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Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Phalgun 5, 1920 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 24, 1999/Phalgun 5, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, question No. 32 is very important in the national interest. Maybe, we should take up question No. 32 first. It is about extradition of Shri Prabhakaran. The Congress Party seems to have forgotten about it.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up question No. 21.

11.0½ hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Crop Insurance Scheme

*21. SHRI M. SELVARASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government for implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme during 1996-97;

(b) the funds actually utilized for this purpose so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to compensate the paddy cultivators whose crops were destroyed by natural calamities like floods in the year 1996-97;

(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) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 11043.00 lakh was made during 1996-97 for implementation of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. Against this, the Government released funds to the extent of Rs. 11042.00 lakh.

(c) and (d) Indemnity claims to the tune of Rs. 15032.32 lakh arising due to failure of paddy crop as a result of natural calamities during 1996-97 have already been settled. State-wise details of claims settled are enclosed as annexure.

(e) Does not arise.

Annexure

State	Claims Paid (Rs. in Lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	6686.11
A & N Islands	0.01
Assam	1.99
Bihar	161.94
Goa	0.06
Gujarat	202.46
Karnataka	406.04
Kerala	202.40
Madhya Pradesh	914.46
Maharashtra	499.93
Meghalaya	1.48
Orissa	4449.21
Pondicherry	4.79
Tamil Nadu	1406.48
West Bengal	114.96
Total	15032.32

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Sir, during the period of the United Front Government, the implementation of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 has taken place. Under the Scheme, the premium was collected from the farmers by the cooperative and nationalised banks. The farmers have paid the premium to the cooperative and nationalised banks which, in turn, have sent it to the insurance companies. But till now, the insurance claims have not been settled to the farmers. This is the present situation. So, I would like to know from the Government of India whether any action has been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, the hon. Member is right when he observes that the premium has been paid only by the loanee farmers who have taken loans upto Rs. 10,000 and, after that, the claims are filed by the States. As the information has been provided, the claims have been settled to the tune of Rs. 15,032.32 lakh during 1997-98. Now, there is no claim pending; all the claims which had been settled with the States have already been paid.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Due to delay in implementation of the Scheme by the Government of India during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98, the cooperative loans taken by the farmers have grown in terms of interest on capital and penal

interest. It is a burden on the farmers. So, I would like to know whether the Government of India has any proposal to write off the cooperative loans.

SHRI SOMPAL : This question is on claims for insurance. The hon. Member wants to know about the write off loans. This is not within the ambit of the question(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is an important question and I will allow you all.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, this Government has assumed the Office in April last, that is, one year ago. I do not know whether it is a good omen or a bad omen, but the moment they assumed the Office, the East Coast, Calcutta, and the Western Coast, Gujarat, have been lashed with cyclone. We can call the hon. Minister as an Academic-Agriculture Minister. Shri Sompal has assured the House that the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme would be modified and that he would come before us within two or three months. It is already one year now and we do not know as to what has happened. He has assured that it would be for non-loanee also, it would be for all crops, the unit would be changed and the premium would be technically fixed.

Sir, he has also assured that the indemnity system will be changed. What are the salient features of this modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme by adopting which the House may be benefited and the country may be benefited? In this regard which way the Government is thinking? Just like in the General Insurance, are the private contract people also being introduced in this Scheme? What about the premium of marginal and small farmers? These are the things about which naturally the people are interested to know. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the salient features of this modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Shri Reddy is right in observing that we had undertaken to come out with a modified Crop Insurance Scheme. Consultations with the Insurance Division of the Economic Affairs Ministry, Finance Ministry, General Insurance Corporation of India and with various agencies and also with States have already been undertaken. A Workshop to discuss the subject in detail was held in New Delhi on 12th December, 1998.

Then, a small Group comprising NABARD, the Reserve Bank of India, National Sample Survey Organisation, Indian Banks Association, General Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Insurance Division of Economic Affairs had been constituted. This Group has recommended that the proposed modified Crop Insurance Scheme may have some features which were not available under the present CCIS or ECIS.

The features proposed are that it should cover all farmers—both loanee farmers and non-loanee farmers.

The scheme be available for implementation to all the States and Union Territories in the country.

The level of indemnity, that is, 60 per cent, 80 per cent and 90 per cent, should be decided by the implementing States.

The scheme should be voluntary in the States as well as Union Territories. Whichever States or Union Territories want, they can have it.

