs.

(xi) Need for creation of a Central Agriculture Service cadre for promotion of agriculture sector

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, Fifth Pay Commission has recommended in its report in the year 1996 for creation of Central Agriculture Service with a view to strengthen the technical cadre in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. In the past also, the Committees/Commissions such as Nalagarh Committee (1958), National Commission on Agriculture (1976) and Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations (1998) have recommended creation of All India Agriculture Service with a view to attract best talent for making Agriculture as one of the vital sectors of the country's economy.

Sir, you are aware that agriculture contributes 40 per cent to the national economy. More than 70 per cent of the country's population directly or indirectly is dependent on agriculture and its allied sector.

The present Government has kept doubling food production as thrust area. Therefore, effective steps are required to be taken to strengthen Agriculture Management at different levels. The technical officers at present working in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation need to be provided with proper cadre management and creation of Central Agriculture Service to attract the best talents in this sector need to be given proper attention.

Though the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended creation of this service during 1996, no effective steps seem to have been taken by the Government. It is high time that the Ministry of Agriculture take immediate decision to create a Central Agriculture Service without delay.

(xii) Need to take effective steps to remove poverty from the country

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH (Phillaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you, to the poverty rate prevailing in the country. In the present set up, the people who are poor become poorer and the rich become richer day-by-day. Now, the number of people of the nation below poverty line is increasing day-by-day and no effective steps have been taken by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand that the Government should not only make plans but also take effective steps to remove poverty from the country and take steps for the upliftment of poor people financially and also take care of the Scheduled Caste community. This is a basic need of the time and the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of information. Hundreds of labourers from Kota are staging a dhama in front of Sansad Bhavan and are demanding for reopening of J.K. Industry. I would like to submit through you that J.K. Industry is an industry which is closed.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking without following the rules. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up further discussion on the Patent (Amendment) Bill.

13.03 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the experts in India and abroad are of the view that the Indian Patent Act of 1970 is the best in the world and it is in the interest of the country because it is a procedure patent law and not a product patent law. However, the present Bill, seeking to amend the said Act, is not in the interest of the people and the country as is evident from the objectives of the Bill.

13.04 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The Government has shown helplessness in regard to the Dunkel proposals, whom we had strongly opposed and under the provisions of these proposals they brought agriculture under GATT; then came the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and thereafter its part Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) and now this Bill prove more dangerous for the country. Trade related investment would come under it, GATT is there, General Agreement of Trade in service. It means the exchange of new services. It does not provide trade in service for the unemployed, labourers, engineers, lawyers and doctors, this trade is applicable only in these fields in which India is lacking. It would be discussed later on. There was a proposal of amendment under TRIPS and the Government did not claim that it was in the interest of the country because they are helpless. It is said that they went to the lower court against WTO. Their case was dismissed in the Court and they filed on appeal against this decision and their appeal was also dismissed. If they failed to enact this law by 19 April, 1999, they will be punished. They have brought this bill in the House under the terror of WTO. Hon'ble Swamiji was giving his speech yesterday, there was an apprehension in his mind that even after making this Bill a laws, whether they

*Not recorded

would be saved from the punishment or not. It is not yet clear whether WTO would agree to it or not, but the eminent scholars and intellectuals have expressed that it is not in the national interest. It will lead the country to economic slavery and will turn the country into a big market. It is a danger to the sovereignty of the country. We are changing and amending our law according to their wishes, it is a question mark on the sovereignty of the country. After that we have tried to know. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I have said all this after listening and knowing the view of some people. When discussion on Bihar was going on, Shri George Fernandes, an experienced leader claims to be a socialist, have read a paper of 1995 in the House. It was a paper of Congress Party against Laloo's Government. Though elections were held in 1995 and it had become irrelevant, yet he was reading it loudly in English. They have brought this Bill to amend the Indian Patent Act. Bakht Sahab is a gentleman. They involved him in this matter. It was a matter of commerce and they are making him a scapegoat. They made him to bring this Bill here. We have seen a number of big names in the paper.

[English]

Forum of parliamentarians on intellectual property, it is 'TRIPS', Trade Related Intellectual Property rights.

[Translation]

Those very people who once advocated to amend the Indian Patent Law, to amend the eight-nine clauses, trade mark copyright, the names of Justice Krishna Iyer, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Dr. Ashok Mitra, Shri Jaipal Reddy, Shri George Fernandes, Shri Indrajit Gupta and the name of the former Commissioner appear in this paper.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you quoting?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, he is saying that those who were against this bill, have brought this Bill.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What are the views of some big leaders regarding Patent Law.

[English]

Sir, now I am quoting from the Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property. It has been stated:

"The meeting reaffirmed the country's sovereign and inalienable right to have an intellectual property

regime which would promote public interest and ensure self-reliant development in social, economic and technological spheres. The meeting reiterated its strong opposition to the unequal and unacceptable Agreement on TRIPs incorporated in the New GATT/WTO and its resolve not to allow amendments to the Indian Patents Act, 1970 so as to make it conform to the regime visualised in the TRIPs Agreement."

They have taken this resolution. They have further stated and I quote:

"In this context, the meeting noted that according to U.S. Administration itself as many as 48 countries have yet to amend their patent laws and most of the developed and developing countries have not complied with their so called obligations under the TRIPs Agreement."

48 developing countries have not done it. Again I quote further:

"In addition, there are 45 other least developed countries who have clear 10 years to apply the provisions of the TRIPs Agreement. Thus there are 93 countries who have yet to amend their patent laws. In the circumstances, there was no justification whatsoever for any industrialised country to mount pressure on India in this regard."

[Translation]

Who have signed this statement? Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi, Shri George Fernandes, who are Ministers in the Government of India. There are some other leaders also Shri Ashok Mitra's name is also there. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is, that the resolution they have resolved and their two ministers had read the paper that there is a vast network of multinationals in the country and crores of rupees have been spent and those who were advocating to amend the patent law, are now supporting this Bill. Why have they passed it being in the Government and we want to raise a question that how much money have been taken from the multinationals? First they said that it was not in the national interest and it would close down the Indian market...(Interruptions).

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): They apprehend give and take in every matter because they are used to it. ...*(Interruptions)* When I was speaking yesterday, he was giving running commentary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR
(Vadodara): Where were you all when the bill was passed?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday, Shri Roopchand Pal was speaking about Guman Mal Lodha who was a member of 10th and 11th Lok Sabha. Shri Guman Mal Lodha said at that time that if this bill is passed the country would become slave. Then why the Government of his party saying that this bill should be passed otherwise we would be punished.

It has been widely discussed. I have many apprehensions about it I am looking that how much power multinationals and money have? It silences people and manipulates them. I want a clarification.... *(Interruptions)* If the people of this party challenge me then I accept it. They can tell after learning the honesty. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You address your speech to me. I am asking them to keep quiet. Time is running out. Please conclude

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The procedure to amend the Patent Law is good in India. Due to it we would be free from patent for five to seven years. Product Patent Law would replace it which will continue upto 20 years. Provisions would be made later on. You should make provision for exclusive marketing right unless you amend the articles 70(8) and (9) of W.T.O. agreement.

Now a days the disease of Hepatitis-B is increasing rapidly. There is one injection to cure it. The cost of one injection is 600 rupees. Its price rocketed to 800 rupees in just one month. A patient of Hepatitis-B has to take medicines for four months. The patient is also prescribed two injections everyday. It costs 1600 rupees. When I enquired about the medicine in the injection which is so expensive, I was told that it is manufactured by multinational companies. The people would be exploited after its patent and it would be sold at any price without any check. Multinationals will patent many such medicines in India and sell them. They will get a free hand to do so. Due to this the patent companies of other countries would get exclusive marketing right and then they will have a market for them. They will be free to sell medicines and agro chemicals at any rate without any check. I have seen many papers in this regard. all the intellectuals are against it. I want to tell what the intellectuals have said.

[English]

I am quoting from the Report of People's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights. The Members of the Commission are Justice V.R. Krishna

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Iyer, Prof. Yash Pal, Prof. Prabhat Patnaik and National Prof. S.K. Sinha.

"Thus in the considered view of this Commission. Parliament must never grant exclusive marketing rights (EMRs). An exclusive marketing right is more than just an automatic five-year patent. It is a grant of monopoly over the domestic market to an importer, without any scrutiny and on very dubious grounds. It is not surprising that most developing countries have chosen not to implement EMR provisions. Pakistan and two other small countries are perhaps the only countries to date that have introduced an EMR regime.

"What is clear however, and on this there is also near-unanimity among the experts we met, is that (i) the Government's reported move to introduce an EMR regime must be dropped; (ii) the introduction of product patents in drugs pharmaceuticals and in agricultural chemicals must not be done in haste;..."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the experts have said all this, not me. They are saying this after a lot of hard work and examination. They have lengthy discussions, prepared literature so that the nation is not harmed in any way but we can not expect from this Government which is going to harm the nation. They have called upon a senior minister to present this bill. It further states:

[English]

"As stated earlier, the EMR route is certainly not in our national interest and it should not be adopted in India—a vast country having a strong pharma industry and health scenario being extremely low. Article 70.9 stipulates that 'exclusive marketing rights shall be granted' to specific products after the occurrence of specified events and that there was nothing in this terms that suggested that such right must be obtained in the domestic laws. This interpretation of Article 70.9 by the WTO Panel makes the grant of EMR automatic after the events specified."

[Translation]

All these things have been said by the intellectuals. There are other things also written there. A lot have been said in the Patent Law about making amendments

against E.M.R. It further states:

[English]

"While the Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property has yet to take a stand on the pipeline protection issue, the National Working Group on the Patent Law has come out strongly against granting of EMRs in India.

This Group which has NGOs, scientists, former bureaucrats and technocrats as members wants the TRIPS Agreement to be reviewed as provided under the WTO Ministerial Declaration of May, 1998. It wants the applications for product patents filed with the Government since 1995 for EMR to be examined and process patents be issued under the current Act."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these statements have been made by experts. It further reacts:

[English]

"With the Indian masses' limited purchasing power what is needed most is to ensure supply of such drugs at affordable prices. It is this point that opponents of granting Exclusive Marketing Rights to patent holders (generally MNCs) are emphasising.

Prices of various drugs in India are lower than in most developing countries because of our existing patent regime under which product patent is not granted. Only a process is patented, that too for nearly half of the international period."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now you tell us how can we pass this bill? I will conclude with this stanza.

[English]

"Though the TRIPS Agreement is supposed to provide a transition period, the Government of India is required under the Agreement to amend the Indian Patents Act immediately, *inter alia*, to grant exclusive marketing rights for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products in favour of foreign patent-holders. Since, for all practical purposes, granting exclusive marketing rights will be as good as granting product patent protection, Parliament must defeat this Amendment."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the experts have desired from the Parliament not to pass such laws. It could create slavery and danger to sovereignty of the country. This bill has been brought here at the instance of multinational companies to procure their interest. The experts have expected that this bill should be cancelled because they have worked very hard on it. That is why I request the Government and to you that this bill, which is not for the interest of the country, should be withdrawn. This will cause increase in the prices of medicine and poor people will not be able to buy them. Multinationals will be in a domineering position. That is why I oppose this bill. A poet has said —

"Hindustan ko samajh to yaron, jaise ho koi badi dukaan,
Apne apne hisse ka sab bech rahe hain Hindustan"

And again, Poet Bhopal Singh Nepali has said:

"Badnam rahe batmaar magar,
ghar ko rakhwalon ne loota, ghar ko rakhwalon ne loota."

These people are bringing this black law saying that it is a compulsion. This law should be cancelled. We strongly oppose it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to say just a few words to oppose this bill which has been presented. I agree with the feelings of my friend who has just expressed his views. It is looking clearly that in which direction the country is being pushed. But it is a matter of sorrow that the ruling party and the main opposition party are in agreement over this issue. I am surprised to see that a committee was constituted in which I also used to go to attend. My friend Shri Murli Manohar Joshi was its Chairman and Shri Jaipal Reddy and George Fernandes were its main members. He will present his speech in detail but I would like to remind one thing to my friends of Congress Party. All the capitalist and industrialist nations had opposed the Patent law strongly when it was formulated in 1970. It was also said at that time that if India passes the Patent Act, 1970 then we will not support India and impose sanctions on her. The then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said that the rich countries of the world, may do whatever they like, India would present those proposals in Parliament and accept the same, which will secure its interests. One of my friends was telling me two days ago that so what if it does not exist anywhere else in the world, cannot, India lead the world in this matter. I would tell those friends respectfully that they were not so close to the Congress in 1970. They would have been in some remote

areas. You can see the newspapers of that period, Shrimati Indira Gandhi said in 1970 that we are ready to accept the challenges of the world, we will not succumb to pressure and thus the Patent Act was passed in 1970. I would tell to my friends in Congress that the proposals of the Congress Party at that time were in keeping with the interest of the people. Even at that time interests of the people were kept foremost in mind. My friend Shri Gujral is present here. He was also in that Government. That time also the Government used to think the problems of the poor. Now there is a new way of thinking about the problems of the poor which is being supported by the Congress Party and also by my friend Murli Manohar Joshi and George Fernandes. I understand that changes in ideologies can not change the country. The country is moving towards destruction and economic slavery and this is not happening to our country only, many other countries of the world are also going to be a victim of this destruction. There was a time when India had led the countries of the third world. I would like to remind to those my friends that at that time India had the capability of becoming a leader. We did not have economic resources then as we have today but we had courage, we had a vision of the world, we had an ambition to build the future of the world and for this purpose we brought together the countries of the third world at that time. I will not go into details because I had said to speak for five-seven minutes. Even at that time much pressure was put on India when there was a move to sign the World Trade Organisation. I had opposed it.

I said that India should not be made a market. The tradition of India, the five thousand years old culture and civilization of India and the wisdom of people of India spread even the villages should not be undermined. Has America not acquired patent rights of those medicines which we have been using for thousands of years, whether the Govt. of India have taken any step against this action? Today America wants to acquire patent rights of Turmeric and Neem also. My friend has also read out that the industrialists of all over the world are concentrating on two field only, one of them is agriculture and the other is medicine. You are very well aware of the condition of the country as far as medicines are concerned. Ayurved and Unani medicines have been consigned to oblivion. Today, English medicines system are in vogue. My friend Shri Sikander Bakht, belongs to that tradition for which I may call him, a soldier or a leader. We had followed the path of "swadeshi" shown by Mahatma Gandhi. Today, whether Shri Sikander Bakht has changed or not, perhaps his heart has not changed. But when he comes with a bill, it seems to me that the faces of the old friends have also changed, perhaps the heart has not changed. But, today, say to you that the prices of medicines are going to rise, I will not go into

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

the details which he has given. Life saving drugs will be very expensive in this country where the poor people can not even afford a tablet of medicine. The condition of the Government hospitals in Delhi is so bad that even tablet is not available there. Poor people can not even think of getting treatment from any non-government hospital. Conspiracies are being hatched to break the traditional system of agriculture. I do not like to go into details as I have asked for a short time and I have to go somewhere else also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit you that as to what is happening in the country? You yourself stand for that tradition, I do not want to trouble you by reminding you. You had an opinion in 1970 and you very well know it and you are familiar with that movement also. Some of the members stand up and tell new principles and customs that India should lead the world. Those people should learn the customs of India first and thereafter try to preach this lesson to the world. We should remember this that those people, who are not proud of their own traditions, who are not aware of their glory, cannot teach the lessons of pride and esteem to the world.

Today, small issues turn to be a matter of heated arguments. For the last seven days newspapers are full of the news that people of Europe and America are at loggerheads over the issue of business of bananas. Discussion are taking place everyday and the world is witnessing this drama. Not even one of the ministers of India is ready to speak out for own things. I know that once you sign the agreement you can not go out of this. But will the task of saying to the people of India to use indigenous products and avoid imported products remain on the shoulders of Virendra Singh and Swadeshi Jagran Manch? They will organise Swadeshi Mela and our friend, Minister of Commerce, Shri Ramkrishna Hegdeji who has participated in the freedom struggle will import foreign goods. Permission is granted to import two hundred, three hundred items at one time on the name that we have made agreements with GATT and we can not stop it. Other nations of the world are trying to protect their interests by sidelining this agreement. I do not say to avoid it. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this mental slavery can lead us and our country to a grave danger. In such a situation if Patent Law is passed then it will have major affect on India in the fields of agriculture and medicines and its worst effect would be on the poor people. Those people are teaching the lesson of social justice who have not done anything for social Justice. Atleast do not try to preach us! I have also witnessed many revolutions regarding social justice. I have seen many supporters of social justice succumbing to the temptation of high positions so there is no need to teach

me. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not a personal matter, it is a question of the country's prestige and future. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to ask Shri Sikander Bakht through you whether old memories still come to him, whether he still remembers Gandhiji, Morarji Desai and all those things which we have done together. I do not know whether George Fernandes and my friend Murlu Manohar Joshi remember all those things or not, when, they talk in alone, they do remember this. May be they forget all those things in Parliament. I have been here to remind them and I want to tell to the people of this country, whether it is my voice or Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, or Shri Mohan Singh or Shri Jaipal Reddy, but it is time now to tell the people of the country that let the Parliament pass any proposal but the responsibility of running the country is not only that of the Government but it lies on the shoulders of the youth and citizens of the country also. If this law is passed here they youth should be ready to oppose this law. People should boycott the foreign companies. Every effort should be made to prevent the country from becoming a market of the foreign companies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I call upon the youth and citizens of this country and I want that this bill, this proposal should be opposed very strongly.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-East): Sir, our party, Trinamul Congress extends our support to the Patents (Amendment) Bill.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, in Para 4, it has been very categorically mentioned that:

"As the Patents Act, 1970 does not provide for grant of product patents, *inter alia*, in the fields of agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and also for grant of Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMRs), the provisions of Articles 70.8 and 70.9 were applicable to India."

Sir, the Patents Bill is, of course, a Congress baby being look after by the present Central Government. When GATT Agreement was signed, and India being the founder member of WTO, certainly India cannot avoid its responsibility and cannot be shifted from its commitments. This Amendment Bill is too be passed by 19 April 1999. Why? This has also been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

"The United States of America raised a dispute against India at the WTO alleging non-fulfilment of India's obligations in this regard. A Panel set up by

the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of WTO examined the allegations made by the USA and submissions made by India and ruled that India had not complied with its obligations. On an appeal made by India, the matter was considered by the Appellate Body of the WTO which also recommended that India take the necessary steps to comply with its obligations. It was subsequently determined that this be done by 19 April 1999. Failure to comply with these obligations within the stipulated period may entail action against India in terms of the Dispute Settlement understanding of the WTO Agreement."

So, within a stipulated time period of 19 April, 1999, this Amendment has to be passed. But throughout the country, there is certainly an apprehension as to whether we are surrendering to the multinationals and the particular objection made by the United States of America have started people believing that this present Government is trying to amend and to pass it due to tremendous pressure coming from this particular country.

Sir, we must say that the Government should positively give some guarantee, after this amendment is adopted, that the public interest is preserved; price fixation would be controlled; national security of our country should not be affected; sovereignty should not be challenged; interest of the seed farmers should be totally protected; prices of urea and products patented in India are to be safeguarded; and the safeguard to the product patent would be used for our own economic progress.

Sir, many speakers have expressed their apprehensions and doubts as to whether the prices of drugs will go beyond control; whether our intellectual property rights are going to be challenged; whether our interests are being sold and the sovereignty of our country is also going to be affected. The Government's firm standpoint is to be clarified that due to certain international obligations and prestige of our country, as we signed the GATT agreement followed by the Dunkel proposals, have now to be fulfilled.

Sir, the TRIPS agreement of the WTO mainly cover nine categories of intellectual property, which are: copyright and related rights; trade marks including services mark; geographical indication; industrial design; layout designs of integrated circuits; state sector; patent; patenting of micro organism and new plant varieties, (that is seeds and other propagating materials). Out of these nine categories, six are more or less protected. These intellectual property rights are protected but so far as the other three—patent, patenting of micro organism and new plant varieties, that is seeds and other propagating materials — are concerned, these have to be looked after with care.

Sir, apprehensions are there but it is also a fact that for introduction of a new drug, it takes eight to ten years of time. Even in the USA, it takes more than 12 years of time for introduction of a new patent. We apprehend that if proper checkups are not made, then, as Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan was saying in his speech, the rejected group of medicines and other patents may take entry into our country by this Patents (Amendment) Bill.