Then, it will identify two components. One is the loanee component of farmers. For loanees, it will be made compulsory and for non-loanees, it will be kept optional or voluntary.

Then, in addition to the crop covered under the CCIS, all such crops such as commercial crops, horticulture crops should also be covered but only for those about which the crop data is available. For the other crops to be covered in future, the data would be generated and created.

Then, in order to have reflection of realism, it will be based on the premium paid by the farmers.

So, far as the marginal and small farmers are concerned, they will be asked to pay a concessional charge and the difference will be borne by the State and the Central Government.

Then, to administer the scheme, a separate Corporation is sought to be set up a subsidiary of the General Insurance Corporation of India, and this is being included in the Ninth Plan proposal.

Then, the NCCIS will be of multi-feral scheme, and it will include all calamities including localised feral such as hail-storm landslide.

However, loans arising out of the war and nuclear risks and malicious doings will be excluded.

As I said, a separate implementing agency is just sought to be set up. This premium will be dependent on the risks which a crop or the area runs. It will be decided in consultation with the States and these agencies. Fifty per cent of the premium for the marginal and small farmers will be shared in the ratio of 1:1 between the States and the Centre, and the management of expenses of implementation of the scheme will be decided in consultation with the Government and the States.

So, there are the basic modalities. But there are a number of other details which for want of them, I would not like to go into....(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : But it is already one year over now. When are you going to implement it ? ..(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister Shri Sompalji has just now said that the premium for the marginal and small farmers will be shared in the ratio of the 1:1 between the States and the Centre. I want to know what the ratio is between the States and the Centre as far as the risk factor is involved.

The second point is, in the United Front Government the ratio was 88:20. It was good for investment for the premium as well as risk capital. The hon. Minister has said that there is a proposal to establish an Insurance Corporation separately for the purpose of crop insurance and that it will be included in the Ninth Plan. The Ninth Plan has not been finalised as yet, it seems. Till such time, what is the *modus operandi* to see that crop insurance is given to the agriculturist?

SHRI SOMPAL : The new scheme is being proposed to be made available from kharif, 1999 onwards and till then CCIS will be in operation.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to modify this crop insurance scheme at present, you will modify it. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether it will cover the individual farmers? At present some percentage of compensation is given to every block for their losses under your scheme. You belong to a farmer's family and I also belong to the same. Therefore, I would like to urge upon you that the farmers should be covered individually under this modified scheme. If they will be covered then what will be the premium? I would like to know only these two points from the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Bhajan Lal Ji is a farmer, there is no doubt in it. He has been the Chief Minister of a very important State i.e. Haryana for the last several years which plays an important role in agriculture. He has suggested that the farmer should be provided compensation by considering him as a unit, it is a matter of consideration. So far as your comment on the earlier scheme is concerned, the assessment of their average production, whether it is on Panchayat Land or block level or taluka level, is being done through crop cutting experiment. The States have been given relaxations to consider either a block or taluka or village as a unit.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : A village should be considered as a unit.

SHRI SOMPAL : First, let me conclude my point, it may satisfy you. I am saying that ultimately which should be considered as a unit, it all depends upon the administrative capacity and the resources of the States. We want that a village should be taken as a unit. And for compensation, a farmer will be considered as a unit and his premium will be taken from him.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : What will be the amount of premium?

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already said that the premium will be decided according to the crop and the area.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not asking any question. Shri Bhajan Lal ji is a leader of farmers. He

has ploughed but since when the hon'ble Minister became a farmer? He has never ploughed.

[English]

SHRI P. SANKARAN : The devastating floods which took place last year destroyed the standing crops including cash crops and plantation crops of Kerala. I want to know whether the Government will give an assurance in this House that plantation of crops and crops of Kerala will be covered by crop insurance.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already said that for the time being the horticultural crops and plantation crops are not covered and in the insurance scheme, that is, the modified crop insurance scheme we do propose to cover horticultural crops, but only those crops in respect of which the data are available. In respect of which the data are not available, we will try to generate the data so that in future we can cover them as soon as possible. For the time being, I cannot say.

SHRI P. SANKARAN : Data are available for all the crops in Kerala.

SHRI SOMPAL : Ultimately the idea is to cover all the crops. But the constraint is that data are not available and if the data are not available, we will see that data are collected.

SHRI P. SANKARAN : I understand the State Government has given the data regarding the crops.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question the hon'ble Minister has stated that an amount of Rs. 15032.32 lakh was allocated to 15 States but it was not stated that what was the demand made by the different States to the Central Government and the amount allocated to those States by the Government. Since Madhya Pradesh has suffered maximum losses, the State Government had demanded more allocation than others but they were allocated only Rs. 914.46 lakhs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is already available in the statement that the Minister has given. You may go through the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the same point because the hon'ble Minister has not given information about the demand made by the States. I would like to know the details about the amount sought and allocations actually made. If the hon'ble Minister is unable to give details State-wise, he can tell the total only and he should provide the details regarding Madhya Pradesh separately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount, which has been allocated, is ridiculous. The Prime Minister had visited Madhya Pradesh and we had urged upon him.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Mem-

ber has said, the details of the indemnity amount have been given in this statement. When these claims are settled, all these claims are settled down by the General Insurance Corporation and the States and definitely there is some difference in them. This detail is not available now but the details, which have been given, are already in the statement.

[Translation]

Scheme for Crop Protection

*22 + SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to implement the "crop protection" programme effectively to increase the production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of production likely to be increased on account of implementation of the Crop Protection Scheme?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Various scheme are being implemented for crop protection by the Central and State Governments. The Government of India are implementing the following five Central Sector Schemes as a measure of crop protection:

- i) Integrated Pest Management.
- ii) Locust Control and Research.
- iii) Implementation of Insecticides Act, 1968.
- iv) Expansion of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India; and
- v) Training in Plant Protection.

The main plank of Government's policy on crop protection is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which inter-alia includes adoption of cultural and mechanical practices, conservation and augmentation of biological control agents, use of neem based pesticides as well as other biopesticides and judicious use of chemical pesticides. The IPM is being implemented by the Central and State Governments under various crop based schemes to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in the crop protection programme. Funds are also released to the State Governments for setting up of biocontrol laboratories and strengthening of State Pesticides Testing Laboratories under the above schemes.

(c) Losses in production are caused by pests and diseases which vary from crop to crop. Protection of crops from pests and diseases is, therefore, an obvious way of increasing production.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year all the crops have been damaged due to pests and diseases. The paddy crop in eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh which was remained safe in the outer portion of the fields, has been completely destroyed due to this disease. The pesticides were used but were of no use. Whether any provision is being made by the government to provide compensation to those farmers whose crops have been damaged? Whether the Government will tell us the details of the farmers crops damaged due to this disease this year and the loss of amount thereof?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member have asked about the losses to the crops caused by the diseases, pests and other things. So far as the compensation is concerned, some amount is provided for it through comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme or National Calamity Relief Fund. So far as its detail is concerned, it is not available now. Regarding its protection, the Government does constant efforts to provide integrated pest management facility, better quality of pesticides and parasites to the farmers, training to the instructors and conduct surveillance.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the provisions made by the Government in every districts to ensure availability of agro-scientists services so as to prevent the crops from the diseases. If so, what was the outcome?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard, about 26 Agriculture Universities, 1 Central University and 261 Agro-Science Centres are working in the country under Indian Council for Agricultural Research where few projects and other research centres are available. Some States have also made provisions for it. Every state has its crop pesticides control department and the Union Government provides services of scientists to the farmers through it.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the efforts are being made by the ICAR to prevent the crops from the diseases, but we are not able to prevent them with the use of pesticides for the last ten years. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for non-implementation of the suggestions or recommendations made by the scientists of ICAR so far and the names of the States which have actually followed your instructions to implement them.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a general question. I have said that several measures have been taken to prevent the crops from damages caused by these pests and diseases and agricultural scientists play an important role therein. Whatever research make or develop technical technology, they provide it to the farmers directly and through the States and for it, necessary directions are also given, assistance is also provided, central schemes as well as centrally sponsored schemes have also been implemented. The States also make provisions for it in this budget. The States are constantly consulted in this regard and in our view, their implementation is satisfactory.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : My question is whether the State Governments are ready to accept the suggestions made by the agricultural scientists to the Governments?

SHRI SOMPAL : None of the States has denied its acceptance. All of them are agreed.

[English]

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Sir, the hon. Minister is trying to explain how he can protect the agricultural system here. My question to the hon. Minister is regarding the chemicals and the pesticides that they use. If there is any adulteration, what action exactly is taken to avoid the use of that particular chemical or pesticide? This is the first question.