Sir, yesterday it was discussed about the China's position several times. The hon. Member from the CPI(M) was telling whether China is still a member of the WTO. China has applied for its membership. It is still under consideration. Membership has not been provided to China. It is still under consideration. Membership has not been provided to China. It is not that China is totally opposed to the GATT agreement or they are not keen or interested to take an entry into the WTO.

Sir, even the USA and China signed an agreement on copyrights in January 1992 itself. So, it is not true that China is not eager to become a member of the WTO. They are also keen to become a member of the GATT agreement.

Sir, we should take all efforts and protect our intellectual property rights to see that our country can be benefited by this amendment. If this is protected properly, then we certainly believe that so far as the international market is concerned, we can transparently take part into it.

We have our intellects. We have also got our own products on patents by which we can also take part in the other parts of the world and by which we can also earn our foreign money. So, when liberalised economic and industrial policies have already been adopted in our country, we cannot even fall behind from these sorts of ideas and outlooks in which the Patents Bill is one of them. So, Sir, on behalf of our Party, we support the Bill with an expectation that the Government should take all out efforts to see that our intellectual property rights are not affected and not challenged. The Government should see to it that the prices of medicine and other products do not go high.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Sir, I want to know whether my name is in the list of speakers.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir, I have not been too well since yesterday, yet I have been waiting patiently to enter my caveats on this occasion. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister for whom I have great respect, as to why the Ordinance was promulgated. This Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha during

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

the Winter Session. For some reasons, it could not be taken up in this House. You have time, even according to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, up to 19th of April. Where was the need for you to rush with this Ordinance? Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have tried to find out the reasons from the statement circulated by the Minister explaining the reasons for the Ordinance. I would like to draw his attention to paragraph eight.

"The United States of America requested India to hold consultations with it on the provisions of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998. It was felt that it would not be appropriate to have any discussions on the provisions of the Bill before it is enacted."

I am providing the answer for the Minister too. Now, Sir, what do we infer from such a frank, transparent confession? This Government does not have the political will and the moral stamina to discuss a Bill with the Government of the United States. Is this a sovereign Government? Does it represent our country? The reason given is really humiliating for the nation. This is one of the saddest days for the Indian Parliament. Why do I make this grave statement? This is a Bill to which all the sections of the House have been opposed by turns. The Congress, the BJP and, of course, other parties have all been opposed to this Bill all along. May I submit to you that in the history of Indian Parliament, no Bill was ever passed by Parliament to which all the sections of the House were opposed? One may well assume. You may say that about BJP and how do you say the same about Congress? Congress was in power in the whole of 1980s. It was a Congress Government which gave negotiating mandates to our teams at the GATT. Our teams took position against the entire TRIPs Treaty as it exists today.

Therefore, I do not charge any party with having betrayed the country at the negotiating table. They did take the correct positions. But they could not sustain those positions.

I would like to quote the statement made by Shri V.K. Ganesan, our Commerce Secretary at that time in this official capacity:

"We should make it very clear that regardless of whatever be the outcome, even if we sign the GATT we are not going to tread on those fronts."

Please note.

That is, we would disobey. One is, importation does not amount to working a patent. It is Article 27.1. We have to add a footnote to that.

The second point is about the micro-organisms. Shri Ganesan stated it on record that even if such a treaty was passed, this country would muster up the courage and the strength to disobey it.

So, the Congress Party, for reasons best known to it, or even compulsions, went back. I do not have to narrate the story of the BJP at all. My friend Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and I and a few others have been working for years on the Forum of Parliamentarians. I have fundamental philosophical differences with Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. There is no person in this country with whom I differ more on many issues. But I worked with him on this. What happened? So, that is about the BJP.

So far as the Left Parties and we were concerned, we were always opposed to it. So, this is a Bill which is being enacted by the House against the heart of the House. Therefore, I can think of no other legislation in this country that has such a precedent or a parallel. We have enacted many controversial Bills over which the House was intellectually divided. But now the House is ideologically unified and politically divided none of these things that the TRIPs treaty represents a positive or some even a mixed package for us. It is almost an unmixed evil, an unmixed curse and we are prepared to swallow this bitter medicine as a nation. That is what is agonising. When the hon. Minister talks of provision of compulsory licensing, I would call this a piece of compulsory legislation. We are compelled to legislate. Can there be anything more humiliating than that?

Now, coming to the Bill itself, it has a very narrow focus. We are trying to say that we are complying with a certain legal requirement imposed on us by the world body.

I have heard Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan. He said that he supported the Bill. But all the points that he made in his speech were against the Bill! He had also been working with me. So, his heart was not in it. His mind was not in it. Only his mouth was in it!

There is a need to look at the whole issue in both historical and philosophical perspectives. Why are we making these speeches? Not because I believe that the Minister and the BJP can be converted at this stage but because we believe that this is an occasion on which we must go on record. This is a speech meant for posterity, history and we are to be judged at the bar of history.

In 1970s when the original Patents Act was passed, the prices of drugs came down. The pharmaceutical

industry flourished in India. Pakistan did not go in for processed patent as we did. It went in for product patent. What happened? There is a huge difference in the price of ordinary drugs between India and Pakistan, not to speak of United States. I will come to United States a little later. This was considered an ideal piece of legislation in the world of 1970s. That was a bipolar world. We did not have one single super power dominating all of us. We could breath freely. We enacted that law. Today, we are going to dismantle that 1970 Act, not in one full stroke but in a piecemeal manner. I oppose this Bill because it smacks of a piecemeal approach. What is the perspective? Where is your integrated approach?

Yesterday, I was listening to one of the Members of the B.J.P. I was more annoyed than amused when he began to support the patent regime. The validity of patent period has been extended from 15 years to 20 years. Nobody in the world believes that such a thing is good for consumers anywhere in the world including the consumers in the United States. The leading consumer activist of the United States Mr. Ralph Nader has been campaigning against this patent regime. I can understand the political compulsions, but if we submit to this, then it would be an epic example of egregious exploitation through technological tyranny. If we begin to justify it on philosophical grounds, it would be making an intellectual virtue of a political imperative. BJP has acquired an uncanny knack of converting its political compulsions into philosophical convictions. I am really upset about this.

Such of those who have been critical of the GATT (II) — what we are having today is not GATT(I) — have always been champions of GATT. Today we have GATT (II) under which the WTO has been set up. It is a supra national body. It is a *defecto* world Government in respect of commerce and trade.

Now, such of those who are opposed to GATT(II) are not opposed to liberalisation because liberalisation philosophy is based on free trade and patent philosophy believes in conferring monopoly which is opposed to free trade. Such of those that are supporting GATT(II) are against liberalisation. They are conferring 20 years monopoly and after 20 years there can be another spell of 20 years by way of process patent.

14.00 hrs.

In effect, there can be monopoly, theoretically speaking, for forty years. That is the kind of protection they seek for their inventions. We are not opposed to rewarding inventions; we are for rewarding inventions. But a balance needs to be struck between vital public concerns and the reward for the inventor.

1401 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

In the report submitted by the World Health Organisation in 1977—I am not quoting Indian experts, I am quoting a world body whose expertise in the matter and whose authority in the matter are universally acknowledged — it is stated:

"In the pharmaceutical field, the logical consequence of this provision is that drugs will be sold at high prices, as is the case for the monopoly products. For a long period of time, the manufacturers of genetic products will have to wait longer before they can produce the drugs in question and sell it at a more accessible price."

This report of the WHO has been made after India signed the Marrakesh Treaty. There is no harmony between the perception of the WHO and the WTO on this. The United States has been marginalising all the bodies associated with the United Nations, be in UNICEF or WHO or, for that matter, the United Nations itself. It is setting up a parallel international authority. We will be now governed by a new international trinity comprising World Bank, IMF and WTO, and we are prepared to succumb to this kind of pressure.

Having said this, I must clarify that I am not amongst those who believe that we should quit the World Trade Organisation. I may here draw the attention of the House to the Committee headed by none other than Shri I.K. Gujral Ji. That Parliamentary Committee made unanimous recommendations on two counts. On Dunkel proposals which were a prelude to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Committee felt strongly and unequivocally that they should be rejected. Yet the Committee said that the bottom line was that we should not quit the world trading forum. So, I am not pleading for quitting the world trading forum at all.

This Bill relates to two issues. One is pharmaceuticals and the other is agricultural chemicals. Agriculture and health are exclusively in the States List. I would like to know as to how we are competent to pass this legislation. He may say that in the Constitution of India we have an overriding provision which enables the Government of India to enter into international treaties. This is no ordinary international treaty, Mr. Chairman. You cannot barter away the rights of the States. You cannot alter the basic structure of the Constitution of India. May I draw the attention of the Minister to what goes on in Germany?

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

Very few people in our country know that Germany is as federal as India, if not more. Whenever a matter relating to State List is to be legislated upon in the European Union, prior permission of the State Assemblies is taken. Unless the prior permission is taken, the Government of Germany cannot enter into an international treaty even in regard to European Union. So, how are we ignoring the States?

Now, I am told, Shri Jaipal Reddy, you may deliver any number of speeches, but you have to make a choice between the EMR route and the product patent route. I have to make a choice between the devil of EMR and the deep sea of the product patent route. I am not prepared to make a choice. That is a Hobson's choice. Now, we were told that we were given a grace period of ten years as a developing country. But what has happened? During the grace period of ten years, we have been compelled to grant the EMR, exclusive marketing rights, which is in fact a disgrace. It is not a grace period, it has become a disgrace period. What did we get in return? Are we in a position to export textiles to the United States without restriction on quotas. No. Restrictions on our textiles will continue right up to 2005. The United States, which is a poor country, needs protection!

Sir, our approach is fatalistic. We cannot do anything about it. That is what the Minister is going to say. It is defeatist, it is reactive. What is their pro-active approach? What is their positive approach? What is their pre-emptive approach? Do they have an approach at all?

Now, there is a provision in the WTO Act itself, the GATT-II for review. Are we preparing themselves as a nation? Are we, as the biggest developing nation in the world, preparing other countries to see that review of patent regime is fundamentally affected? They have the opportunity. What are they doing there? They go and deliver pre-drafted speeches there. That is all they do. They say one thing when they meet at the NAM and they become namby-pamby when they go to G-7. That is the problem.

Now, I would like to make one point which has not been made so far. The amendments which have been brought are very weak. The patent applications will be examined in terms of sections 3 and 4 of the 1970 Act. I can read out the Act also, but I do not think that I have enough time. It does not relate to patentable inventions. Section 4 relate to atomic energy which anyhow is not covered by WTO. So, what safeguards are they providing in the first place? Why do they not say that patent applications will be examined in terms of entire 1970 Act? This suggestion has been made by none other than Shri Ganeshan who is today advocating that we had better fight the WTO from within. Even he said that the amendment must refer to the entire Act and not to sections 3 and 4.

I would support the proposition of Shri Chavan. If you cannot bring in the entire Act, at least bring in Chapter IV and V so that the concerned authority can look at it in terms of triple criteria, whether it is in the public domain, whether it is really an innovative step and whether it is commercially useful, and people can complain. There is no provision for public complaint.

Having said this, let me contradict myself. It is not the privilege of BJP and the Congress alone to contradict themselves. These safeguards are not sustainable in terms of WTO law. There is no provision for compulsory licensing at all, when it come to EMR. EMR, in that respect, is worse than product patent. Therefore, the United States has already lodged a complaint against you and this Bill. You are passing the Bill with a view to complying with the decision of the WTO, and the United States has already lodged a complaint. If I am to be impartial, I would see some merit in that because I do not see any legal scope for compulsory licensing through EMR route.

There are others in our country who think that the product patent is better than EMR. I have not been able to appreciate that logic because even under the product patent you cannot go in for compulsory licensing in the manner that has been provided for in the 1970 Act, Sections 81 to 90 deal with the manner and circumstances in which compulsory licensing can be taken recourse to. Article 31 of the TRIPs Act does not permit you to do that. What it says is that only when there is a national emergency or circumstance of extreme urgency, you can go in for it and not otherwise. Moreover, the prospect is limited to public non-commercial use. You can go in for compulsory licensing without commercial exploitation. So, where is the scope under product patent also? You have been tied down to this. The way out is not compliance; the way out is defiance. We have lost in WTO and we must defy. Our people are raising the bogey of catastrophic consequence that will flow from non-compliance. I do not agree with that bogey. What will happen? The United States will, once again, complain after 9th April. Then, the WTO will ask the United States, "Look! What is the injury caused to you?" The United States will be obliged to establish that it has suffered a specific injury, and even after it establishes a specific injury, it can take steps in the concerned sectors only. After that, it can take recourse to what are called 'cross retaliatory measures'. So, why are we in such a holy or unholy hurry to comply with these requirements?

Sir, everybody praises the virtues of WTO because we will have a non-discriminatory regime. Following with Pokhran explosion the United States has unilaterally imposed embargo on 250 companies, or institutes, of our country. Have the Government raised a dispute in WTO?

If the WTO ensures a non-discriminatory international trade regime, they should be able to file a complaint in the WTO. Why have they not done it? The Government of USA have done it on the ground that the technologies, which have been banned could lend themselves to dual use. Can that be the ground? Why should we not test waters of W.T.O.? Has the thought ever crossed the Government's mind? No, this thought cannot cross their mind because they are in a compliance mode, not in a defiance mode. That is the problem.

How many molecules are generally patented per year in a country like the United States? They say, a maximum of 60. In fact, I have a list which says that in four years they could only get patent right, full-fledged patent right, for only 39 molecules. But, I understand reliably that 3,000 applications have been received and the Minister is admitting that. Let him explain as to what those application are about. They could be about a change in the usage form. They could be flimsy applications. Do we have a right to examine them? My position and is that you do not have a right to examine. I am taking this position, let the Minister contradict. There is no problem, because we are both going to be judged at the bar of history.

Everybody talked about banana. Banana is the western counterpart of our onion, apparently. A big trade war has broken out between the two most like-minded allies, between the two biggest trade partners, the European Union and America. And it revolves round only 500 million dollars. It does not entail billions of dollars. The United States has not cared to go to WTO. It has unilaterally decided to impose sanctions against the European Union. The point I am trying to make is that when it comes to United States, WTO is helpless. Just as in political and military matters the United States overtakes the United Nations, in commercial matters, the United States overtakes the WTO.

Mr. Kentor, a US trade representative, told the US Congress, "According to GATT Section 102, when there is a trade dispute under GATT, the US law will precede over GATT in every case, not just in some cases, not just in most cases but in every case." I can quote a little more but I think I do not have time.

Now, some friends are saying that after all, there are only 250 widely used drugs. Only four retained their patent by 1995. Those four have also since elapsed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, patients do not necessarily use essential drugs. They go by the prescription of physicians. I am reminded of a phrase which both Nehru and Galbraith used in the Sixties about the military factories in America. They called it 'Industrial military complex'. In

India, we also have a 'physician pharmacists complex'. When a patient is suffering from a disease, he will go in for the latest and the costliest drugs prescribed by the physician, and the pharmaceutical companies. Therefore, to say, 'well, our essential drugs are not covered' is not correct.

Mr. Richard Sykes, Chairman of Glaxo Company said that they would take two patents from India for exclusive marketing rights, although they are both relating to changes in the dosage form. Mr. Sykes also says about Zantac. When Zantac was under patent in the U.S., the Indian price was about two per cent of the U.S. price, that is, fifty times less.

I was surprised when some patriotic Members of the BJP were complaining about the low drug prices in India. Whom are they pleading for, I do not know. If you say that it is a matter of compulsion, fine! But do not translate your compulsion into conviction. Do not get ideologically converted. Do not get brain washed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I never complained about the low prices of the drugs...*(Interruptions)*...He is imputing a motive on me on what I did not say. That is my complaint. I never said this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Well, I accept your explanation. I accept your clarification. But that is not the main point. The point is that the prices of drugs in India are the lowest in the world and when an Indian goes to the United States, he takes all his drugs from India as cannot afford them there. I am afflicted by a number of chronic diseases. There is only one disease that I do not have, and that is B.P. That is why, I am able to speak properly. When I go to the United States, I carry my medicines from here because I cannot afford to buy the medicines in the United States. I do not think, Sikandarji will be able to afford them either.

Therefore, you must examine this from the angle of our poor people.

Sir, you have inserted an untenable provision of compulsory licencing with a view to deceiving us. I know that you are not deceiving yourself. It is a bogus safeguard, hocus-pocus safeguard, deceptive safeguard and untenable safeguard. Be that as it may.

You have given the right to sell or distribute, and not to manufacture. Why have you decided not to give the right to manufacture? Because, you know that the amendment you have inserted, is untenable. It is meant to be an eye wash and hogwash. Nothing more than that.

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

Sir, I was reading the first editorial of the prestigious journal *The Economist* of London sometime back. It appears that some break-throughs have been achieved in the matter of the AIDS. *The Economist* of London, which has been the champion of *laissez faire* economy for the last 150 years, wondered in its editorial as to how poor people in the Third World Countries would be able to afford this because the minimum cost of the AIDS treatment would be 10,000 dollars, that is, Rs. 4 lakh and more. There are million and millions of people in our country suffering from AIDS.

It has become a fashion for some friends here to refer to the example of China. Let me state that I am not admirer of China. I have been a consistent social democrat. I am proud of the democratic path we took. But before you refer to China, you must remember the Sturm and Drang through which that nation has passed through over 50 years. You must remember that China is not a member of the WTO. It has to accede to the United States' demands to get the status of most-favoured nation every time by haggling and bargaining on the capitol Hill. You are a member of the W.T.O. you do not need to do that.

May I raise another point? China has an accumulated trade surplus of 50 billion dollars with the United States. Do you have the strength of China? So, why do you refer to the example of China in an irrelevant manner?

In India, we have wonderful justice system. I am proud of that through it leads to dilatory justice. In China -- with due apology to China, I am no enemy or admirer of China -- there is no justice system like ours. Therefore, what is the point in having any accord with China when it cannot be implemented at all? There is no independent Justice System in China.

I want to make the last point for the consumption and serious attention and immediate action of the hon Minister. What is the preparation of our nation? How are you preparing the nation? USA has got 3,000 examiner to look into patents. As against that, there are only 13 examiners in India whose skills are of dubious nature. What is the infrastructural step that we are taking in this area?

Apart from this, we have to go in for *sui generis* system. What are the steps which we have taken? Have you consulted all of us? Do you want to consult us at all?

Then about Indian heritage about which all of us are proud, what are you doing to see that Ayurvedic prescriptions and Unani prescriptions are patented in a

foolproof manner well before 2005? You have done nothing. That is my charge. We are very haphazard in this matter. This matter is being looked into by two Departments, Industries and Commerce. I do not mind if Commerce Department is given to my friend, Shri Sikander Bakht in addition to Industry. Let all the matter relating to WTO be brought under one Ministry. Even this elementary step has not so far been taken.

In conclusion, this is not the end of the WTO. Industrialised countries have an unending agenda to unveil in course of time.

They are going to force you to let their investment flow in; they are going to force you to adopt their labour standards; they are going to force you to adopt their environmental standards. If you cannot discuss this Bill with the United States Government except through an Ordinance, how can we depend on you to oppose its agenda, which is totally disruptive of the developing world?

With these words, with all the emphasis at my command, I oppose this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I will take just one minute. I want to state my party's stand. ...(Interruptions)

My party will boycott Parliament, my party will boycott this House until and unless the Government makes an announcement to stop the increase in the telecom tariff. It is against the interest of the common people. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now there is no time. ...(Interruptions) There is no scope. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: For you there is no scope but we have a scope for it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Why are your shouting like this? I am appealing to you. I say that my Party will boycott this House until and unless the Government stops the increase in the rates for local telephone calls and restore whatever facilities were given for people making local telephone calls. ...(Interruptions)

14.33 hrs.

(At this stage. Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshestra): Mr. Chairman Sir, I may be allowed to speak on the Patent Bill on behalf of my party. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it is not permissible under the rules. It should not go on record because you will be creating a bad precedent. No party is allowed to stage a walkout at this stage. No party can raise any issue, when we are discussing a Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Chairman Sir, there are many persons, who belong to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, living in the Kriti Nagar area of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Ahmednagar): Mr. Chairman Sir as there is short of time I would not prolong my speech. ...*(Interruptions)* I would conclude within 3-4 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.P. SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, nearly two thousand people who belong to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are living in jhuggies in Kirti Nagar, Naraina and Mayapuri area of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* but their jhuggies are being demolished today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may raise this matter during the zero hour tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not a zero hour now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It would not form part of the proceedings.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): It would not go on record.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It should not go on record. It will be a very bad precedent. We are discussing the Patent Bill and an honourable member says that she opposes the hike in the telephone call

rate. Where was she all along? It should not form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed her...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It should be expunged from the proceedings. Where was she in the morning?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Ahmednagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to place before this august House through you the doubts which are in the minds of the people regarding Patent Bill. I hope that the honourable Minister would clarify these doubts while answering on this subject. My first Question is whether the Patent of drugs would result into increase the prices or decrease them? As a result of such patent the number of drugs in India has been limited to sixty thousand only. I would like to know whether this number would go increase or decrease?