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask only one question. You cannot ask the second one.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Then, I request you to kindly treat the second question as the priority question. This is regarding the insurance scheme which comes under 'protection'. The hon. Prime Minister was very clear and he admitted that insurance scheme was inadequate. He further wanted to modify the insurance system. So, I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister. He also promised that he would come up with a new scheme during this Session. I want the hon. Prime Minister to react to this.

SHRI SOMPAL : The latter part of the hon. Member's question has already been answered during the reply to the first question. I would like to repeat that the latter part of his question has already been answered during the reply to the first question.

MR. SPEAKER : You need not go into the first part of the question. You have to answer the second part of the question only.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, the first part of his question is regarding reduction of chemicals, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and weedicides. We are trying to reduce the dependence on chemicals. Therefore, we have evolved a multi-pronged strategy known as Integrated Pest Management which will lay emphasis on mechanical controls and also controls through predators and pests which can eat the harmful insects. There are certain other measures also. It is a whole strategy; and we are trying to reduce dependence on the poisonous substances as chemicals, pesticides and insecticides.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said that they are helping the farmers by adopting several measures for crop protection. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that though he can suggest the measures for protecting the crops from the pests, some disease or locust, but what about the low holding farmers in the country who possess only five acres, seven acres or maximum ten acres of land today. There are many areas in Haryana where flood comes now and then since 1995 and the land has become futile and useless due to water logging and salinity. Whether the Government will help those farmers whose crops are damaged due to water logging and salinity by giving loan for installing deep tubewells so as to remove water logging by siphoning off the waters through channels or underground sewer? Whether the hon'ble Minister has any scheme to help the farmer by reclaiming the land?

[English]

SHRI SOMPAL : This problem of salinity and water logging is assuming dangerous proportion, and the estimate suggests that more than eight million hectares of our cultivatable land has been affected adversely by it. There are scheme to make conjunctive use of this water logging through digging shallow tube wells and throwing this water back into the canal channels and reclaiming the land.

We are also undertaking certain other measures like evolving crop pattern, plantation and also applying chemicals for reclaiming the land. This is one of the major programmes under the Ninth Plan being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : You should also give some subsidy for this.

SHRI SOMPAL : Schemes have to be forwarded by the States and that can be considered.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Speaker, Sir, for the last 50 years the ICAR and its scientific units in Kerala have been trying to contain the dreadful disease of root wilt affecting the coconut cultivation and they have now succeeded in this task. May you personally take interest and send some experts to find out the cause of the disease and to contain it? Please save the coconut cultivation of Kerala and thus save the State of Kerala. Our agricultural economy is mainly dependent on coconut cultivation. Coconut cultivation is the backbone of our agricultural economy and half of the cultivation is affected by this dreadful disease. Will you take personal interest and send some expert scientists to find out the cause of the disease?

SHRI SOMPAL : I am in full agreement with the hon. Member that the coconut cultivation is an important economic activity in Kerala and also, Sir, that root wilt disease is a very obstinate disease. The scientists are working on it but unfortunately no break through has so far been achieved. The only alternative which we have found so far is the replacement of plantation and we are trying to have a series of nurseries in consultation with the scientists, the research system as well as the Government of Kerala and other Southern State Governments. This disease is most prevalent in the State of Kerala. A large number of tree population has been affected. The only way out so far, I would like to repeat, is the replacement of the plantation. We are trying to find the cause of it.

Some of the possible causes identified so far, not really identified but which are being thought of, are deficiency of certain nutrients in the soil and maybe some fungal disease which is endemic to the agro-climatic conditions of Kerala. We are trying to find it out.