My third question is that the Ayurvedic and the Homoeopathic medicines are the only cheapest medicines, I am afraid about the effect of patent Law on the existing Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic medical Brands? As the time is short I would not take more time. This Patent law should not be applicable on the agricultural and natural resources but it should only be applicable in case of transformation by means of genetic engineering. There is a dispute on Basmati and the Ayurvedic Juice of Tulsi has also come under dispute. Our medical plants should also be protected under the patent law. Secondly, you know that the farmers are illiterate. When we talk about the developed countries, we should also keep in mind that there are educated people whereas the literacy level in our villages is very low. The technique of sowing seeds or any other practice developed by the farmers is a result of their experience over thousands of years in such agro climatic conditions. There are different varieties Basmati seeds for drought area. They have protected the traditional paddy and it should be protected because they do not know the procedure for patent items, however the industrialists are very well aware about it. It may either by a multinational, Indian Joint companies or private institutions engaged developing hybrid seeds could very

[Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil]

easily go ahead in this field. We follow the traditions of protecting the seeds to sow during the subsequent year. But in case of some other crops, the same is not followed. Today there are certain crops, seeds of which are consumed in the same year and the farmers have to purchase new seeds for the ensuing season. The traditional knowledge, which we have about the plant protection needs to be safeguarded. Even the petty artisans in the rural areas do have standard technology. Other companies may come forward to patent that technology. I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to how is he going to protect us on all these issues.

There is a need to create awareness among the people about the repercussions of the Patent Law on the farmers or the villages. The educated, expert and well off people who have infrastructure and office would be able to gain something from the Patent Law but our farmers, labours or the artisans would be deprived of all these as they would not know about the modifications made, their rights, traditional and natural rights. Even the event of some modifications, how we are going to get protection, as the original clauses which were 39, 40, 64 have been omitted. To which extent would the Patent, which is come up, would effect the artisans, small and marginal farmers. I would like to know about the Patent Law which you are going to publish, the seeds of the farmers are being brought under the Patent Law whereas the crop belongs to the farmers, even Juice and medicinal plants are also being brought within the purview of Patent Law. If you would not publish all these it would go on like-wise and it would be published in the Gazette. When the land of the farmers is to be taken over it is published in the Gazette but the farmer does not know about it. The illiterate people, who are required to know the Patent Law, would be the worst sufferers due to their ignorance. The industrialist may not be opposed to it as they have adequate infrastructure. But the case of farmers, labours and artisans is entirely different. How are you going to protect them on this issue. I am very keen about the genetic engineering because the process and the production of seeds is changing due to the agro-climatic conditions. In spite of having agriculture and natural resources, we are still facing difficulties. How are you going to protect us under the intellectual property rights so that you may not hope to say that the farmers had not given the applications. The agriculture university or other institution may, atleast, take the responsibility to ensure some production by the farmer despite of the adverse agro-climatic conditions. Rice has been modified. There are many problems in the way of modification. I have learnt that the foreign companies which would come here, would patent such items after nominal modifications

but the farmer is on his job, the villagers are producing for the welfare of the people whereas these multinationals are for only to earn profits.

I would like to know from you about all these matters as there are many reservations on its implementation and also the farmers are having their own reservations. We are looking forward for your clarification when you reply on it and it would also be in the interest of the country.

Lastly, as I have already told him to start an awareness campaign among the people through radio and television or any other media so that people could know about the Patent Law. I think it would be injustice if it is implemented in the field of seeds right now. I have to raise similar questions before you.

I thank for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Sir, with all the emphasis at my command I oppose the Bill being brought before the House by my learned friend, Shri Sikander Bakht. My basic reason to oppose the Bill which has been brought before the House is, it is a blow on the Centre-State relationship. This Bill is very much against the principles of federal structure of our constitution. What was the necessity to bring an amendment to the Patents Act, 1970? I would say, this Bill has originated out of the compulsion of the Americans. The Americans have gone to the WTO Dispute Settlement Board alleging that India has not fulfilled the obligation as per 70.8 and 70.9 of TRIPS Agreement. What will happen if we do not amend this Bill? Nothing will happen. Maybe, my friend Shri Sikander Bakht will say that we may be attracted by sanctions. Many of the Members who have already spoken on the Bill supporting the Government's stand on this issue, observed that if we do not pass this Bill sanctions will be imposed on us. I would like to ask them, what has happened after the Pokhran test? Though the sanctions are there, we have not gone round the world with a begging bowl for food, clothing or shelter. We are surviving. I charge that this Government succumbs to the pressure of the United States of America. I would like to briefly tell the House as to what has happened during 1948s.

In forties, there was a general economic recession in the United States itself. Because of this economic recession, the United States wanted to have a global market. They entered into a number of bilateral agreements. They caught hold of 23 countries and America as the head of those 23 countries held a meeting at Geneva. In that meeting they wanted to form an International Trade Organisation. But, unfortunately for

America. those 23 countries did not come forward to compromise their national spirits. Because of this the International Trade Organisation did not take off. GATT came into existence. The principle of GATT is to rationalise the tax structure.

In the GATT Agreement, service sector and intellectual property have not been included. In WTO, the intellectual property and service sector have been included. Now, because of 70.8 and 70.9 of TRIPs Agreement, this Government has got an obligation to have amendment to the Patent Act, 1970. Sir, my point is that this Government is rushing through this Bill without even consulting the Chief Ministers of the States. You may ask as to why you should consult the State Chief Ministers. The reason is that the Bill which has been brought before this House is essentially to meet with the necessity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many minutes more do you want?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I am sorry. I have not even entered into it. Sir, I belong to six-Member Party. A person belonging to three-Member Party was allowed to speak for a much longer time. I should also be given more time.

Sir, this Bill mainly deals with the provisions pertaining to chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Both the areas are in the domain of State Government. The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura, Karnataka and Kerala have requested the Prime Minister of India to convene a meeting of the National Development Council to discuss this particular matter threadbare so that things can be sorted out. A consensus could have been arrived at whether to pass a Bill or not to pass a Bill. But the hon. Prime Minister could not find time. Maybe, because of extraneous reasons as day-in-and-day-out they are trying to compromise with their allies. They are trying to assuage with their allies for extraneous reasons.

Sir, in the United Front Government my leader Shri Murasoli Maran, who was the then Minister of Industry had constituted a panel consisting of intellectuals, parliamentarians in which Dr. Muri Manohar Joshi, the great social scientists, Shri George Fernandes, the former revolutionary leader Shri Bardhan of CPI, Shri Ashok Mitra of CPI(M) and others were members. The panel had been convened many times by the then Minister of Industry. It had discussed this matter threadbare as to what will be the fallout and pros and cons of this issue. Day-in-and-day-out, messages had been sent to Geneva. The former Prime Ministers Shri Deve Gowda as well as

Shri I.K. Gujral, met the panel. There was some interaction. But to my surprise, Shri Sikander Bakht, Minister of Industry did not have the strain of constituting and meeting the panel. He did not want to have the advantage of widespread think-tank. They want to rush through this Bill because they are succumbing to the pressure. Shri Shukla, Member, Planning Commission was the coordinator. Sir, Dr. Joshi, the true *swadeshi*, opposed at the time when he was in the panel. During the discussion in the panel, the social scientist, Shri Fernandes, opposed it. Then, what necessitated them to bring this Bill now? They opposed and there was a hue and cry in the panel. Since they are coming forward with this Bill now, it means something extraneous is there which I do not know. Probably, it may be due to the pressure exercised by the Americans.

I want to tell you one point regarding the field of pharmaceuticals. What is the quantum of Indian export in the field of pharmaceuticals? What is the quantum of Indian export? In 1993-94, in the area of drugs and pharmaceuticals, our export performance was to the tune of Rs. 2009 crore. What is the performance during 1997-98? It was Rs. 5228 crore against an import of Rs. 809 crore in 1993-94 and Rs. 1301 crore in 1997-98. If we pass this Bill, then what will happen? Definitely people who have got the patent right elsewhere beyond India will come forward with EMR for whom you are spreading a red carpet. They will pour in and since those people are having exclusive monetary right can import and Indian products cannot compete with foreign products, our industry will fall sick. And if our industries fall sick, there will be the problem of unemployment. What is the way out now? In the globalised scenario, India has integrated its economy with other countries. It is good. In this globalised scenario all over the world, there are possibilities of capital inflow but at the same time, is there any possibility of our labour export to any other country? Nobody has thought about it. Our labour cannot be exported.

I have to cite a very important point. When I speak about Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our friends on this side will support me. In the historic session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva on 6th May, 1981, the late lamented leader Madam Indira Gandhi had said:

"Affluent societies are spending vast sums of money understandably on the search for new products and processes to alleviate suffering and to prolong life. In the process, drug manufacturers have become a powerful industry."

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

She further reiterated saying:

My idea of a better aided world is one in which medical discoveries would be free of patents and there will be no profiteering from life or death."

She has said 'discoveries' but her intention was only 'invention' and not 'discovery'. Our people should not be misguided on this point. Her intention was 'invention'. I should emphasise that this Conference was held at Geneva in 1981. A Resolution was adopted there whose title was 'Strategy on Health for All.' Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan is not here now. If we pass this Bill, would our poor get the medicines for health?

Ten tablets of 150 mg dose Ranitidine Zantac costs Rs. 7.16 in India. In Pakistan, it costs Rs. 122.16. In the United Kingdom, it costs Rs. 320.85. In the United States, these ten tablets cost Rs. 730.60. I have converted the price in terms of Indian rupee. So, a tablet which is produced in India at a cost Rs. 7.16 costs Rs. 730.60 in the United States. Who will be the beneficiary? Shall our poor Indian get at the prevailing price?

Before I conclude, I would like to remind the hon. Minister Shri Sikander Bakht that there is a Standing Committee Report on Commerce. Is it not there? Mr. Minister, my charge against you is that the Standing Committee Report on Commerce had warned you or advised you about this thing. It is a 45-Member Committee. The Committee unanimously decided that firstly before any Bill is presented to the two Houses, the Government should discuss the Report of the Standing Committee threadbare. The second recommendation is that the Government should consult the State Governments because pharmaceuticals as well as agro-chemicals within their domain; thirdly, it has recommended that the Government should consult a wider body of experts, eminent men, Judges, Lawyers and Scientists before it tries to reach a decision. Now, decisions have been taken. Mr. Minister, have you consulted the State Governments? You have not consulted the State Governments. Have you taken the advice of the Standing Committee on Commerce? You have not taken it. You have not gone by the advice of spectrum of experts and eminent men.

Mr. Minister, since you think as the master and the States as your slaves, I strongly condemn your attitude in bringing forward this Bill. I oppose this Bill. Mr. Minister, you are not only treating us as slaves and secondary citizens but also you are very much against the Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce.

So, with these words, I oppose it.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala). Mr. Chairman Sir, honourable Shri Sikander Bhakt has brought this Patent Bill before this House under compelling conditions and after losing battle in the court. As far as the helplessness and compelling conditions of the Government is concerned, our party is with the Government but about the apprehensions of the people and discussion on it, I think there is some truth in it. I think there is a need to seriously consider the ways and means to mitigate the bad effect on the people in the field of agriculture and medicines.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would suggest that the Government of India, before offering to agree to sign such conditions to become a member of World Trade Organisation, should have considered to safeguard the interests of the country particularly in the field of medicines and agriculture.

It is a matter of grave concern that the developed countries are targetting to capture the economy of the developing countries with the help of the multinational companies through the policy of liberalisation and globalisation of trade. It is an event of special importance for India because 400 years ago the East India Company, first of all captured the Indian Trade and thereafter it targetted the Political System. Therefore, I would like to say that we should take a serious view of it and put forth the conditions which could serve the interests of the country.

15.00 hrs.

If the Amendment Bill is passed in the present form, I think it may hamper the research work which is being undertaken in the country. It may also affect the technology, development of the country as well as the indigenisation movement for which we are supporters. Before joining the W.T.O. we will have to consider all these issues, because the developed countries are trying to impose the Dunkel Report through the GATT agreement in the W.T.O. Earlier the Patent of Basmati Rice was done by a American company and there is time limit of 3 years to challenge this issue. I would also like to know as to whether or not we have been able to file a case against it. Basmati is a product of our country we had thought of fighting this issue alongwith Pakistan, what happened about it? We have no information about it. It is also a serious matters. The expenditure being incurred on our Agricultural research is very low since it is merely 0.81 percent of the G.D.P. Under such circumstances, the people of our country will certainly express their concern because it hampers the progress of our technology. Therefore, this needs a serious consideration. I would request the honourable Minister and there is a

need to constitute a J.P.C. by the Government to examine the main two conditions, about which we have most apprehensions.

The first one is terminator genes. Persons associated with the agriculture are especially worried about it. It would deprive the farmers. The financial position of our farmers is in doldrums and he is frustrated to the extent of committing suicide. If he is unable to produce the seeds it would be a worrisome situation. The honourable Minister has assured through a statement in the Rajya Sabha that import of terminator genes would not be allowed at any cost. He has said this with a greater emphasis and confidence but the officers Shri Sharma, Secretary Biotechnology and Parouda Saheb the Director General of I.C.A.R. had stressed on the fact that in such a situation when other countries are progressing how can we lag behind and besides it they have also said that field trials are being conducted at 40 places in Karnataka. I understand that the people of the country are worried about it and the Government itself is also in a state of confusion and also stand of the Government is not clear. Honourable Minister for Agriculture is sitting here. I would request him to clarify if his statement is true, then how the officers have come out with such a Statement? The field trials being conducted should be stopped at once and I think that the terminated genes be completely banned. The entire country is with him. When the whole nation can unite on the issue of CTBT then why not in the case of these two conditions to become a member of W.T.O.? Therefore, the Government should put forth the condition of terminator genes and the other one of subsidy. We should not accede to the condition to waive the subsidy. We help the poor by way of PDS and we do so by keeping in view their condition, because half of our population do not get both ends meal, and do not have clothes to cover their body and no home to take shelter. The agricultural costs in country have increased as compared to international costs and after its implementation the prices of urea would increase sharply. In view of our economy and the purchasing power of the people in the country, we should not accede to the condition to waive the subsidy. There are many such things but the time does not permit to say all that. I want to say only that we should form a consensus on certain conditions so as to benefit the people of the country and the development of the country.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore)
(WB): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my views on this important Bill. On behalf of my party, the R.S.P., I rise to oppose this Bill which is detrimental to the country's economic sovereignty. The object of this Patent (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as I understood, is to fulfil the obligations on the

part of the Government of India about the acceptance of trade related intellectual property rights with special reference to pharmaceutical and Agro Chemical patents. This is a binding upon the Government of India. This is a binding upon the developing countries to carry out these obligations within a stipulated time-frame, that is, 19th April, 1999. These bindings are incorporated in Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the Marakkesh Treaty.

Sir, it is my first observation that fulfilling these obligations of the Marakkesh Treaty is nothing but to accept the foreign patent. It is a complete departure from the spirit and content of the Patents Act, 1970. What do we find in our Patent Act of 1970? We find a prerogative of India of not accepting any foreign patent which infringes upon the national rights of India. We have a right to ensure food security. We have a right to develop our own pharmaceutical and chemical patent and this is the important adjunct of the self-reliant economy of our country. So, today, to fulfil these obligations of the Marakkesh Treaty, in my opinion, is nothing but to subserve the imperialist economic interests of the trans-national corporations.

Sir, we are living in an age of super technology which is based on global economy. There is a need for international understanding. There is a need for international agreement on intellectual property rights; there is no doubt about it. But the reality says that the world is divided and the unequal nature of the world has adversely affected the interests of the developing countries. This has been done by the mishandling of the situation while signing the Marakkesh Treaty by the Executive, on behalf of the Indian Legislature. The whole country has been put in a very critical situation today, consequent upon the entry of India into the World Trade Organisation. We have arrived at the peak of the crisis when India lost the cases filed against India's non-compliance by United States of America and by the European Community.

Sir, there are two options that are left before us. One is to open the mail box system for receiving patent applications and the other is to grant Exclusive Marketing Rights to foreign patents. If the Government of India accepts these two options under the provisions of the Marakkesh Treaty, then what would be the fate of the Government of India and the people of India? It will destroy the indigenous process of research and development in the field of science and technology. It will ruin the interests of the poor farmers and the rising scientists. This is my second observation. It is a fact that it absolutely indicates the failure of the political leadership of the Government at that time. In support of my contention that it will ruin the interest of research

[Shri Pramothas Mukherjee]

and development in the field of science, I may quote from a very brilliant report of the People's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights. The hon. Member of this Commission are, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, Prof. Yash Pal, Prof. Prabhat Patnaik and National Prof. S.K. Sinha. A seminar was held in the month of December, 1998 and, with your permission, I would like to quote from this report. This is the concluding remark about granting of exclusive marketing rights to the foreign companies:

"Thus in the considered view of this Commission, Parliament must never grant exclusive marketing rights (EMRs). An exclusive marketing right is more than just an automatic five-year patent. It is a grant of monopoly over the domestic market to an importer, without any scrutiny and on very dubious grounds. It is not surprising that most developing countries have chosen not to implement EMR provisions. Pakistan and two other small countries are perhaps the only countries to date that have introduced an EMR regime."

This is for your kind information. I think, you know it very well

While I am speaking about the failure of the political leadership of the Government at that time, it is sure that the executive must sign the international treaty on behalf of the Government and this is the verdict of the constitution. But WTO is not an ordinary treaty. The TRIPs is not an ordinary agreement.

With your kind permission, I beg to refer to the incident. Who is the gentleman negotiating India's cause with the WTO? Is it a fact that the gentleman negotiating India's cause with the WTO is now a Deputy Secretary with the WTO? I want to learn from the Ministry and from the Government whether that gentleman negotiating India's cause with the WTO has served the purpose of the Government of India or has served the purpose of any other nation.

There is a very close relationship between the Executive and the Legislature in our Constitution. It has to be judged whether the Executive has infringed upon the rights of the Parliament or not. Again, there is a very close relationship in our Constitution between the Centre and the States. We are living in an age of cooperative federalism. The Ministry of Industry of this Parliament cannot give an absolute assurances for this Patents Act. It cannot be so. We are living in an age of cooperative federalism.

So far as the principle of cooperative federalism is concerned, this Ministry must have a duty to have

consultations with the State Governments, with the Chief Ministers and with the Members of the National Development Council before it gives a final conclusion about this Patents (Amendment) Act.

I will refer to one incident. This Parliament has adopted a very good system, that is, the Committee system for giving some suggestions to the Government. Here is a Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce. They can remind that the Patents (Amendment) Bill is not under the absolute authority of that Industry Department only. It has to be in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce. It has to be in consultation with the other branches of the Ministry. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to please go through the Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce. That has made a very brilliant Report. I think, you have already gone through it. Here is a main recommendation under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Mitra about what can be done in regard to the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998. With your kind permission, I quote from the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Commerce. There are three recommendations. I am quoting No. 1:

"Introducing legislation in conformity with the WTO's directive to amend country's patent legislation before April, 1999: Thereby providing mailbox facilities and exclusive marketing rights to applicants for processing pharmaceutical and agrochemical products in the country."

If you follow this suggestion, then, it will be an absolute surrender to the dictates of the transnational corporations.

(ii) That to bypass the complications of Article 70.8 and 70.9 by agreeing straightway to the general provisions on some product patent inscribed in the manifesto with the additional safeguard of retaining for the country the right for compulsory licensing in all the relevant cases."

Finally, this is a very good and a scientific suggestion for the Government to accept. This is to maintain a stance that the issue should be referred. I emphasise that the issue be referred to the Minister Conference of the WTO scheduled to meet during 1999 for undertaking a general review of the organisational activities and experience in the course of the first four years of its existence.

So, Sir, unless all these recommendations, all these findings of the Standing Committee of Commerce are not taken into consideration how the Industry Ministry alone can go and set-forth this understanding of the WTO. So, it is my appeal to you and appeal to the Government that before you finalise this matter, you please go to the people, you please go to the different branches of the country and take their suggestions. There is a broad spectrum of opinion coming from the different strata of intellectuals of this country, you take the opinion from them into consideration and proceed before coming to the final conclusion.

With your kind permission, I would like to say only one thing. India is still the Leader of the SAARC countries. India is still the Leader of the Non-alignment Movement. India, as the leader of the SAARC and NAM countries, can mobilise the world force against the imperialist block headed by America. You know the American imperialist forces. India, as the leader of the SAARC and NAM countries, can bargain in the interest of the integrity and sovereignty of this country.

With these suggestions, I oppose this Patent (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 and conclude my speech. I also offer my thanks again to the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Indian Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Sir, this Bill is a black Bill. I also consider this day to be a black day, if it is passed in this House today. It is because if this Bill is passed, it has got the unprecedented and far-reaching consequence which may jeopardise not only our national and economic sovereignty but also the political sovereignty.

Why has this Bill been brought by the Government in this House? Why have they brought this Ordinance? Why are they in so much hurry?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know, GATT was there. Our country was the founder-member of the GATT in 1947. We are not against GATT. The world, as a community, live in a village. So, we are not against GATT. On 1st January, 1995, the WTO was formed. All the advanced countries have got the products but they have no markets. The Third-world countries have got the markets but they have no products. So, they have products, and we have markets. Therefore, they had decided to expand the scope of this GATT, and WTO was formed on 1st January, 1995. Now, at the instance of the advanced countries, industrialised countries with the United States of America at the helm, they have introduced Trade in Services, TRIPS, and TRIM into the world trade. They are new items. They were not there in the GATT. These items were included in the WTO.

There was a GATT Agreement. There was a Dunkel Draft. You know everything. The final Agreement was signed in 1994. Before signing that Agreement, our Government did not consider it proper to discuss this Bill in the House. They did not do it. But it was ratified by the Government. There is a provision under the TRIPS Agreement which comes under WTO agreement wherein only two items are there. Now, our hon. Minister has brought forward this Bill.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, everything has been stated, but the most important one is conspicuously being omitted; it is absent. What is the reason? Why so much of haste? Why only pharmaceuticals and agrochemical are there?

Mr. Chairman Sir, in the TRIPS Agreement, only these two items — pharmaceuticals which will produce the medicines and which is needed for all the human beings and agrochemical which produces drugs meant for plants, pesticides, insecticides and fungicides—have been provided. We have got two eyes, one for the human beings and the other for the plants. Those countries decided to see that there is no transition period for pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals?

In our Patents Act of 1970, there were nine items where the patent product is not permitted. These two items were selected by the United States of America. As you know the TATAs is known for steel, but now the TATAs have decided to produce salt and now they are known for salt because everybody has to take salt. Now, every human being is to take one or the other medicine and every plant requires herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc. So, those multinationals of the United States have decided to put these two items, viz. pharmaceutical and agrochemicals here. They have got no transition period.

Here everything has been mentioned but that the most important one is being omitted. These two items have got not transition period, so, after the signing of WTO in 1995, now it is obligatory under the International Agreement that either you have to give product patent to those items or to provide legal provisions for exclusive marketing rights. So, after signing of the WTO Agreement, the compulsion of International Agreement come in. Under that compulsion, under the pressure from the United States and threats from the multinationals, this Government is bound to pass this Bill or to promulgate an Ordinance because it is under compulsion and under threat. So, already the political sovereignty is now jeopardised and we are under humiliation. If we do not pass this Bill, the Government has to promulgate the Ordinance. There is no other way out because the sanctions will come if we do not do that.

They are in such a haste that they omitted the main clause. There is no condition period. If there is no Ordinance and if there is no law because these two items are forbidden for the product patents, this Bill has been brought only to lift this barrier. Now the product patent can be obtained for pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. Till it is not passed, the mail box is there and you have to receive it. There is no provision.

[Prof. R.R. Pramanik]

It is only for pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals products that there is no transition period and we have to accept patent applications from January 1, 1995 itself. So, we have to accept it unless and until it is passed. We have to provide for this exclusive marketing rights. So, for that reason it is being brought by the Government. They are in such a haste that they want to amend Section 5 of Patents Act, 1970.

I quote Section 5:

"(a) In the case of inventions claiming substances intended for use for capable of being used as food or as medicine or drugs;

(b) relating to substances prepared or produced by chemical processes including alloys, optical glass, semi-conductors and inter-mechanic compound, no patent shall be granted in respect of claims and substances themselves but claims for the methods of processes of manufacture shall be patentable."

Now, they include this to be as section 5(1) now and they insert section 5(2).

Section 5(2) of the Patents Act, 1970 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) shall be renumbered as subsection (1) thereof and after sub-section (1) as so renumbered, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a claim for patent of an invention for a substance itself intended for use, or capable of being used, as medicine or drug, except the medicine or drug specified under sub-clause (v) of clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 2, may be made and shall be dealt, without prejudice to the other provisions of this Act, in the manner provided in Chapter IVA."

Sir, in section 5, you have to delete 'as medicine or drug'. This has to be deleted. Unless and until you delete that portion in section 5, you cannot insert section 5(2). If you do that, then it will be a faulty Bill. If it is passed without deleting that portion in section 5, there will be loopholes and it will be challenged in the court of law.

First of all, you have to delete that portion in section 5 and then you can insert section 5(2). I think, the Minister is in haste. I want an answer from you as to why this has not been done first, that is deleting that portion, 'medicine and drug'. Unless and until you delete that, you cannot insert section 5(2). I do not know how he has done like this. Keeping that in tact in section 5(1), you cannot insert section 5(2). They are quite contradictory. You keep section 5(a), that is food, medicine and drug are not to be product patented. Keeping that in

tact, you cannot insert section 5(2). So, I want an answer from the hon. Minister in this regard. Now, they are in haste.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, as to how it has been brought under compulsion. When the Treaty came up for authentication and subsequent ratification at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers at Marrakesh in Morocco on April 15, 1994, President Bill Clinton of the United States had remarked, "Today we have succeeded in opening the world market for the American products." This was said by Mr. Bill Clinton. So, this is opening the market to the multi-nationals, to rob the Indian people and to loot the Indian market.

In May, 1990, the then US President, Mr. George Bush said: "Our direction is to open markets, expanding trade and negotiating a set of clear and enforceable rules to govern the world trade." So, that is the design of the United States of America. That is the motive of the multinational to come in, to rob the Indian people in these two fields.

We all know how the East India Company came to India as traders and they became the rulers. Everybody knows about that. So, these multi-nationals in the name of WTO are now coming into these two fields, pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals, to loot the people and to jeopardise our economic sovereignty and political sovereignty.

Now to conclude, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time. I have taken only 10 minutes. I will not take much time. Much has been said. I want to tell this House through you, tell the Gandhian people, our respected colleague to my right, that now they are supporting this Bill. The ruling coalition has brought this Bill. So, I will appeal to the Gandhians, our respected colleagues to the right. What has the Father of the Nations, Mahatma Gandhi told us? He said:

"If you are in a dilemma to decide what to do and what not to do, close your eyes and think of the poorest of the poor you know and ask your mind. If your mind says that by doing this, the poorest of the poor will be benefited, then do that. If you find that the poorest of the poor will not be benefited, then, do not do that."

Now, with this Bill, whom are we pleading for? Are we pleading for the multinationals in America or are we pleading for the teeming millions of poor in our country? Whom are we pleading for? The American lobby is very powerful. So, I will request all our hon. Members and colleagues here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have taken only 10 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to say one sentence because I have seen that there are many people who are very much fond of Americans because it is a unipolar world. America is on top of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK: Please give me only one minute. I have quoted the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. But nowadays, many people are very much fascinated about the Americans and the American way of life. I want to tell these things. There is a great saying of Abraham Lincoln. "The Government should be by the people, of the people and for the people." *...(Interruptions)* So, it is the people who have to decide.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Mr. Chairman Sir, I would not like to go into the facts presented and the views expressed on the Patent Bill by previous speakers. I would like to say in a few words that passing the Patent Bill would be similar to the pushing India into deep well in respect of International Trade from where inspite of its best efforts it would not be able to come out. The Multinational Companies are sitting over on our economy like black cobra and therefore, they would try to make India as slave socially and politically on the lines of the East India company. Therefore, the Government should shatter the threat hovering on Indian democracy by taking the steps intelligently and by keeping aside the vested, interests and also by considering the national interests. Why are the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was staunch supporter of 'Swadeshi' until yesterday resorting to such dual policy now. If the Patent Law is implemented on the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic medicines, which are our heritage and also prepared by the herbals available in our country, resulting to the supply of medicines to the entire world at a cheaper rate but due to it forty crores of people living below the poverty line are sure to lose their bread. The present problem of poverty and unemployment will increase in manifold and it will go beyond control with the Patent of Paddy, seeds of wheat, turmeric and chilly, there would be a manifold increase in the prices of these items and the farmer will have to be under pressure of America's dominance for seeds.

Today, the farmers have made our country self sufficient in the field of foodgrains whereas earlier we used to go on for begging to other countries even for the foodgrains. Would it be good enough to go to the

other countries with bowl asking for foodgrains even after 51 years of our Independence. Therefore, it requires a in-depth-study and a serious thought.

Finally, I would only say that passing of this Bill would not serve the interests of the country and in the case of its being passed even the biggest punishment would be less for it. The national interest should not be sacrificed for the sake of certain vested interests. Perhaps we have forgotten the cost the nation has paid for the independence. It is not in the interest of the country and it seems that we have betrayed the martyrs of the freedom struggle. I would rather say that the members who are in favour of passing the Patent Bill, may be those who have given evidence against the martyrs in the freedom struggle.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): I am thankful to you for calling me to speak on this very important Bill. I feel proud and happy today because we are the only party in the whole House which has been consistent in this battle.

India became a member of the WTO not on all of a sudden. We have been a founder member of the GATT from 1946, reiterated in 1947. When it was established by 48 countries, India was one of those countries. So, we have been continuing in the GATT for the last 50 years and we had consciously entered into the negotiations with the full knowledge of the whole world of the two GATT Agreements and which produced the WTO. When we became a member of the WTO it is with all full knowledge that we became a member and the people on the other side in the Treasury Benches were against it. I am happy today that they are coming with a Bill which they have rejected once upon a time.

I am happy today that we have been able to pass a Bill which they brought out—which they rejected earlier—and are recommending that it be passed today. So, what I am saying is that we may ask, *per se* what is the danger in the WTO? Everybody is pointing a finger at the WTO and the Congress saying that we have entered into a very very dangerous thing, the WTO. Every country in the international comity should be a member of the WTO. There are 180 member countries in it. Even the very big China once upon a time was a member of the GATT. It went out of the GATT in 1950. Now they wanted to enter into the WTO. America is in a clandestine way, secretly helping them.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

Secondly, what is there in being a member of the WTO? Nobody can compel this nation to be in the WTO. Now, if the people want to go out of it in six months, we can go out of the WTO. What is the danger in the WTO, *per se*? Not only India but several other countries are there. If the rubber prices go up, immediately the Congress is coming to put the country into the WTO. If there is anything seriously wrong, there is a faith in this country's eyes. It can come out of the WTO.

Everybody was speaking against the WTO and accusing the Congress. Everybody wants it to be inside the WTO. Another point is that even by becoming members of the WTO many countries have safeguarded their interests. In Great Britain they have passed this law bringing them into the other forward countries safeguarding their position. So, it is not a question of entering into the WTO that we are compelled to take certain actions. I am not finding fault with this legislation *per se*.

In Kerala there is a story. Six people went to see an elephant. One man went and touched the legs of the elephant. He said that the elephant was like a pillar. Another fellow touched the tail of the elephant. He said that it was like a broom. Another fellow touched the ears and he said that it was like a fan. It is the same thing. Everybody said the same thing. Everybody said so many things. All are correct.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): The position has changed. The elephant has changed the position.

SHRI A.C. JOS: What I am submitting to this hon. august House is that we need a very elaborate study about it. Shri Baalu had referred to the Committee and the report brought out by Shri Murasoli Maran. I agree with him though he has just now criticised me.

We need an elaborate study about it, or a detailed study about it. This is a very big country, a vast country with a lot of bio-technological and other things in existence. We need a detailed study.

Dr. Subramanian Swamy has put forward a suggestion that a special session of the Parliament should be held because this is very important. This is covenant with the future because we are tying our future generations. No other law is as important as this one. So, my request to the hon. Minister and to the Government is that we need a full-fledged session totally devote to discuss about the patents and its ramifications.

I agree that the hon. Minister is tied up with certain other things. But what is the hurry of this ordinance?

Even without ordinance we can as well discuss this matter and pass it before 19th of April. I do not understand what prompted you to bring this ordinance. Will this end it here? It will not. This Bill again has to go to the Rajya Sabha because you brought certain amendments through you can say that this is technical. According to me, once it is passed here, it again has to go to the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, in Section 24A Chapter 4 of the amendment, an explanation is given. This explanation has come at the instance of my party. I am happy about it. However, in that explanation, the hon. Minister you have to be very careful, that is, that many of the arguments put forward here regarding the drugs and other things can be safeguarded by an amendment in the Indian Medicines Central Council Act, 1970 because that amendment might safeguard many of the arguments.

What is the definition of the Indian medicine? The definition of the Indian medicine can be vary. So, an amendment in that Act will help us in safeguarding all our drugs produced here, patented here and from importing also.

So, my request to the hon. Minister is that Section E of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Indian Medicines Central Council Act, 1970 should be gone into and with slight modification or through an amendment, many of the infirmities which might come into can be remedied. I request the hon. Minister to consider it.

I feel proud that the Patents Act, 1970 is lauded by everybody. However, during those days it was criticised by everybody.

So, once again, I urge upon the Government to have a full session of the Parliament to discuss in detail about the patent regime as such by which many things can be brought in and can be safeguarded.

[Translation]

SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say on behalf of my Party R.P.I. that the interests of the poor people of the country should not be suffer by the Patent Bill. The poor and middle class people would get the medicines at the higher rates...(Interruptions) The drug industry in our country would be destroyed...(Interruptions) The Bill should be amended in such a way that the sovereignty of the country remain safe...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not be included in the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am not saying merely to fulfil the formalities but I want to say that during the debate on the subject under consideration there was an extensive discussion on it and I have learnt a lot from it. Most of the discussions were related to the subject and some of them were also emotional. I was thinking to keep aside the emotional talks and conclude my speech on the subject within a few words. But my favourable friend, though younger to me but he is senior to me in respect of position. When I was an ordinary worker he was the leader of the organisation. The sentiments which he has expressed have taken my existence to the past physically and mentally. I had high regards for him, even today I respect him very much and I am proud on this point that both of us were sailing the same boat.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): Please mention his name.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Do I mention his name? What is there in the name? Some members are requesting me to mention the name of the veteran leader, whom I am talking about. He is the renowned leader Chandrashekhar Saheb. I do not like to oppose the views of Chandrashekhar Saheb but I have a grievance that his sentiments could even today reflect our feelings too. But having a different opinion does not mean that we have gone too far from our past. I too have gained a vast experience in this field and I am having the same sentiments even today with me. The only difference is that it is easy to say that the decision which we are taking is not in the interest of the poor, it is not the way of proud for the nation, but that way is the way of selling the country to the multinationals. So far as the national interest is concerned does this Patent Bill hamper the national interest? One of my honourable friends had given a good speech. He has left the House. I honestly admit that I am learning a lot from the few high level discussions held here. Shri Chavan, Shri Subramanian Swamy, Shri Jaipal Reddy Saheb have discussed the matters relevant to the subjects. But it was the only mentioned in the discussion that we cannot come out of it. Jaipal Reddy Saheb had mentioned it alongwith the other matters, the issue of I.M.F. and World Bank was also discussed but I want to know from them that by what time we are standing before them with a begging bowl. We have been trying to continue the business of our country borrowing from the World Bank and I.M.F. for many years. Now are we selling out the nation's pride or are we walking in America by taking our nations prestige on our shoulder. Self-reliance indeed is in the national interest. But what is the wayout? Could we close our eyes in these conditions? When two and a half lakh crore of rupees

have been invested in the public industries, which our honourable leader had just now called a modern temples of India. How much return are we getting from it, the number of companies, which was 236 was reduced to 104 and within a few days the number has come down to 100. 100 companies are incurring losses. Therefore, we must extend support to make them self-reliant and upkeep the nation's pride in terms of productivity, we must bring our nation to such a level so that we may not have to go to the World Bank or America begging with bowl. To talk sectional is piecemeal, that we are bringing that bill would not serve the purpose. I accept the point raised by Swamiji and Chavan that we have got this status in 50 years and we cannot go come out from W.T.O. I also admit that it is not an easy way. I would also not like to say that there would not be any problem in this way perhaps we may have to face difficulties at each and every step but we can play our role only after entering it. You have reached at that place since 1948 and now you are trying to part with it, but you cannot do so, I would say:

Ham Jan-va-Jiya ki humko bhi tashveesh hai lakin, kya keejiye har raah udhar ko jati hai, maktal se qujar kar jati hai.

We will have to pass through that way and we will have to protect the interest of the country, there is no way other than it. My dear colleagues I would like to say...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Would you do it at the cost of the people, at the cost of the workers?

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad):

**Na idhar udhar ki tu batt kar, ye bataa ki kafeela kyo luta,
mujhe rahjanon se garaj nahin teri rahbari ka swal hai.**

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: It was looted because they have been going on that track for the last 50 years ...*(Interruptions)* merely about emotions I would say that everyone may have misunderstanding about it oneself including me. I had a misunderstanding about the path on which I was going earlier which I was a fresher and did not know much about politics as compared to that of Chandrashekharji and it is a coincidence that I am also going on the same path. Atleast understand that we love the land on which we are born and we will continue to do once and forever.

Mr. Chairman Sir, as a administer we have been placed in such a situation which we do not get enough time to think anything afresh. We did not know about

[Shri Sikander Bakht]

what has happened but whatever we have received, it in a developed form and from amongst them through which we will try to take India at highest place.

My dear friends, I would like to tell that I have taken extensive notes from the speech of each and every honourable member. I am thankful to you for the meaningful and fruitful discussion and your complete involvement in it, as I have already told that I have really learnt a lot from it and I also agree that it is very sensitive issue.

It is coincidence that the persons, who have spoken in support of this Patent Bill and intend to support it, and even those persons who do not like to support it, have also raised questions on the ordinance. Mr. Jaipal Reddy has also raised the question of the ordinance. I have told all that whatever I could say on this question. I can also delete it but I shall not do it. It is only a difference of opinion. They were of the opinion we had sold out the nation's prestige but I say we have established the country's prestige. Jaipal Reddy Saheb it is mere a difference of opinion. Had it not been so, we would have refused by saying that we do not like to talk on it and now after the issuance of the ordinance we have asked them to resume the talks and we talking to them. I would like to tell you that we are resuming the talks with them not as being on the weaker side. I think it would be enough but you have spoken about it very lightly. I have already told Chauhan Saheb about it that this ordinance was brought under compelling conditions because the Bill could not be passed in the Lok Sabha and I do not want to bring the issue of America amidst the discussion on that Bill. As I have said I would make an extensive appeal to kindly end this issue here only.

Chairman Saheb, the second issue raised is that the Bill of E.M.R. has been brought with a limited objective. We know that ultimately we will have to bring the product patent. We are trying to save the pharmaceutical industries which have been mentioned and are lying here. These industries would collapse within seconds. You have accepted that there 3000 application for patent. Until the mail box is opened how would you know as to what is written there in it? All the applications are about Patent, those applications are not about E.M.R. Until we reach the specific point we do not want to touch the applications for patent. We are allowed to do so under the Patent, W.T.O., TRIPS law. No country could come in our way we can take advantage of it, and we want to give an opportunity to restructure our pharmaceutical industries of the country. We want the patent organisation to become as a efficient organization. We desire this and we have also taken steps for in this regard. We have constituted a high powered committee to advise us on the patent

issues. We want to have modern patent office with all the modern gadgets fitted with so that it could be manufactured in the country but now they have moved to the court and obtained a stay order in this regard.

16.00 hrs.