So far as my personal interest is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member as well as the House, through you, that I have visited Kerala twice. Recently, last month I had gone there. We are taking it on top priority in the research system as well as in the Ministry of Agriculture and are having continuous consultations with the States which are engaged in the cultivation of coconut.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : May I expect liberal assistance from the Central Government?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Hon'ble Minister, perhaps you are aware that the cotton crop is being damaged continuously for the last two years in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The major issue is that this is the only cash crop of the farmers. I am watching it for the last two years. You can see the situation of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, yourself. I have visited Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, thousands of farmers have committed suicide there, but their problem could not be solved. Have we found out any measure to solve it? It is a genetic work and we can combat it with the genetic research only. You talk about terminator seed, ball guard but I would like to ask only one thing that whether you have asked your scientists to consult and discuss them and find out something new with their cooperation. If you won't do it, then the entire area will be ruined. We do not have land for sowing another crop, hence we will become dependent on only one crop and everything will be washed out. You should start this system and see how it can be saved. At first, our scientists should conduct joint research programme with those people to ascertain whether it can be done or not, otherwise everything will be washed out. You should also decide about the terminator gene. Everyday a dispute arises about the duplicacy of the ball guard which is coming. Our country has said that whether terminator gene has come or not or it does not exist or it has not been developed so far, it is an outside matter. We will develop it, we should not say wrong things like this, it is not good.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the former Minister of Agriculture of India. Dr. Balram Jakhar.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : He remained Minister of Agriculture for five years, what happened during his tenure, please tell us about that(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : What has happened in my tenure, is a record.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps, Shri Balram Jakhar ji, the only person who has been awarded the title of Krishi Pandit and Udyan Pandit both. He knows everything about agriculture.....(Interruptions) Shri Rajveer Singh Ji had just made a comment that what has he done. Though he wanted to do much more but due to some compulsions of that Government he was not able to do so. So far as the question of damage caused to the cotton crop is concerned, I would like to inform the hon'ble Speaker that I am fully agreed with him that the crops of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are almost being damaged for the last two but for the last three years continuously. About half of the areas have been producing less quantity of crops and there are some areas and places where almost hundred per cent crops have been damaged and the farmers are facing hardships there. It is a fact that many farmers have committed suicide

in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. due to this situation, for which the entire Nation is distressed. So far as its solution is concerned, I have seen that there are such people who spray pesticides 25-25 times, even then they can not save the crops. There is one difficulty in using pesticides that with the continuous use of pesticides, the pests develop, their immunity against the chemicals and they do not die. So we have chalked out an alternative strategy where a substance of pheromone drops is used in integrated Pest Management in which the insects are trapped by attracting towards its fragrance and then die. In addition to it, some parasites are experimented in the laboratory and they are left in the fields so that they can kill the enemy pests. Similarly, there are some other such insects which are called Poly Hydus worm and which do control heliosis disease. Besides, for 'Gulabi Soondi', 'American Soondi' and 'Spotted Soondi' and ball worm, etc. diseases which develop in the roots fungus based pesticides have been developed and for this we are going to set up a bio control laboratory.

You might have remembered that I convened a conference of farmers in your Abohar and Fazilka areas last year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year again, we are going to convene a conference of farmers in the month of April in three States i.e. Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana. Similarly we are thinking of convening a conference in Maharashtra also, so as to provide the latest information about it to the farmers and parasites and biocontrol products should be produced in sufficient quantity for bio control so that the farmers could be able to get better quality products in sufficient quantity.

So far as the question of hereditary, genetic research, terminated gene's research is concerned, though this does not come under this question, but since the former hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has asked this question, therefore I would like to reply in this regard that after great consideration, we have decided not to allow terminated genes in India. All the agencies, units related to its import either these are at the port or on the ground, have been directed to make provision for its scientific control and test. Therefore, the question of its entry in the country does not arise.

So far as the ball guard, which is a bacteria named *Basillus Thuringiensis* is concerned, we can destroy insects by spraying this bacteria. Mr. Monsanto has had the opinion that the species of this bacteria can be developed through implantation in the cotton plants experimental purposes we are producing this new kind of bacteria in 40 cotton fields and after assessing the possible impacts of this experiment on environment as well as other crops, we will decide whether permission should be given or not. There is no confusion or doubt or any misunderstanding as such in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister may be aware that for protection of crops, good pesticides and insecticides are required but throughout the country, spurious pesticide seeds are available which cause failure of crops and great hardship to the Indian farmers. After the suicide committed by the farmers and gaining experience,

Andhra Pradesh Government suggested some amendments to the Act. The Insecticides and Pesticides Act, 1966 is helpful only to the business men and traders and not the farmers. So, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed some amendments and for a year, my party has been pursuing them. But so far the Bill has not been introduced in spite of the promise made by the hon. Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he would bring the Bill for consideration and passing.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Yerrannaidu is aware of the progress made but still I owe an answer on the floor of the House.