Why are you asking about the solution of our helplessness. You have said that there is free regime. U.S.A. pressurised Japan and the people of Japan performed a miracle, as their patent offices are completely modern. After a few months' calculations they have passed thousands of patents. We also intend to have patent of equal number of products, but let us open a new office there, so that other participants and other countries could not dominate on the product patented by us. We are trying to find out as to how we protect our patent right and what are the products which should be safeguarded. We only want to save its time. We are not being able to make them understand this common fact that we want to take this country ahead till the year 2005 very safely. Our limited objective is only that:

[English]

Complying with the obligations under sections 78 and 79 of the TRIPS Agreement. Patents Bill does contain safeguards. They may be weak. I also do not agree with what you have said. But it does not contain safeguards.

[Translation]

As you have said, there may be some weakness in these safeguards. We can bring the product patent on the day something would be findout in this regard. But it is our endeavour that product patent may not be implemented before the year 2005. Therefore, the safeguards, which we have laid down, are price fixation, there is provision of precautions and compulsory licencing, about which you had said that it is a mockery and

[English]

appropriation of the rights of the Government in public interest.

[Translation]

We have tried to have three precautions in this Bill. So far as the question of bio-diversity and plant variety is concerned, perhaps you had very rightly said that it is related to several ministers and I fully agree to it. But when comprehensive bill would be brought in, we will take due care of all these items and that will be product patent also. If we bring the product today it will be harmful

to us. . I do not want to repeat this thing frequently. Many our friends have said here that E.M.R. should not be brought in, as it is very dangerous. There is no doubt that E.M.R is less important in comparison to that. Other ministries are also linked to it but so far as the bio-diversity and plant variety is concerned, we are aware of it and we will not allow any country of the world to play with the bio-diversity and plant variety of our country. We will keep it totally out of that.

As I have requested at the very outset that we have inherited the prevailing condition and we have not achieved these conditions in two or three days. Whatever we have achieved, that has been achieved after a period of fifty years. We may try our best to U-Turn, but the world have no method for U turn. But we have to enter in the playing field of W.T.O. We have to safeguard the interest of our country by entering into the global playing fields. We will follow that way after having consultation with all of you. We had also tried our best in this respect and we would like to say that in future too we will try our best, as it is not a political issue, rather it pertains with the issue of taking over the business of medicines exclusively manufactured in India. It is a national issue and not an issue of political conjecture.

Sir, while mentioning the emotional things, I would like to say one thing very humbly and I would divert my face to other side when I would be making a mention of that particular point. Mr. Speaker Sir, had you been occupying that position, I would have said that I respect you as you are very intelligent. I had also submitted that you can make very appropriate speeches in the Parliament, but do not let down your speech with your voice. You have mentioned a very pinching point. You have said that Sikander who is standing here to serve you, you had not called the name of Sikander. I am thankful to you for this kindness, but you had told that this case has been settled by dealings.

Now, I divert my face to this side and express my feelings.

**"Itani na badha paki-a-daman ki hikajat
Daman ko jara dekh, jara bandey Karya dekh"**

I have to say this much only.

I am having extensive notes of each and every speech. Chandra Shekharji had told me to continue my speech. I have already expressed my heart-felt views before you. I had taken notes of important points expressed by each and every hon'ble member with a view to say something thereon, but I think that whatever I have said at the moment is sufficient.

[English]

Sir, I now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri V.V. Raghvan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): My point is about the WTO...(Interruptions) Other countries have no safeguard. Why have you deleted Section 39?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Section 39 has been deleted only with the idea of making it possible to bring in the EMR route, and we extend a straight route.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Hon. Minister of Communications to make a Statement.

16.06 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re.: Telecom Tariff Issue

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I wish to make a Statement. The Government have decided to issue policy directive to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to keep their order on telecom tariff issued of March 9, 1999 in abeyance till the entire issue is considered by the Government.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the light of this, many Members including the Trinamul Congress Members had got upset and walked out. Now, after the statement by the Minister of Communication, I ask everybody to join back.

16.07 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND
PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.**

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been very carefully following all the arguments put in defence of the amendments including the very

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

emotional and touching remarks of our hon. Minister of Industries. Many hon. Members have spoken from the Treasury Benches also. But none of them have touched upon the dangers of granting EMR. That is my contention.

In my humble opinion and as far as I have studied the clauses of the WTO and TRIPS, we are not — I repeat 'not'—obliged to grant EMR to companies who have patented their produce outside India. That is my contention. That is the danger we are facing now. We are only obliged to amend our Patents Act to allow pharmaceutical and agricultural chemicals patentable and allow for applications. We have the right to scrutinise and decide upon those applications. Beyond that, granting exclusive marketing rights for those products to those companies who have patented their produce elsewhere, you have not touched upon. That is the main contention. That is the main opposition to the Amendment Act. Nobody touched upon that.

Sir, when we are discussing the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights, we must not inflict wounds to our intellectual honesty also.

I appeal to your intellectual honesty. My humble request is this. Are we granting exclusive marketing rights of drugs produced and patented elsewhere to those *Videsi* companies?

It is true that America went to WTO and had pleaded that "We must allow EMR just now." That is true. But what right have they to ask us to do something? I have quoted in my speech that America has enacted a law stating that as far as America is concerned, it should not stall WTO Clause. If there is a conflict between the American law and the WTO Clause and TRIPs Clause, American law will prevail. That is the law they have passed and I have quoted it also. That country is dictating us to give EMR. Hon. Industries Minister says it is a very minor thing. If it is a very minor thing, why this mighty United States of America compel us to grant EMR? Why are they compelling us if it is a minor thing? No. It is not a minor thing. Not at all. You cannot restructure our pharmaceutical industry. I am not forecasting. You will have to pay a very heavy price, especially BJP who have campaigned for *Swadeshi*. You are allowing the *Videshi* companies to sell their drug. They are importing drugs and the prices will go up. It is not the onion. Damage the drug is going to be inflicted on us, poor people, a thousand times more than onion. You have no control at all. TRIPs Clauses and WTO Clauses will prevail.

So, my contention was that as far as TRIPs Clause and WTO Clauses are concerned, we have to examine

it and we have to adopt it considering the primary interest of our country. America and Europe did it....(Interruptions) If there is time and to argue and to bargain with them. Under American pressure, do not open up our market for those multinational companies. Any manipulation can be done. Any drug can be patented anywhere in Philippines, in America or any other State and they come here and say "These are patented drugs and we have got them EMRs." They will sell those drugs at the price they decide. We have no control. We say we can control. How? Examples have been shown here. Medicines which are selling at Rs. 5/- here is being sold at Rs. 500/- in the U.S.(Interruptions) I can understand your intolerance.(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Boipur): They are forced to bring this Bill because of WTO. Otherwise, they have been opposing it throughout. Will you not allow us to mention about these issues?(Interruptions) They are not allowing him to speak. Is it such a simple matter?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has right to speak on this Bill. Please keep quiet.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: I am the mover of the resolution.(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When I was speaking, all of them were disturbing me. How can they expect my cooperation now?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: He is the mover of the Resolution. The mover has respond to the debate.(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We shall press every amendment now.(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: All right, I am concluding.(Interruptions)

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam): Why are you disturbing him unnecessarily?(Interruptions) Why are you disturbing?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: I obey your directions.

Considering the danger involved in this amending Bill, I had to say a few words. I am concluding shortly.

My only contention is that we are not bound or obliged to grant Exclusive Marketing Rights to drugs patented elsewhere. That is our contention. We are not obliged. We have time to bargain.

I appeal to hon. Member, I appeal to their intellectual honesty to disapprove this Bill because it allows EMR to *videshi* companies. So, I press my Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: I have already praised the earlier speech delivered by the Hon'ble Member and I also praise his second speech and humbly request him to withdraw his motion.

16.17 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with high consideration to the hon. Minister of Industry, I have to say that on a principled stand, I press my Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 3 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 8th January, 1999."

The Motion was negative.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of this Bill.

Clause 2

MR. SPEAKER: Amendment No. 4, Shri Suresh Kurup—now present. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I move my amendment.

I beg to move:

"Page 1,—

for lines 8 to 13 *substitute—*

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a claim for patent of an invention for

a substance itself intended for use, or capable of being used as medicine or drug, except the medicine or drug specified under sub-clause (v) of clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 2, and except also the medicine or drug where substitutes are considered to be not available as of date, may be made and shall be dealt, without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, in the manner provided in Chapter IVA." (4)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 4 to clause 2 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The Amendment No. 4 was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

Page 2—

for lines 5 to 19 *substitute—*

24A. (1) "Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 12 of Chapter IV, the Controller shall not, under that sub-section, refer after examination an application in respect of a claim for a patent covered under sub-section (2) of section 5 for the grant of patent rights till the 31st day of December, 2004, and shall, where an application for grant of exclusive right to sell or distribute the article or substance in India has been made in the prescribed form and manner and on payment of prescribed fee, refer only the application for patent, to an examiner for making a report to him as to whether the invention is a patentable invention within the meaning of this Act in terms of Chapter IV and V and in terms of the sections 3 & 4 of Chapter II.

(2) Where the Controller, on receipt of a report under sub-section and after such other investigations as he may deem necessary, is satisfied that the invention is not a patentable invention within the meaning of this Act in terms of Chapter IV and of sections 3 & 4 of Chapter II, he shall reject the application for exclusive rights to sell or distribute the article or substance." (5)

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

Page 2 —

after line 24, insert—

"(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), an invention is not an invention under section 24A if the subject matter relates to—

- (i) Plants and animals other than micro-organisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals other than non-biological and micro-biological processes.
- (ii) Inventions which have been anticipated by previous publication by prior claim or by prior use.

Explanation: For the purpose of this sub-section, cell lines, gene constructs, gene fragments, plasmids, and any other naturally occurring substances shall not be considered as micro-organisms, and processes involving the above shall not be considered as micro-biological processes."(6)

Page 3, line 14 and 15,—

for "selling or distributing"

substitute "selling, distributing or manufacturing" (7)

Page 3, lines 16 and 17,—

for "right to sell or distribute"

substitute "right to sell, distribute or manufacture" (8)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 5 to 8 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to Clause 3 of the Bill to the vote of the House.

*The Amendments Nos. 5 to 8 were
put and negatived.*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I beg to move:

Page 2, line 8,—

for "2004"

substitute "1999" (12)

Page 2,—

For lines 11 to 14.

Substitute "refer the application for patent to an examiner for making a report to him as to whether the invention is not an invention or the invention is an invention for which no patent can be granted within the meaning of this Act." (13)

Page 2, lines 16 to 18,—

for "is satisfied that the invention is not an invention within the meaning of this Act in terms of section 3 or the invention is an invention for which n patent can be granted in terms of section 4"

substitute "is satisfied that the invention is not an invention or the invention is an invention for which no patent can be granted within the meaning of this Act". (14)

Page 2,—

omit lines 51 to 55 (15)

Page 3,—

omit lines 1 to 6 (16)

Page 3,—

omit lines 14 and 15 (17)

Page 3,—

omit line 27(18)

Page 3, line 34 and 35, —

for "sell or distribute the article or substance"

substitute "manufacture, sell or distribute the article or substance." (19)

Page 3,—

after line 40,

insert "This will apply to both indigenously produced or imported article or substance." (20)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 12 to 20 moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to clause 3 of the Bill to the vote of the House.

*The Amendments Nos 12 to 20 were put and
negatived.*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): I beg to move:

Page 2,—

for lines 11 to 14.—

substitute "refer the application for patent, to an examiner for making a report to him as to whether the invention is not an invention or the invention is an invention for which no patent can be granted within the meaning of this Act." (21)

Page 2, lines 16 to 18.--

for "is satisfied that the invention is not an invention within the meaning of this Act in terms of section 3 or the invention is an invention for which no patent can be granted in terms of section 4"

substitute "is satisfied that the invention is not an invention or the invention is an invention for which no patent can be granted within the meaning of this Act". (22)

Page 2.—

after line 19, insert—

"Provided that no patent shall be granted under the sub-section (a) in respect of diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical methods for the treatment of humans or animals; and (b) to inventions, the prevention of commercial exploitation of which is necessary to protect public order or morality including protection of human, animal or plant life or health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment.

Explanation— The expression 'substance' in this subsection shall not include plant or animals or any part thereof other than micro-organisms." (23)

Page 2.—

for lines 25 to 29, substitute—

"Explanation—It is hereby clarified that for the purposes of this section, the exclusive right to sell or distribute any article or substance based on the system of Indian Medicine defined in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and substances or articles and such other articles or substances where claims may be made for changes in dosage and usage forms of new combinations based on such basic drugs for which product patents in other Member countries might have been taken prior to 1.1.1995 as such article or substance is already in the public domain." (24)

Page 2,—

omit lines 51 to 55 (25)

Page 3.—

omit lines 1 to 6 (26)

Page 3,—

omit lines 14 and 15 (27)

Page 3 lines 34 and 35,—

for "sell or distribute the article or substance"

substitute "manufacture, sell or distribute the article or substance." (28)

Page 3,—

after line 40.

insert "this will apply to both indigenously produced or imported article or substance." (29)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 21 to 29 moved by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to clause 3 of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The Amendments Nos 21 to 29 were put and negatived.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): I beg to move:

Page 2, line 14,

add at end—

"and also strictly in accordance with Chapter IV of the Principal Act in order to determine novelty and public domain angle." (30)

Page 2,—

after line 29, insert

"Provided that an exclusive right to sell or distribute will not be granted for an article or substance which is based on Indian system of medicine and also formulation where claims are based on changes in dosages form, usage form and combination and already in the public domain" (31)

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Page 3,—

omit lines 14 and 15 (32)

Page 3,—

omit line 27 (33)

Page 3, line 34,—

for "sell or distribute"

substitute "manufacture, sell or distribute" (34)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 30 to 34 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to Clause 3 of Bill to the vote of the House.

The Amendments Nos 30 to 34 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I beg to move:

Page 4,—

after line 30, insert—

- "(iv) relates to the pharmaceuticals for the amelioration of major communicable diseases.
- (v) relates to the agro-chemicals for the treatment of diseases of and damages on account of pest attacks on the food crops.
- (vi) relate to the protection of national interest as deemed to be defined under the constitutional obligations of the Government of India." (9)

Page 4, —

after line 30, insert—

"157B. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government shall not grant any kind of rights arising from Chapter IV of this Act to the

entities of those countries whose Governments have on their statutes the provisions of unilateral actions against the WTO convention countries." (10)

Page 4,—

after line 30, insert—

"157C. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government shall not grant any kind of rights arising from this Act to the entities of those countries whose Governments have on their statutes the provisions for preventing its persons from transferring the so called 'dual use technologies' to the nationals of convention countries." (11)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 9, 10 and 11 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to clause 8 of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The Amendments Nos 9, 10 and 11 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will have a Division on Clause 8.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, let me explain my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Your amendment is identical to Amendment No. 10.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No, Sir, it is not identical. You may go through it...(Interruptions) Sir, please allow me to explain my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot explain because it is identical to Amendment No. 10.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, please allow me to explain it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, please understand, it is identical.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please go through my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are pressing for a Division on Amendment No. 10. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, please understand that your Amendment No. 35 is identical to Amendment No. 10 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia, which the House has just now negated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Immediately after that I had pressed for a Division.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you should not complicate the issue. Just now the House has negated Amendment No. 10. Amendment No. 35 is identical to Amendment No. 10 which we have just now negated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have pressed for a Division on Amendment No. 10. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Amendment No. 35 is identical to Amendment No. 10. Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia raised the objection and it was negated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I immediately pressed for division...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, it is not identical. My amendment is different. I have every right to move it. This is my amendment. This has been admitted by you. I have moved it. I have every right to move it. I press for division...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): It has already been negated by voice vote...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Once it is negated, how can you raise it again. Do you want to create a new precedent? Just now you have raised your objection and it was negated. Now, we will take up voting on clause 8 and not on Amendment No. 35

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been moved by you only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Once it was negated, how can you move it again?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been negated by the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have asked for the division. You have to allow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? First of all, you must quote the rule under which you want to raise it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the Speaker is within his competence to play around the procedure, if he thinks fit. You can go back to amendment stage. It is within our competence to go back to amendment stage. We want to vote for the amendment and you are forcing us to vote against the clause. The Speaker is perfectly within his competence to go back to the amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are a senior Member, how can you go back? Just now, the House has negated that amendment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I immediately asked for the division.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): Sir, if they demand for a division, you can agree to that...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to Rule 347. It very specifically says:

"The Speaker may put amendment in such order as he may think fit:

Provided that the Speaker may refuse to put an amendment which in his opinion is frivolous."

Sir, the amendment has already been put to vote and we have gone ahead. There is no provision to come back as Mr Reddy has been saying. We cannot come back...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: We have not gone ahead...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: We have gone ahead.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are in the same Clause.

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia's amendments were Nos. 9,10 and 11. That is all. Amendment No. 35 is a separate one. The House has already negatived amendment Nos. 9,10 and 11.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Immediately, I had asked for division. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are pressing for amendment No. 10 which is identical to amendment No. 35.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No.

MR. SPEAKER: You may see that it is identical to amendment No. 35.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Immediately, I pressed for division. Then you went to Clause 8.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have division on amendment No. 10 only and not on amendment No. 35.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): May I just explain the situation?

Unfortunately, when amendment Nos. 9,10 and 11 were taken up together, they were negatived by voice vote. Amendment No. 35 is identical to amendment No. 10 and a division was called for. Now a situation arises when an identical amendment has already been negatived, can we again vote on it? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Immediately, I had asked for division. What is the difficulty now?... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to answer this point...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIR (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): There is a specific rule covering this situation and it is sub-Rule(3) of Rule 344 which says:

"An amendment on a question shall not be inconsistent with a previous decision on the same question."

Now, the House has taken a certain decision, may be by voice vote, on this particular amendment standing in the name of Shri Basu Deb Acharia. At that point of time, you alone were saying that let there be a division and at that time, it was not pressed by your colleagues...(Interruptions) ...I have noted it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Then why is it again put to vote?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Therefore, the Speaker is correct when he says that having rejected a certain amendment, he cannot put an identical amendment again to the House. For instance, suppose this time the decision is different, it becomes inconsistent with the earlier decision. Therefore, this rule covers the position. But the purpose would be served fully if the clause is put to vote and you vote against it. We would leave it to the Chair to decide but the rules are clear...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Rule 367 says:

"On the conclusion of a debate, the Speaker shall put the question and invite those who are in favour of the motion to say 'Aye' and those against the motion to say 'No'."

Any question which you have put for voice vote, it may be an amendment or a Bill or whatever it is, is rejected or otherwise, then you may allow division even if one Member asks for it. The rule says it. I do not want to waste the time by reading the rules. There is a rule. If you want, I will read the rule...(Interruptions) Let me complete it. If he does not press it, then it is all right. But if he presses it, as a matter of procedure, kindly allow him. It is the right of the Member. What is wrong in it? why should he not be allowed?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, what is your submission?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rupchand Pal has insisted on voting on the amendment. You asked us to vote on Clause 8. Nobody can vote against Clause 8, as a whole...(Interruptions) So, you want us to vote against our contention which is there in this amendment, which is actually an amendment to clause 8, which is an insertion and not obliteration of Clause 8. Clause 8 has certain other features to which we do not object. That is the most important question. That is why, it has to be voted...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, what is your submission?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: We have no objection to it if there is a precedent....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I have to make a submission....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we can go back to amendment No. 10.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, this should not set a wrong precedent...(Interruptions) This should not be taken as a precedent. This is very important. If you rule it today as a special case, it is entirely a different thing. But it should not set a precedent...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): I want to make a submission. Of course, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has got every right to demand division. That is the rule. But, at that time, when he demand a division, when the next item was taken up, everybody agreed to it including himself...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No

SHRI VAIKO: Yes. Therefore, this should not be retraced and this should not form a wrong precedent...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I seek the sense of the House. If the House agrees to it, we can go back to the amendment.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, will you kindly hear my submission? I have to make a submission.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need to reconsider it, as you have taken sense of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as the House has not given its sense, I am putting Clause 8 to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be cleared—

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, you are bulldozing it. You are denying the right of a Member...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4. —

after line 30, insert—

"157B notwithstanding anything obtained in this Act, the Central Government shall not grant any kind of rights arising from chapter IV of this Act to the entities of those countries whose Governments have on their statutes the provisions of unilateral action against the W.T.O. convention countries." (35) ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may be permitted to leave the House to pilot the Salaries and Pensions Bill in Rajya Sabha.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up Amendments No. 10 and 35.

...(Interruptions)

The Lobbie are already cleared.

I want to make an important announcement regarding voting procedure.

[Mr. Speaker]

Before a division starts, every Member should occupy his/her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.

Voting process starts only when "red bulbs above display boards" glow on either side of my Chair.

Hon. Members, the following line is very important. Last time, many hon. Members have pressed the button before the sounding of the gong. So, please understand the procedure correctly.

Immediately after sounding of first gong, press the following two buttons simultaneously.

- (i) One "red" button in front of the Member on the head phone plate and also.
- (ii) Any one of the following buttons on the table:

Ayes — Green colour

Noes — Red colour

Abstain — Orange colour

It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are "off"

Important. The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if

- (i) the buttons are pressed before allowing of the red bulbs above the display boards; and
- (ii) both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

Members can actually "see" their vote on display board. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

I shall now put Amendment Nos. 10 and 35 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 4, —

after line 30, insert —

"157B. Notwithstanding anything obtained in this Act, the Central Government shall not grant any kind of rights arising from Chapter IV of this Act to the entities of those countries whose governments have on their statutes the provisions of unilateral actions against the WTO convention countries." (10)

Page 4,—

after line 30 insert—

"157B Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government shall not grant any kind of rights arising from Chapter IV of this Act to the entities of those countries whose Government have on their statutes the provisions of unilateral action against the W.T.O. convention countries." (35)

The Lok Sabha divided:

16.57 hrs.

Ayes Division No. 2

1. Acharia, Shri Basu Deb
2. Ahmad Shri Moinul Hassan
3. Arumugham, Shri S.
4. Athawale, Shri Ramdas
5. Baalu, Shri T.R.
6. Bala, Dr. Asim
7. Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman
8. Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya
9. Chakraborty, Shri Ajay
10. Chandra Shekhar, Shri
11. Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
12. Choudhury, Shri Samar
13. Chowdhury, Shri Bikash
14. Dome. Dr. Ram Chandra
15. Govindan. Shri T.

16. _ Gupta, Shri Indrajit
17. Kawade, Prof. Jogendra
18. Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat
19. Khan, Shri Sunil
20. Kumar, Shri Shailendra
21. Kurup, Shri Suresh
22. Lahiri, Shri Samik
23. Mahato, Shri Bir Singh
24. Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
25. Mehta, Prof. Ajit Kumar
26. Mollah, Shri Hannan
27. Mukherjee, Shri Pramotes
28. Mukherjee, Shri Subrata
29. Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta
30. Mukhopadhyay, Shri Ajoy
31. Murmu, Shri Rupchand
32. Pal, Shri Rupchand
33. Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
34. Premajam, Prof. A.K.
35. Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
36. Raghavan, Shri V.V.
37. Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
38. Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
39. Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
40. Sar, Shri Nikhilananda

41. Saroj, Shri Daroga Prasad
42. Selvarasu, Shri M.
43. Sen, Shrimati Minati
44. Seth, Shri Lakshman Chandra
45. Singh, Shri Mohan
46. Singh, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad
47. Thakur, Shri Ramsheth
48. Venugopal, Shri D.
49. Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
50. Yadav, Shri Mitrasen
51. Yadav, Shri Parasnath
52. Yadav, Shri Surendra Prasad
53. Yadav, Shri Surendra Prasad (Jahanabad)
54. Zahedi Shri Mahboob

Noes

1. Acharya, Shri Prasanna
2. Adityanath, Shri
3. Advani, Shri L.K.
4. Agarwal, Shri Dhirendra
5. Agnihotri, Shri Rajendra
6. Ananth Kumar, Shri
7. Annayyagari, Shri Sai Prathap
8. Argal, Shri Ashok
9. Awade, Shri Kallappa
10. Ayanur. Shri Manjunath

11. Bachda, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
12. Badal, Shri Sukhbir Singh
13. Baimda, Shri Ramchandra
14. Baitha, Shri Mahendra
15. Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip
16. Banerjee, Kumari Mamata
17. Barnala, Sardar Surjit Singh
18. Barwala, Shri Surnder Singh
19. Bhardwaj, Shri Paras Ram
20. Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
21. Bisen, Shri Gauri Shanker Chaturbhuj
22. Bose, Shrimati Krishna
23. Budania, Shri Narendra
24. Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur
25. Chacko, Shri P.C.
26. Chandel, Shri Suresh
27. Chaplot, Shri Shanti Lal
28. Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
29. Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
30. Chaudhay, Sqn. Ldr. Kamal
31. Chauhan, Shri Chetan
32. Chauhan, Shri Jaysinhji
33. Chauhan, Shri Nand Kumar Singh
34. Chavan, Shri Prithviraj D.
35. Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavna Devrajibhai
36. Chinnasamy, Shri V.K.
37. Choudhary, Shri Krishna Kumar
38. Choudhry, Shri Pankaj
39. D' Souza, Dr. Beatrix
40. Dahal, Shri Bhim
41. Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
42. Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru
43. Dave, Shrimati Bhavna Kardam
44. Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
45. Devi, Shrimati Kailasho
46. Dhamotharan, Shri M.C.
47. Diler, Shri Krishan Lal
48. Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh
49. Durai, Shri M.
50. Dwivedi, Shri Ramesh Chandra
51. Fernandes, Shri George
52. Foley, General Neville
53. Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
54. Gamit, Shri C.D.
55. Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
56. Ganeshamurthi, Shri A.
57. Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
58. Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
59. Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
60. Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
61. Gopal, Shri C.
62. Gupta, Shri Chaman Lal
63. Jag Mohan, Shri
64. Jain, Shri Satyapal
65. Jaiswal, Dr. Madan Prasad
66. Jaiswal, Shri Shanker Prasad
67. Jakhar, Shri Balram
68. Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan
69. Javiya, Shri Gordhanbhai Jadavbhai
70. Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C.
71. Jos, Shri A.C.
72. Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar

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|--|--|
| 73. Kainth, Shri Satnam Singh | 100. Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina |
| 74. Kalita, Shri Bhubaneswar | 101. Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari |
| 75. Kamal Rani, Shrimati | 102. Misra, Shri Janardan Prasad |
| 76. Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram | 103. Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal |
| 77. Katheria, Shri Prabhu Dayal | 104. Mohol, Shri Ashok Namdeorao |
| 78. Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbhai | 105. Munda, Shri Kariya |
| 79. Khandelwal, Shri V.K. | 106. Muni Lal, Shri |
| 80. Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali | 107. Munusamy, Shri K.P. |
| 81. Khanduri, Major General Bhuvan Chandra, AVSM | 108. Murmu, Shri Salkhan |
| 82. Khurana, Shri Madan Lal | 109. Murugesan, Shri S. |
| 83. Koli, Shri Ganga Ram | 110. Muthiah, Shri R. |
| 84. Krishnamraju, Shri U.V. | 111. Naidu, Shri Girajala Venkat Swamy |
| 85. Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya | 112. Naik, Shri Ram |
| 86. Kumaramangalam, Shri P.R. | 113. Naik, Shri Ravi Sitaram |
| 87. Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna | 114. Naqvi, Shri Mukhtar |
| 88. M. Master Mathan, Shri | 115. Nayak, Shri Upendra Nath |
| 89. Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra | 116. Nitish Kumar, Shri |
| 90. Maharia, Shri Subhash | 117. Oram, Shri Jual |
| 91. Mahto, Shrimati Abha | 118. Palaniswami, Shri K. |
| 92. Mallikarjuniah, Shri S. | 119. Pandey, Dr. Laxminarayan |
| 93. Mandal, Shri Jai Krishan | 120. Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar |
| 94. Marandi, Shri Babu Lal | 121. Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar |
| 95. Marandi, Shri Som | 122. Panneerselvam, Shri Kanchi |
| 96. Meena, Shri Bheru Lal | 123. Pant, Shrimati Ila |
| 97. Mehtab, Shri Bhartrahari | 124. Paramasivam Raja, Shri |
| 98. Mensinkai, Shri B.M. | 125. Paranjpe, Shri Dada Baburao |
| 99. Mishra, Shri Indrajeet | 126. Paranjpe, Shri Prakash Vishwanath |

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 127. Parymohan, Shri .K. | 163. Reddy, Shri G. Ganga |
| 128. Passi, Shri Raj Narain | 164. Reddy, Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu |
| 129. Patel, Dr. A.K. | 165. Rishidev, Shri Ramjidas |
| 130. Patel, Dr. Ashok | 166. Rosaiah, Shri Konijeti |
| 131. Patel, Shri Shantilal Purshottamdas | 167. Roy, Shri Devendra Bahadur |
| 132. Pathak, Shri Harin | 168. Sahu, Shri Tarachand |
| 133. Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K. | 169. Sanghani, Shri Dileep |
| 134. Patil, Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad | 170. Sardinha, Shri Francisco |
| 135. Patil, Shri Madhavrao | 171. Sarkar, Dr. Bikram |
| 136. Patil, Shri Shivraj V. | 172. Saroja V. Dr. |
| 137. Patnaik, Shri Naveen | 173. Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh |
| 138. Pawar, Shri Sharad | 174. Sathiamoorthy, Shri V. |
| 139. Potai, Shri Sohan | 175. Sayeed, Shri P.M. |
| 140. Prabhu, Shri Suresh | 176. Sedam, Shri Baswaraj Patil |
| 141. Pradhan, Dr. Debendra | 177. Sethi, Shri Arjun |
| 142. Pradhan, Shri Ashok | 178. Shah, Shri Manbendra |
| 143. Pradhani, Shri Khagapati | 179. Shakya, Dr. Mahadeepak Singh |
| 144. Prasad, Shri Hari Kewal | 180. Shanmugam, Shri N.T. |
| 145. Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe | 181. Shanta Kumar, Shri |
| 146. Purkayastha, Shri Kabindra | 182. Sharma, Shri Krishan Lal |
| 147. Rajarethinam, Shri P. | 183. Shastri, Dr. Bizay Sonkar |
| 148. Rajbanshi, Shri Madhab | 184. Shiv Shanker, Shri P. |
| 149. Rajput, Shri Ganga Charan | 185. Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan |
| 150. Ram, Shri Braj Mohan | 186. Singh Shri Amar Pal |
| 151. Ramachandran Shri Gingee N. | 187. Singh, Shri Gyan |
| 152. Ramachandran, Shri Mullapally | 188. Singh, Shri Jagannath |
| 153. Ramamurthy, Shri Vazhapady K. | 189. Singh, Shri Maheshwar |
| 154. Ramarajan, Shri | 190. Singh, Shri Nakli |
| 155. Rana, Shri Kashiram | 191. Singh, Shri Rajveer |
| 156. Rana, Shri Raju | 192. Singh, Shri Rama Nand |
| 157. Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar | 193. Singh, Shri Sohanvir |
| 158. Rao, Shri Nadendla Bhaskara | 194. Singh, Shri Surender |
| 159. Rathwa, Shri N.J. | 195. Singh, Shri Tejveer |
| 160. Rawale, Shri Mohan | 196. Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba |
| 161. Rawat, Shri Baijnath | 197. Sinha, Shri Yashwant |
| 162. Rawat, Shri Bhagwan Shankar | |

198. Sirpotdar, Shri Madhukar
199. Sodhi, Shri Daya Singh
200. Soy, Shri Vijay Singh
201. Sreenivasan, Shri C.
202. Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
203. Sultanpuri, Shri K.D.
204. Swain, Shri Kharabela
205. Swaraj, Shrimati Sushma
206. Tandel, Shri Devji Bhai J.
207. Thakur, Shrimati Jayaben Bharatkumar
208. Thakur, Dr. C.P.
209. Thambi Durai, Dr. M.
210. Thiyagarajan, Shri M.
211. Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
212. Tiwari, Shri Prabhash Chandra
213. Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
214. Tripathi, Shri Chandramani
215. Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
216. Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
217. Uma Bharati, Kumari
218. Upadhyay, Shri Rampal
219. Upendra, Shri P.
220. Vaiko, Shri

221. Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
222. Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai
223. Venugopalachary, Dr. S.
224. Verma, Prof. Rita
225. Verma, Shri R.L.P.
226. Verma, Shri Virendra
227. Vijayashankar, Shri
228. Virendra Kumar, Shri
229. Vora, Shri Motilal
230. Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad
231. Yadav, Shri Sat Pal

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. Subject to correction*, the result of the division is :

Ayes	54
Noes	231

The motion was negatived

MR. SPEAKER: So, the amendments were negatived. The question is :

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

*The following Members also recorded their votes through Division Clerk:—

- Ayes :**
- Kuppusamy, Shri C.
 - Barman, Shri Ranen
 - Ajay Kumar, Shri S.
- Noes :**
- Vajpayee Shri Atal Bihari,
 - Bais, Shri Ramesh
 - Bhajan Lal, Shri
 - Sompal, Shri
 - Patil, Shri Babagouda
 - Apang, Shri Omak
 - Veerappa, Shri Ramachandra
 - Hegde, Shri Anant Kumar

- Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
- Singh, Shri Bashist Narayan
- Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar
- Behera, Padma Nava
- Singh, Shri Prabhunath
- Singh, Shri H.P.
- Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar
- Venugopal, Shri K.
- Chinta Mohan, Dr.
- Ahire, Dr. D.S.
- Kurlen, Prof. P.J.
- Singh, Shri Lakshman
- Reddy, Shri Venkatarami Anantha

Clause 9*Amendment made :*

Page 4,—

Repeal for lines 31 to 39

and saying

<i>Substitute</i>	“9. (1) The Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 1999, is hereby repealed.	Ord. 3 of 1999
	(2) notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the Patents (Amendment) ordinance, 1994, which ceased to operate, or under the Patent (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act.	Ord. 13 of 1994 Ord. 3 of 1999
	(3) All applications made in respect of claims for patent of invention specified under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the principal Act, from the date of cesser of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 till the date on which this Act receives the assent of the President (both days inclusive) shall be deemed to have been validly made as if the provision of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, had been in force at all material times.” (3)	Ord. 13 of 1994

(Shri Sikander Bakht)

MR. SPEAKER The question is:

“That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Clause 1***Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 3,—

for “1998” substitute “1999” (2)

(Shri Sikander Bakht)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

“That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

17.00 hrs.

Enacting FormulaMR. SPEAKER : Amendment No. 1, Shri Sikander
Bakht.*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,—

for “Forty-ninth”

substitute “Fiftieth” (1)

(Shri Sikander Bakht)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula as amended, was
added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Long Title, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now we have come to the last stage of consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I just wanted the Lobbies to be opened so that I can go out. I am requesting that the Lobbies be opened.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is not your job. Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)* I can take liberty with him. He knows that. *...(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I earnestly request those of my friends on all sides of the House and I believe that everybody considers that this is an important piece of legislation and there is a difference of opinion both inside and outside the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You must have some patience.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: And I cannot forget the very principled opposition which was made to this

Bill by those friends who are now, by an accident of history, sitting on that side of the House today.

SHRI VAIKO: It is by the will of the people, by the mandate of the people. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is no doubt, whatever may have been said, that this is a matter with which the country's future is involved, Intellectual Property Rights, the question of patent rights, the question of inventions, all these are concerned with this. Today we are conceding the rights to foreigners which will be detrimental to the interests of our nation. *...(Interruptions)*

It is becoming very difficult in this House. It is becoming very difficult to speak even on very important matters. Then, Sir, tell us that we shall not participate in the House. Tell us so. Let us know whether they want the Opposition here or not. Then we will not trouble you. Let them carry on. Let them carry on if this is the attitude.

Sir, this matter is treated with flippancy. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; please understand.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We sincerely feel and request the hon. Prime Minister and all his colleagues—I do not doubt their patriotism—that this is a matter of a mistaken notion of their alleged obligation under WTO. They are pressing this legislation which will play havoc to this country. This is an anti-national legislation. It is contrary to the interest of the people of this country. Many many very well-read, highly educated and well-intentioned people in this country, who are not politically motivated and who do not belong to any political party, have been strongly opposing this legislation. *...(Interruptions)*

I appeal to this Government that even at this stage to give a consideration to this. Try to see why an objection is being taken. Do not go under a mistaken notion of obligations under the WTO.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I did not think that you will use the word 'anti-national'. *...(Interruptions)* It is being adopted by the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I appeal to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, and Shri Sikander Bakht who had all raised principled objections earlier. Kindly think about it once more before the final damage is done. *...(Interruptions)*

I appeal to all of them that even now not to press this legislation any further.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, can you yield for a minute? I just request you to kindly take the word 'anti-national' back. This is too much. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let me answer to that. *...(Interruptions)* What is happening in this House? I have said that I am not doubting their patriotism. I honour your patriotism. But I said that you are misled and the result is an 'anti-national' Act. The result of this mistake is that it is against the interests of the nation. Therefore, I request that the Government should withdraw this Bill and keep it pending and not pursue it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you know the procedure, I need a notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In protest, we walk out.

1708 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other Hon. Members then left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As it is against the interests of the nation, we stage a walkout from the House.

17.09 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other Hon. Members then Left the House)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the word 'anti-national' should be expunged from the record. He is not supposed to make an allegation.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is objectionable, I will expunge it from the record

17.10 hrs.

GOA BUDGET

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—GOA AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GOA

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Item Nos. 17, 18, and 19.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Sir, I am raising a constitutional objection to the introduction of the Goa Budget in this House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seats.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, nobody would shed tears much less the crocodile tears for the imposition of the Presidential Rule in Goa the manner in which the developments had taken place.

I submit that the action that has been taken to impose the Presidential Rule is justified, but what has happened in this case is that while issuing the proclamation of the Presidential Rule, the Government of India dissolved the Legislature and vested the powers of the Legislature in the Parliament which it ought to do in the case of an action under Article 356(1)(a).

Sir, I am told just now by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that the proclamation, which was approved in this House, was not approved in the other House. But just now, I am told that it has been approved in the other House. Be it as it may, in spite of that I am raising this objection.

My submission is, all of us are aware that under Article 141, read with articles 142 and 144, the position is that an order or a judgment or a decree that is passed by the Supreme Court is binding on the entire nation. In other words, whatever the decision of the Supreme Court is, that is the law of the land. What the Supreme Court has said with respect to the imposition of the Presidential Rule? In the case of Bommai, the Supreme Court categorically said, and that is the view of the entire Court, that the dissolution of the Legislature must take place only after the proclamation is approved by both the Houses.

Sir, this is a very important matter and it is having far reaching consequences, therefore, I beg the indulgence of the House to listen to me a little carefully. The Supreme Court has, in paragraphs 121 and 122, said and I quote:

"It is therefore, necessary to interpret clauses 1 and 3 of Article 356 harmoniously, since the provisions of clause 3 are obviously meant to be a check by the Parliament which also consists of Members from the concerned States on the powers of the President under clause 1. The check would become meaningless and render ineffective if the President takes irreversible action while exercising his power under subclause a, b and c of clause 1 of the said Article..."

This is important, Sir,

"...The dissolution of the Assembly by exercising the powers of the Governor under Article 174(2)(b) will be one such inevitable action. Hence, it will have to be held that in no case..."

"...In no case the President shall exercise the Governor's power of dissolving the Legislative Assembly till at least, both the House of Parliament have approved of the proclamation issued by him under clause 1 of the said Article."

Therefore, the constitutional provision is absolutely clear. Then, they say:

"Our conclusion, therefore, firstly is that the President has no power to dissolve the Legislative Assembly of the State by using his power under sub-article (a) of clause 1 of article 356 till the proclamation is approved by both the Houses of Parliament under clause 3 of the said article.

He may have power only to suspend the Legislative Assembly under sub-clause (c) 1 of the said article.

Secondly, the court may invalidate the proclamation whether it is approved by the Parliament or not. The necessary consequence of the invalidation of the proclamation would be to restore the *status quo ante* and, therefore, to restore the Council of Ministers and the Legislative Assembly as they stood on the date of the issuance of the proclamation."

Therefore, the position is that the Legislative Assembly cannot be dissolved unless both the Houses of Parliament approve the proclamation.

Then, Sir, I would just like to bring to your notice one or two more paragraphs — page 298. This is conclusion no. 4 of the bench, which has been approved by the entire court. It says:

"Since the provisions contained in clause 3 of article 356 are intended to be a check on the powers of the President under clause 1 thereof, it will not be permissible for the President to exercise powers under sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of the latter clause to take irreversible action till at least both the Houses of Parliament have approved of the proclamation. It is for this reason that the President will not be justified in dissolving the Legislative Assembly by using the powers of the Governor under article 174(2)(b) read with article 356(i)(a) till at least both the Houses of the Parliament approve of the proclamation."

Sir, this has been approved by the entire court, I am reading paragraph 454 given in this judgment. These are the conclusions of the Court. It says:

"In the light of the reasons given and conclusions recorded herein above, we find ourselves in agreement with the conclusions (1) (2) and (4) in the judgment of our learned Justice Sawant."

Therefore, the entire court agreed that unless both the Houses approve the proclamation, the dissolution cannot take place.

Now, let us see the proclamation itself. Nobody would shed tears, not even crocodile tears, as I said in the matter of imposition of Presidential Rule. What the Government would have done is this. The Government, while imposing the Presidential Rule, should have placed the Houses in suspension and then got the approval of both the Houses of the proclamation and thereafter they should have dissolved the House.

[Shri P. Shiv Shanker]

Kindly see the notification. I am reading it. It says:

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under article 356 of the Constitution and of all the other powers enabling me in that, I hereby proclaim..."

I will leave (a) I will quote (b):

"(b) declare that the power of the Legislative of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament."

After dissolving the Legislature, the powers of the Legislature have been vested with the Parliament, which they could not have done. That means, this is purely an illegal notification. This does not have the sanction of law. The law is what the Supreme Court has said.

Therefore, my submission is that if the Legislature could not have been dissolved, then the only way out would be under article 196 read with article 198, it being a Money Bill, it will only go before the Legislature. Now, the position is this. This notification being totally illegal, it could not have been issued. If it has not been issued, then it will be deemed that the Legislature of Goa still survives; whether it is suspended or otherwise, I am not going into that question at this stage.

But once we come to conclusion that this part of the Notification is illegal, then the position is that the Budget cannot be presented here. Parliament cannot assume the powers of the State Legislature for that purpose. Therefore, the only way out is that since they say now that the proclamation has been issued, either they have to issue a fresh proclamation and then go ahead for the dissolution after the proclamation is approved by both the Houses, and, then come here for the purpose of Budget. Otherwise, the Budget cannot be presented. This is my submission.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to the hon. Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, the Opposition, Shri Shiv Shanker, I can only say this much. He had been on the Bench. He is a senior Advocate. I am definitely far junior to him. If I may humbly submit all this arguments should have been addressed to this House when this House was considering the Resolution for approval of the proclamation.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: How?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: May I complete? When one is challenging the legal validity of a proclamation, the appropriate time would be, to say that

this House would not have jurisdiction to consider the Resolution for approval, at the time when the House was considering it. It is because fundamentally it is an illegal proclamation which should have been addressed to this House, if I may humbly submit, at the time when the House was considering it. The House has considered the proclamation and has approved it by Resolution. So has the Upper House. Today, I would like to inform that the Upper House has approved the proclamation by Resolution. The requirement under Article 356(3) insofar as approval is concerned, has been met with. Not only that, I think, I could quote even the Bommai judgment from my memory to say that they say that all acts done while the proclamation is there, could be valid acts while the proclamation stands during the period, even if it was disapproved in the other House. Now that situation does not arise here. Here the situation is very, very clearly one that we are now considering a Budget in our capacity under power given, as rightly pointed, on behalf of the Legislature of Goa which stands dissolved. We are considering after it has been approved by both the Houses.

I think it is necessary for me also to inform that the ambient considered this in-depth. We also did receive a legal opinion from the Attorney-General and so did the Cabinet and the Government fully. And, we came to the conclusion that in the best interest of all that is there, between trying to adhere very hardly and tightly to a rule which is given in the Bommai judgment and to the option of looking at the grey areas which are there—there is a grey area—we had a situation that if we held the Assembly in suspended animation, the charge was coming from all across Party lines that this would give an opening for possible horse trading on all sides. It is with conscious analysis of the public interest involved, we said that here was a case where all parties put together including the Congress Party in Goa demanded that the House be dissolved. When it was done by all the Members of the Legislative Assembly and their respective leaders, we decided that this is one of those cases which is an exception to the rule of Bommai case. Therefore, we decided to go in for dissolution.

This being the position, the facts being different, the situation being different, the constitution has to be worked harmoniously. If one goes by an extraordinary hard and fast rule, we will have a situation where many grey areas do arise in the Bommai judgment which we can go and dispute for a long time. It is not that the hon. Member, Shri P. Shiv Shanker's arguments are totally irrelevant. They are very relevant. But, I do believe that in the present circumstances of this particular case we did consider them and we did feel that these are not correct. Even when the Cabinet itself was considering the recommendations to the President, we have taken it into consideration, and, we believed that our action is legal. It is legal essentially

because there is a situation that if we try to follow the hard and fast rule, which is being suggested here, we would only have a situation where we will defeat the very purpose for which Article 356 is being invoked here in the case of Goa. In fact, the interpretation in the Bommai judgment has been given only in order to ensure that nothing irreversible happens. But, actually, there what would happen is that if we had suspended animation of the Assembly, a situation may arise that what is not supposed to operate might operate in the case of horse trading where we would have an Assembly where certain people will come forward having dealt with various Members. We did not want a situation like this. It was a demand, for this reason, across party lines in Goa Assembly that they wanted dissolution. It is in response to their demand looking at it, after receiving the Attorney General's opinion that the Cabinet decided. I am submitting once again respectfully that this is not the time to rise this issue. At the moment what is before this House is Goa Budget. There was an opportunity this House had when the Resolution for approval of the proclamation came. Therefore, I believe, once the House has resolved, I do feel that this argument will no longer stand in the way of the Goa Budget being considered.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, my friend has totally bypassed the basic argument and he is trying to beat about the bush. May I just at this stage say that his Father had been a very eminent lawyer, perhaps one of the dozens in this country. *...(Interruptions)* I may also tell you that I had the privilege of assisting him in some very important cases. *...(Interruptions)* Let me also tell you for the knowledge of my friend even that even his wife is a very good lawyer. I may also bring to your notice that her chances has been interceded because of this gentleman. *...(Interruptions)* Therefore, his arguments are basically breast beating arguments. He says that the issue should have been raised at the time when the proclamation was approved in this House. *...(Interruptions)* Does an illegal Act become legal? Then, he must go further and say that you are stopped from pleading it otherwise. The legal position is absolutely clear. If a thing has to be done it has to be done according to law or not at all. This is the concept on which we proceed. If this is the concept, even today the position is that if they had taken a wrong action at the initial stage itself for dissolving the Legislature — it is totally wrong, against the law of the land — will this House permit them to proceed merely because he now says that the Attorney General of India has given them the opinion? Is he such a great personality that his opinion cannot be questioned? My friend has himself sat on the judgment of the opinions that were rendered by the former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court when he was the Minister of State for Law. He has said that he did not agree with them.

Are they so great? Opinion could be only opinion. *...(Interruptions)* Are they so great that their word is law? It is not. Wisdom is not the only repository of these personalities. We have also held some positions. We have also been lawyers. All of us know what it means. If legally the Supreme Court categorically says that you cannot dissolve the House unless the proclamation is approved by both the Houses, it is in unmistakable terms that the Supreme Court has expressed and that expression has to be taken as the law of the land. Therefore, what has been done by the Government is totally wrong. I am saying that nobody will shed tears for the Presidential rule and I have myself categorically said that you should have imposed it. But if you had imposed it, the only thing you should have done is that you should have placed it in a suspended animation till both the Houses approved it, and then you placed it in a suspended animation till both the Houses approved it, and then you should have dissolved the Assembly. That is what the Supreme Court says. You will act against the dicta of the Supreme Court and then say that what you have done is a justifiable action. I am sorry to say that this amounts to misleading this House and taking advantage of a situation. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Can I interrupt for a moment?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Let me complete first.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I wanted to interrupt because there is a serious charge that you are making.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a lot of respect for Shri Shiv Shanker Ji. When he pulled my legs a bit in the name of my father or my wife, I had no objection. But he should kindly desist from using words like 'we are misleading the House'. That is a severe charge.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I never said in that manner *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): Sir, when Shri Advani started his speech, he pointed out in his speech that if somebody had gone through the S.R. Bommai case, then somebody could have questioned even the validity of the Resolution. He did point out that. There is no question of misleading. Shri Advani himself said it in his speech. He did make this point which you are raising now, but still nobody raised that point at that time.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, I said that the argument that is being addressed is highly misleading.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): When this House had approved that you should have raised this issue at that time. At that time you were supporting that..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seat, please.

[Translation]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: If there is something wrong, it does not mean that the same should be repeated. If it was not raised at that time, it is not the legal position that

[English]

We are stopped from raising it. If you can satisfy that we are estopped from raising it, that is a different issue. But it is not. This is the legal question, and on a legal question there can be estoppel. Therefore, what I am submitting is that they cannot raise these arguments in the face of the judgment of the Supreme Court and, therefore, there is no question of the Bill being brought there. They will have to take a proper approach now. They will have to withdraw these Bills and come forward at a later stage, after duly dissolving the House. This is my submission.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Sir, Shri Shiv Shanker says that illegality has been committed. It is not a question of illegality. The Parliament has already ratified it. It is the decision of the Parliament. How can that be reopened now?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that if the House considered itself to be fit having the legal jurisdiction to approve it by Resolution one, unless they move today another Resolution withdrawing the approval, it is very very clear. I would like to use the words of hon. Shiv Shanker Ji himself. He said: "it does not mean that the Bommai judgment if the final and ultimate word in every form". We have looked at it in depth and I submit that it is an exception to the rule where we believe that the very purpose of article 356 of the Constitution will be defeated if in a case like Goa where the Constitution is not being able to be worked because of lack of majority of any party, and if we hold it in suspended animation, we will be destroying the very fundamentals of democracy by opening up the arena for horse-trading. This is something which I said very specifically and it was demanded at that time by all the

parties. This being so, I think it is also too late now to suddenly wake up and rise to this occasion. This particular notification comes very squarely within what we believe is the right legal position of powers under article 356 for the President and I request that the House take this up because at the moment the House is of the view that this is a valid notification and it has approved it. Once the House has taken this decision, it can be changed only if the House again passes a resolution to the effect that it withdraws the approval. Till then, let me tell you this is a valid decision. I do not want to use the word estoppel because the House does not estop anybody.

That is a fundamental rule of democracy in this House, but there is a method that once the House approves a route, it cannot change it except by the route by which it approved. Once the House has decided that it is legal, the President has the jurisdiction, this House has the jurisdiction to consider it and the House has passed it. The only way that decision can be overturned is that this House itself decides to pass a resolution saying that we withdraw the approval. Now under that, you will have to see whether Article 356(3) gives such a jurisdiction to reconsider but that is interpretable in various ways. Today, the situation is that an approval exists, a resolution approved by this House and that House exists under Article 356(3) and once that approval is there, I believe, for the purposes of this House, it is legal.

My good friend, hon. Shiv Shankerji is always free to take recourse to law if his party and he believe that it need to be struck down. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I would like to make a submission. I will take only one minute....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, you give a ruling. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): Sir, he wants your ruling. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: My friend seems to be relying on the fact that they have gone into the nuances of Article 356 and then, they have come to the conclusion to impose the Presidential Rule. That means, would they be justified in bypassing the judgment of the Supreme Court and then say that notwithstanding the judgment of the Supreme Court, I will act as I like? This is what it amounts to. ..(Interruptions) I regret that he is setting up an argument which cannot stand in the face of the law. Therefore, I submitted that unless I am debarred from raising this issue, I can raise it. I do not know why he says so. If his argument is to be taken as correct that this House cannot go into this issue, then all these years, the concept of *stare decisis* that prevails in the Supreme Court where the Supreme Court goes on changing its view..(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: The Supreme Court cannot give direction to Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It could not have changed its view at all...*...(Interruptions)* Will he please wait. *...(Interruptions)* I am arguing my case. *...(Interruptions)* If I am sought to be stopped, I stop. *...(Interruptions)* If they want that we should not say, we will not...*...(Interruptions)* They do not even allow us to speak. If they do not allow us to speak, I will not speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Well, I have asked the hon. Member not to misunderstand Shri Shiv Shanker. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: We are responsible people. People who are in the Treasury Benches do not know how to behave. *...(Interruptions)* What is this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

Shri Shiv Shanker, you may continue please.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I have practically finished. I do not want to prolong this argument. My only anxiety is that we will be subjecting ourselves to an illegality by pushing in this Budget. Anybody can question it in the court of law and then, we will have to face the music. That is what I want to avoid. It is under this anguish that I was trying to say that here is a Constitution which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court. The provision has been interpreted and they have in categorical terms expressed themselves in a particular language. The respect, we have got to give to that judgment because that is the law prevailing. Therefore, you may kindly consider whether this Bill has to be moved here or not because tomorrow it could be challenged on this ground.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, Shri Shiv Shanker has been referring to the Bommai judgment. I will read an extract from the Bommai judgment. It says and I quote:

"So far as the validity of acts done, order passed and law, if any, made during the period of operation of the proclamation is concerned, they would remain unaffected inasmuch as this approval or non-approval does not render the proclamation invalid with retrospective effect."

Therefore, the question of this House discussing the Budget of Goa and passing it cannot be called in question because it will be a perfectly valid and legal act even under the Bommai Judgment. I would, therefore, request that let us go ahead with this discussion. The Goa Budget has to be passed. The Proclamation stands today and it has not been invalidated by a court of law. It is responsibility, therefore, of this Parliament not to leave Goa in a lurch, and let the State Government function. Therefore, it is important for us to pass this Budget. I will appeal to you, Sir, that you have listened to both sides. So, please give us your ruling.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, my friend has raised this. I would like to say only one thing. I did not hear him earlier. What had happened in the case of Bommai was that the Supreme Court, after setting aside the order of Proclamation, was concerned as to what happens to the acts that have already been taken. It is in respect of that, that these observations have been made. They have nothing to do with the facts of the present case. Here, the action has not been taken, and the action is to be taken, that is, the Budget is being presented now. It is at this time that I am raising the objection that is the only point which I would like to make.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I think, I should point out exactly what he said. I think, he has not realised what the hon. Finance Minister was saying. What he was presenting is that if at all the court holds the action of the President under Article 356 to be invalid, the Budget would anyway be valid because that is how they did it earlier. So, why are you stopping the consideration of the Budget?

MR. SPEAKER: Article 356 (1) (b) provides that in case of failure of constitutional machinery in a State, the President may by Proclamation "declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament."

The Proclamation issued by Hon'ble the President on 10th February, 1999, dissolving the Goa Legislative Assembly, clearly states that "the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament."

It is under the provision of Article 356 (1) (b) that the Budget of Goa has been brought before this House.

It is for the Courts to decide the constitutionality or legality of the Proclamation including the powers exercised by this House under Article 356(1)(b). This House cannot, obviously, take a decision on these aspects of the matter.

I am, therefore, inclined to allow the consideration of the Goa Budget.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, I am on the issue of procedure. How long are we going to sit today? Are we going to discuss the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address today or are we going to start the discussion tomorrow? If we are going to start tomorrow, then is the discussion going to continue on Monday also?

MR. SPEAKER: From the Government's side, do you have anything to say?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Earlier, we had agreed that we will work up to eight o'clock. Today, this Goa Budget can be completed.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is not possible to finish everything in one day.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to propose, as the Leader of the Opposition has rightly pointed out, that starting the discussion on the Motion of Thanks late in the night may not be appropriate. We will start it tomorrow. But I will request the House that let us complete the Goa Budget today. with regard to your question, "How long we will sit", I will say that let us start now.

MR. SPEAKER: There are only six speakers who would speak on this Goa Budget.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We will finish that.

MR. SPEAKER: Six members means, each one will be given five minutes only.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We will finish it today. We will take up the Motion of Thank on the President's Address tomorrow and Monday. The only question is whether we will be discussing it for two clear days. Our understanding was that we would discuss it for two clear days.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It was just eight hours. I am sorry I should not have the audacity to challenge the statement made but it just says eight hours. I think we will have the time. If he insists on the full time, I should insist that we use the maximum

time today. But I do not want to do that. I would request that we pass the Goa Budget today and start the Motion of Thanks on President's Address tomorrow and try if we can complete the matter. If the Leader of Opposition wishes to have it specially on Monday, for him, we will have it on Monday. For his sake, I would definitely say yes. But then, in between we will take up the Railway Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. There are six Members to speak on this. Each one may speak for not more than three minutes please. Shri Francisco Sardinha will speak now.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (Marmagao): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Goa) 1998-99 placed before the House and the Budget for 1999-2000 of the State of Goa. I would like to put forward certain points before this august House.

Goa was liberated in December 1961, that is, about 15 years after the Independence of this country. We have missed three Five Year Plans and along with them the total development of the State. Time and again, Governments have put before the Central Government the proposal to declare Goa as a Special Category State along with other States that are existing in this country. But, this has fallen on deaf ears. I would like to say it again. I would like to propose that Goa may be declared as a Special Category State.

If you see the tax structure, the citizens of Goa are overtaxed. If you see the plan budget of the State, it was Rs. 234.77 crore last year. It is Rs. 240 crore this year. If you look at it in the light of today's inflation, there is no growth at all.

17.47 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Even if there was zero growth, the plan budget should have been Rs. 246 crores and not Rs. 240 crore. It happened maybe because today the plan is based on the Gadgil formula which, I would say, is outdated. It is outdated because it gives a lot of weightage to the population. Under this formula, States like Kerala and Goa, where programmes of family planning are implemented very rigidly and where people do not have more than two or three children, suffer and those States

where it is not implemented properly and the population growth is much more, gain.

I want to know whether we are really serious with family planning which is the need of the hour. Why should the States which are practising this small family norms suffer? I would suggest that another formula should be worked out for this purpose. The Government at the Centre must fix the target curtailing the growth rate to a certain point and the States which achieve that target should be given incentives. We should follow it fairly. If this is done the plan budget of Goa will increase. I propose that more weightage be given to the performance rather than population. That will benefit small States like Goa.

Goa is one of the exporters of iron ore and manganese ore.

Sir, Goa being also a port, all the iron ores from the surrounding areas especially from Kamataka and some places of Maharashtra is being exported through Goa.

Then, a lot of weightage is there on the roads. Our roads are narrow and many trucks which are bringing this iron ore are plying on these roads.

Sir, if you see, the highways of Goa are not as per the specification simply because Goa has no money. If you really go and see, you will find that Goa is bankrupt. The people of Goa are overtaxed.

Sir, if a part of the budget of what the country gets from the export of this iron ore could be passed on to Goa in terms of grants, we can build up infrastructure, we can improve the port and we can improve the highways. That is why, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider it.

Side by side, Goa is also a tourist State. So many foreign tourists are visiting the country and they either go to Goa or Kashmir or Kerala mostly. It is not that tourists are bringing only benefit. May be, along with it, they bring bad things also. Sir, we have seen that Goa is infested with AIDS. Wherever these tourists come, many of them come with these diseases. So, we have to create awareness against these diseases. And for that, we need a lot of money. If you see the chart of the Health Department, you will find that the AIDS cases in Goa are on the increase. Of course, they are not only in Goa but if you see, in the total coastal belt area, AIDS is on the increase. One of the reasons for spreading of this disease is that the tourists visit these areas.

So, to have a better health cover and also to create awareness among people against AIDS, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly increase the allocation for Health, and also Tourism.

Sir, as I have said, Goa has been liberated later and any organisation, leaving aside State, will always have teething troubles. We have not been allowed to remove the teething troubles. Goa has been taxed. In fact, I should say, Goa has been overtaxed.

So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly pay attention to Goa and see if our plan budget could be increased. Along with it, we have to develop our infrastructure also.

Sir, about Goa airport, last time, there was an answer given in this House that 'it is being considered to make Goa airport an international airport'. We are all happy. But I would like to propose that the existing airport at Vasco may be made an international airport. And, we do not want a new airport to come as an international airport. I would propose that the new airport can be made for the Navy, and the existing airport which is centrally-located may be made as an international airport.

The airport which is being shifted, will be shifted either in the north or in the south. If it is shifted in the north, people from the south will have to go all their way to south to catch the flight.

That is the reason, I am saying that the existing airport at Vasco may be made as an international airport. Because the airport at Vascco is centrally-located, we would be happy if it is upgraded to an international stature.

Sir, we have been granted Rs. 86.92 crore as the Central assistance. The amount from our State resource is Rs. 153.08 crore. As I have already said, the people of Goa are overtaxed. It is nice to declare a State as a tourist State. But do not forget that the people of Goa are tourists in their own State throughout the year.

Whenever a tourist visits our States, he comes to spend and for people who are salaried, things are expensive. That is the reason why I request you to change the norms of poverty line. There are a number of poor people and if you visit Goa, you see that Goa is different from some of the poor States. But we cannot

[Shri Francisco Sardinha]

apply the same norms of poverty which prevail in some other States to Goa because, as I have said, if the per capita is all, it does not mean that they are rich. Things are expensive. We should not apply one formula for all the States. We should give some relaxation to States like Goa which are touristic and which are bringing so much of foreign exchange. What does the State get from it? It gets a paltry sum of Rs. 86 crore to Rs. 92 crore and the State's resources are Rs. 153.08 crore.

Therefore, I hope that our Finance Minister will consider my request and change it from Rs. 86 crore to Rs. 153 crore Central share. Our people are already overtaxed. They are saturated. There is no room for further taxation in Goa. Make it more than Rs. 86 crore or something and decrease the State's resource.

Earlier there were rumours to declare Goa as a free port. Goa could be considered as a free port. Considering the total development of Goa, infrastructure like telephone, roads and railways could be strengthened. I will speak about this in the Railway Budget also.

I would like to tell you that a train on the South Central Railway was connecting Goa to Londa and other places. For the last two years, it is closed, and time and again I have brought it to your notice.

I support this Budget. I would again request the Finance Minister to increase the Central share of it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the budget for Goa for the year 1999-2000. There is a provision of Rupees 6 thousand million, 39 crore and 88 lakh in this budget.

A few days back, we had unanimously agreed in the House for the Presidential rule in Goa and the members of all the political parties in Goa had also agreed to impose the President's Rule there. They had agreed that there should be re-election, a referendum in Goa. A New Government should come there and there should be development of the State. Sir, Shri Francisco has strongly demanded through this House and through you that Goa should be given the status of an antonomous State. I agree with his views.

Secondly, Goa is a tourist' place and the tourists visiting Mumbai also like to visit Goa. Goa is entirely

dependent on tourists. As Shri Francisco has just demanded, I also associate myself with him that Goa should be declared a tourist State on the national level so that the number of foreign tourists could be increased and we could earn more and more foreign exchange and there is development of the State.

So far as the budget is concerned, I was just going through it.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, through you, I demand that the amount under the heads forests, fisheries, employment, women welfare and development, Museum, Art and Culture and Education should be suitably increased so that Goa could be developed more as a tourists' centre and the State could get a higher place in the national map. In entire country, be it Jammu-Kashmir or, Lakshadweep or Andaman-Nikobar Islands or Goa, tourists in large number from within the country and abroad visit these places because of their natural beauty.

As far as my knowledge goes, cashew nuts are produced on a large scale in Goa. Coconuts are also produced there. Besides the people are also engaged in fish farming. Therefore, the Government should provide adequate funds in the budget to boost such activities in Goa.

With these words, I support this budget for Goa and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has presented the Goa Budget for the year 1999-2000 which shows an overall deficit of Rs. 13.14 crore. The Budget Estimates for 1999-2000 placed revenue receipt of Rs. 1,335.76 crore. The revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1,488.92 crore, leaving a deficit of Rs. 143.5 crore.

The State Plan outlay for 1999-2000 is around Rs. 240 crore which is marginally higher than the current year's outlay of Rs. 234.77 crore and the State's own resources of Rs. 153.08 crore in the coming year. If inflation is accounted for, the actual Plan outlay has come down.

The Plan size of Rs. 240 crore has been fixed on the presumption that an additional resource of Rs. 20

crore would be mobilised through the revenue of sales tax, State excise and motor vehicle tax and through an increase in the water tariff.

The revenue deficit is projected at Rs. 153.05 crore for 1999-2000. As per the Gadgil formula, financial assistance is given to the States according to their population, i.e., more financial assistance is given to the highly populated States. In Goa, we have controlled the population by strictly implementing family planning and so the population is less. At this stage, the Central Government has to encourage the State of Goa for controlling population, instead of penalising it for family planning by reducing the Central aid.

During the period of the Portuguese rule, Goa was apparently kept undeveloped for about 450 year. After liberation, we tried our level best to come up with the assistance of Central Government, since Goa was under Union Territory till 1987; and during this period, the Central Government was giving financial assistance to meet the deficit of Plan. However, after Goa became the 25th State of the Union of India, the financial assistance of the Central Government fell short which hampered the development of Goa. Secondly, Goa being a small State, it earns less revenue which cannot cope up with the demands or the requirements of development of the State.

In addition to that, I would like to emphasise that all over India population explosion is apparently but out beyond control. But in Goa, we have managed to control the birth rate which comes to 15 per thousand and simultaneously we took enough care in controlling death rate too, which came to 15 per thousand. Our State has taken enough measures of population control when compared to other States; hence, the population of Goa is remaining at 12 lakhs only, though it encompasses an area of about 3702 Sq. kms. Our State always remains ahead in lessening the population burden on the country.

We are marching towards proper development in economic sectors and other social sectors. To promote this development, we need more fund for which we request you to grant and release them, so that we can exhibit our development in social and economic sector when compared to other States.

The revenue resources of Goa are meagre which peril our development anyhow. The incoming resources

and the present funds bestowed by the Centre is just impossible to meet the needs of development. However, our genuine request to you is to sanction more funds to meet the necessities of development.

The first and foremost thing that I would like to propound before you is that to meet the economic development, it needs enough financial assistance which we are lacking. The economic development is the backbone of the State; hence we have to pay more attention to these sectors; but the present funds do not coincide. So, our sincere and humble request to you is to sanction more funds to meet the deficit of the present Budget of 1999-2000 and continue the same for another four Five Year Plans.

Goa is the tourist centre which is well known all over the world. Many foreigners visit Goa. Per year about 350 chartered flights are coming to Goa. Hence, to develop infrastructure, it needs more funds and the Central Government must give priority to develop this tiny State. It is our sincere request that this State should be assisted financially, as the North Eastern States are assisted. The North Eastern States and the State of Goa are facing the same problems in allotment; hence, our State may also be bestowed with funds by the same graceful hands. However, we would like to specifically make a note of this that we are much ahead in lessening the population burden on the country when compared to the North Eastern States. Hence, we ought to get financial assistance like that of the North Eastern States. This assistance may be continued for another four Five Year Plans so that we could manage ourselves in the near future. We seek the opportunity to be self-reliant to meet our needs from our incoming resources only.

Therefore, it is our humble request to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister that they may pay their kind and sympathetic attention to our demands and help us to come up, as we are struggling to keep our head up in this development race.

I hope that the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister will give us a helping hand by assisting financially and lift us from the depth of the underdeveloped condition.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want two minutes only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, two minutes only and not ten minutes.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1999 introduced by the Finance Minister. I would like to thank the Finance Minister that he has provided rupees 6 thousand million, 39 crore and 88 lakh for this budget of Goa. Goa is the Centre of attraction for the tourists in the country and abroad. Keeping this fact in view, it would be better if more money is provided for the development of Goa ...*(Interruptions)*

The budget for tourism should be double than the existing budget. We would have been more happy if the minister would have been provided more money for Environment, Police, University Education, Technical Education, Higher Education, Art and Culture, Colleges, Hospital Service, labour, urban and rural Development Schemes, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development Scheme, Employment and fish farming etc. Our Finance Minister is a very liberal and good person. So, I demand that Goa should be developed as a centre of tourism attraction not only in our country but in the world and if more money is provided for this purpose, I would be more happy. If elections are held and a popular Government is formed in Goa at the earliest, it would be all the more better. The small region of Sikkim has been given the status of a State, it would be better if Andaman Nikobar and Lakshadweep are given the status of a State. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and I request the Finance Minister that if more money would be provided to boost the tourism in Goa, I would be more obliged to him. Even then I thank you for the overall attempts you have made and I support this bill.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate and also for the fact that I have received support for this Budget from all sections of the House. I am extremely grateful for the support. We are fulfilling our constitutional responsibility in bringing before this House the Budget for the year 1999-2000 and the Revised Estimates for the year 1998-1999 of the State of Goa

which happens to be under President's rule at present. It is our wish that elections should be held as early as possible and that a popular Government take care of the various problems which this State has faced in the past and may be facing today. Hon. Members have raised these problems during their speech. Goa is amongst the better managed State in this country financially. Its revenue deficit has been minimal. It did not have a revenue deficit during the years 1992 to 1997. It had a very small revenue deficit of around Rs. 14 crore in 1997-98. It has gone up to almost Rs. 180 crore in the current year as a result of the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. It is, in a manner of speaking, the example of the impact that the Fifth Pay Commission has had on the finances of the State.

Sir, in the Annual Plan of Goa, which is modest compared to all the previous years, I agree that it is not a major increase. But the discussions with the Planning Commission have to be held and the Planning Commission will finally determine the Plan size of Goa. I would like to say that I was very happy to note that in the Plan 40 per cent of the funds have been earmarked for irrigation, water and for power sectors. Some of the schemes which have been given priority in the Plan include information technology policy also.

So, on the whole, this is, as I said, a well managed State. I hope it will continue to remain well managed even in future. As far as Government of India is concerned, either under the President's Rule or even when Goa is under popular rule, it will continue to be our endeavour to help the State to the maximum extent possible. We realise the importance of Goa.

I would only like to inform the hon. Member, Shri Sardinha that many of the issues which he has raised with regard to the revived Gadgil Formula, devolution to the State, are the issues which have been raised in the recently held meeting of the National Development Council. A Sub-committee of the NDC will be meeting shortly to take into account the solution of the issues which have been raised. There are other demands, like free port and airport. These are issues which the new Government in Goa will consider. As and when they come to us for assistance, as I said, we will be willing to extend all the assistance to them.

Sir, with these words, I will suggest that we pass the Goa Budget with acclaim in this House.

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: In the Budget, the Government has projected Rs. 86 crore as the Central assistance. I would like to know whether this Central assistance will be released to the State of Goa.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: If it has been projected, it will be released; otherwise it would not have been projected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the hon. Minister for a very short reply.

I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Goa) for the year 1999-2000 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the second column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2000, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 80."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants on account (Goa) for 1999-2000 Voted by Lok Sabha

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants on Account Voted by the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	Legislative Secretariat	45,17,000	5,00,000
2	General Administration & Coordination	2,44,17,000	
3	District and Session Court (North Goa)	72,67,000	
4	District and Session Court (South Goa)	72,67,000	
5	Prosecution	25,33,000	
6	Election Office	1,20,00,000	
7	Settlement and Land Records	75,91,000	
8	Treasury & Accounts Administration (North Goa)	16,59,00,000	1,58,33,000
9	Treasury & Accounts Administration (South Goa)	28,33,000	

1	2	3
10	Notary Services	26,00,000
11	Excise	57,00,000
12	Sales Tax and Entertainment Tax	67,33,000
13	Transport	1,68,00,000 45,33,000
14	Goa Sadan	27,00,000.
15	Collectorate (South Goa)	1,09,33,000
16	Collectorate (South Goa)	97,00,000
17	Police	9,05,33,000 30,65,000
18	Jails	50,67,000
19	Industries and Mines	1,67,64,000 5,69,000
20	Printing and Stationary	89,67,000
21	Public Works	33,51,67,000 18,64,00,000
22	Vigilance	6,33,000
23	Home	3,00,000
24	Goa public Men's Corruption Commission (Investigation and Enquiries)	9,33,000
25	Home Guards and Civil Defence	21,33,000
26	Fire and Emergency Services	1,02,46,000
27	Evacuee Property	1,67,000

1	2	3
28	Administrative Tribunal	4,67,000
29	Estate Office	2,00,000
30	Lotteries	116,89,33,000
31	Panchayats	3,29,00,000 5,00,000
32	Finance	16,60,33,000
33	Revenue	47,00,000 3,000
34	School Education	47,52,78,000 29,43,000
35	Higher Education	6,24,67,000 1,67,000
36	Technical Education	96,67,000 10,67,000
37	Government polytechnic (Panaji)	74,62,000 3,33,000
38	Government polytechnics (Bicholim)	14,30,000 3,000
39	Government polytechnic (Curchorem)	10,20,000 1,47,000
40	Goa College of Engineering	89,00,000 6,67,000
41	Goa College of Architecture	17,00,000
42	Sports and Youth Affairs	1,55,00,000 33,33,000
43	Art and Culture	71,67,000 21,67,000
44	Goa College of Art	20,67,000 3,33,000

1	2	3
45	Archives and Archeology	24,67,000 3,33,000
46	Museum	27,67,000 1,67,000
47	Goa Medical College and Hospital	8,48,33,000 41,33,000
48	Health Services	10,59,00,000 16,67,000
49	Institute of Psychiatry & Human Behaviour	1,12,67,000
50	Goa College of Pharmacy	32,67,000 3,33,000
51	Goa Dental College	48,33,000 5,00,000
52	Labour	1,35,17,000 19,50,000
53	Food and Drugs Administration	31,33,000 1,51,000
54	Town and Country Planning	61,33,000
55	Municipal Administration	1,87,00,000 3,33,000
56	Information and Publicity	45,33,000
57	Social Welfare	82,82,000 3,08,000
58	Women and Child Development	2,03,33,000 2,00,000
59	Factories and Boilers	25,55,000 2,67,000
60	Employment	16,33,000
61	Craftsman Training	1,92,67,000 5,00,000
62	Law	2,33,000 26,67,000

1	2	3	
63	Rajya Sainik Board	4,33,000	
64	Agriculture	3,42,59,000	15,49,000
65	Animal Husbandry	2,23,50,000	1,33,000
66	Fisheries	75,43,000	40,75,000
67	Ports Administration	74,00,000	40,33,000
68	Forests	2,43,90,000	14,43,000
69	Parks and Gardens	5,67,000	
70	Civil Supplies and Price Control	37,90,000	32,31,67,000
71	Cooperation	82,00,000	5,67,000
72	Science, Technology & Environment	29,42,000	
73	State Election Commission	9,67,000	
74	Irrigation	4,59,67,000	21,07,00,000
75	Planning, Statistics and Evaluation	65,58,000	
76	Electricity	1,19,57,83,000	5,61,96,000
77	River Navigation	2,47,67,000	
78	Tourism	85,70,000	43,27,000
79	Goa Gazetter	3,86,000	
80	Legal Metrology	15,33,000	

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the supplementary Demands for Grants (Goa) for 1998-99 to vote.

The question is:

"That the supplementary sum not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third Column of the Order Paper, be

granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of heads of Demands entered in the Second Column thereof against Demand No's 1 to 19, 21, 23, 28, 30 to 65, 67 to 70, 71 and 73."

The motion was adopted.

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants Voted by the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	Legislative Secretariat	11,18,000	
2	General Administration & Coordination	1,14,10,000	
3	District and Session Court [North (Goa)]	78,38,000	
4	Prosecution	3,00,000	
5	Election Office	36,00,000	
6	Settlement and Land Records	24,00,000	
7	Treasury & Accounts Administration (North Goa)	3,26,07,000	2,00,00,000
8	Notary Services	9,25,000	
9	Excise	28,91,000	
10	Sales Tax and Entertainment Tax	15,16,000	
11	Transport	2,16,01,000	2,05,00,000
12	Goa Sadan	13,61,000	
13	Collectorate (North & South Goa)	1,00,20,000	

1	2	3
14	Police	6,57,79,000 68,75,000
15	Jails	28,42,000
16	Industries and Mines	97,92,000
17	Printing and Stationary	27,62,000
18	Public Works	17,81,48,000 21,27,46,000
19	Vigilance	50,000
21	Goa public Men's Corruption	8,88,000
23	Fire and Emergency Service	60,00,000
28	Panchayats	1,31,76,000 5,00,000
30	Revenue	8,00,000
31	School Education	27,62,72,000 1,87,42,000
32	Higher Education	3,93,85,000
33	Technical Education	2,22,56,000 53,83,000
34	Government Polytechnic	27,00,000 76,53,000
35	Goa College of Engineering	26,77,000
36	Goa College of Architecture	16,87,000
37	Sports and Youth Affairs	32,00,000 69,65,000
38	Art and Culture	1,00,00,000 40,00,000
39	Goa College of Art	7,00,000 2,10,000

1	2	3
40	Archives and Archeology	16,70,000 8,00,000
41	Goa Medical College and Hospital	5,73,00,000 55,95,000
42	Health Services	2,37,16,000 15,00,000
43	Institute of Psychiatry & Human Behaviour	61,55,000 50,00,000
44	Goa College of Pharmacy	10,00,000
45	Goa Dental College	22,60,000
46	Labour	42,78,000 39,00,000
47	Food and Drugs Administration	14,65,000 4,00,000
48	Town and Country Planning	25,40,000
49	Municipal Administration	47,53,000
50	Information and Publicity	28,60,000
51	Social Welfare	61,38,000
52	Women and Child Development	9,30,30,00 10,00,000
53	Factories and Boilers	9,00,000 3,00,000
54	Employment	148,50,00
55	Craftsman Training	1,19,45,000 7,00,000
56	Law	1,25,000
57	Rajya Sainik Board	1,50,000

1	2	3
58	Agriculture	57,74,000 32,22,000
59	Animal Husbandry	70,95,000 3,00,000
60	Fisheries	70,32,000 8,00,000
61	Ports Administration	49,00,000
62	Forests	606,80,000
63	Civil Supplies and Price Control	20,23,000 20,00,000
64	Cooperation	20,50,000 3,00,000
65	Science, Technology & Environment	4,45,000 1,55,000
67	Irrigation	3,52,56,000 3,49,19,000
68	Planning, Statistics and Evaluation	8,83,000
69	Electricity	43,00,000 10,74,63,000
70	River Navigation	1,12,42,000
71	Tourism	44,80,000 66,80,000
73	Legal Metrology	7,35,000

18.20 hrs.

GOA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 1999-2000.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section-2, dated 10.3.99.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 1999-2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 1999-2000, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the part of the financial year 1999-2000, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.22 hrs.

GOA APPROPRIATION BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Goa Appropriation Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce** a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 1998-99.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 1998-99."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I want to say something...(Interruptions). I have every right to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you given any notice?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is legislative business. Any Member can speak on any legislation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But even then you have to give a notice. Do you know that?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, that is why I seek your permission. If you do not permit me, I will simply sit down

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, Dated 10.3.99.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I have no objection because we are very fond of Shri Radhakrishnan. But I think it is necessary to point out to the House that this is at the stage of introduction. So, whatever has to be done, has to be limited and normally a notice is to be given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already agreed to it. He said that he will speak with my permission only. Please hear him for a minute.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, with due respect, we would hear him for more than a minute. But the simple point is that even the hon. Deputy Speaker can only give permission for the jurisdictional and legislative competence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what he is going to try. You have heard him. Therefore, please confine yourself to the jurisdictional and legislative competence.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If he has any objection, then I will not speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: We have no objection. You may speak as a special case.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been permitted to speak. Kindly proceed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My first request to the hon. Finance Minister is this. You are spending money and so, your first attempt should be to arrange for early elections in the State. A democratic arrangement is very important. In the meanwhile, I would also stress on one point because I have some experience in that regard. It is the point regarding Anti-Defection Bill. There has been allegation several times in Goa that it has been misused. You will have to rectify that Anti-Defection Bill and bring in an amendment so that the Speaker is relieved of the burden.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund

of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 1998-99."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House may now take up item No. 23.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the States of Goa for the services of the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House would now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, may I request to House, through you, that tomorrow after the unlisted business, we may take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and today, we may rise a little bit early, for a change, at 6.30 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

18.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 11, 1999/
Phalguna 20, 1920 (Saka)*

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Wednesday, March 10, 1999/Phalguna 19, 1920 (Saka)

<i>Col./line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
19 & 20/7	75.94	75.84
53 & 54/ast	12099.0	12899.0
55 & 56/2	68.5	66.5
55 & 56/3	5208.8	5208.6
55 & 56/4	3892.5	3982.5
55 & 56/5	1330.8	1330.9
55 & 56/7	8645.0	8645.6
55 & 56/11	384.8	364.8
55 & 56/15	6836.5	6636.5
55 & 56/3 (from below)	19809.2	19808.2
57 & 58/4	2080	2088
57 & 58/5	13758.3	13756.3
71 & 72/10	15224	15254
95/9	194.96	194.66
168/6 (from below)	109988.25	109888.25
185/19 (from below)	2334	2234
389/10	Thakur, Shrimati Jayaben Bhanakumar	Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben Bhanakumar

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