It has already been discussed with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and all the amendments that had been proposed by the State Government have been taken into consideration. Consultations were held not once but thrice with the officials of the State Government and also with the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu who has been personally taking very keen interest in amending the Act...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I can not understand the purpose of the Central Act when we have already booked the culprits under the present Act....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : He is stating only the reality.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed only the Minister to reply and not anybody else.

SHRI SOMPAL : What I have stated is only the fact and I wish to repeat it. Not once but several times the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had approached me and personally discussed all the provisions and amendments that he had proposed. I see a very earnest wish on his part to make it very stringent so that quality can be ensured. The draft of the Bill has already been prepared; the Cabinet is likely to take it up and it will be brought very soon.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention toward a serious problem of the farmers. Many wild animals live around our forests and sanctuaries. The farmers grow their crops with hard labour and 'Mahe', blue bulls, deers, bears and monkeys in cluster destroy the crops of the farmers. A notification regarding blue bulls has recently been issued that it can be killed with the permission of collector but no one gives such permission. Thousands bighas of land are being destroyed. Not only Uttar Pradesh but the whole of the country also is facing this problem. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether he is making any dialogue with the department of forest so that some arrangement may be made to catch those animals which wander near the forest and destroy the crops.

SHRI SOMPAL : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, the point raised by honourable Chetan Chauhan is very important. We

are receiving such complains from farmers of all the states and areas that the number of blue bulls have been increased more than the requirement. The policy of the Ministry of Environment that the animals should be protected and the number of such animals should be kept in limit. For this, the decision was taken, that the power of permission should be given to the district magistrate who is the head of the district administration. In this regard a unanimity is required in the whole of the country as well as in this House because it involves two issues, one is regarding environment and the other one is our friend animals, which are becoming the part of our culture; we want, that they should not be killed in such a manner that's why we are trying. Other measure is the battery operated phase. A light current flowing wire is connected which keeps away the animals. We are trying to use this type of measure and we are in constant touch with the Ministry of Environment to formulate this policy.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, the M/o Agriculture has told about the measures relating to pesticide and insecticide for crop protection but he should tell about measures to stop the adulteration, how many cases have been come in notice and what punishment has been given to them. Please give these figures. I would like to know that many times when the farmers bring their ready crops to mundi, it spoils there as it had happened last year in Punjab and Haryana where crops of crores of rupees were spoiled in mundis. The proposal was made to give compensation to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana but so far the farmers could not get the same. I would like to know from the honourable Minister that as a permanent measure; what measures have been taken to make shades under the new agriculture policy so that the farmers may be saved from the losses. Other thing is that whatever stagnation has come in agriculture in form of reduction in yield per acres what steps have been taken to increase the yield. Is it not a fact that 0.01 per cent expenditure of GDP is invested on agriculture research work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, please put your supplementary question.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : It is very less. What measures have been taken to increase this?

SHRI SOMPAL : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Chandumajra ji have asked about four things in one question but I will try to reply in brief. Firstly, he wants to know that what measures have been taken to introduce the insecticide Act to ensure the quality and how many adulteration cases have been detected—At present these figures are not available with me. The State Govt. administers it. These figures will be available with your state Govt., you may consult them. He has asked the other question that after the crop, this ready crop is damaged due to lying open in mundis and in open godowns. He has suggested himself its solution that shades should be made. If the State Govts. present such type of scheme; the Central Govt. will certainly consider it. We are also trying under the new Agriculture Policy that this type of

godowns should be constructed so that the crops do not get spoiled after cultivation, in transaction and in the market. We are trying to take measures and this is the important part of the new agriculture policy.

Thirdly, you have asked about the research. Recently expert committee of Indian Council of Agriculture Research has found that the areas of green revolution, which have played a great role in increasing agriculture productivity and production in India. The Punjab State has played a great contribution in that, not only the whole country but the whole would agree with this. Some places it has been noticed that the fertility of the land has reached to a limit and the productivity has also reached to a certain limit. However it is in the notice of the Govt. It is creating two adverse effects—Firstly the investment, at present we are using more fertilizers because the organic matters in the soil have been reduced, its productive power has been reduced, secondly some micro nutritive elements are also decreasing and many types of chemical and physical imbalances are taking place in the shape of the soil. For that whatever scientific measures the Govt. is going to take, the list of that is very broad. If you want, I can discuss with you on this. As far as the question of compensation is concerned, there is no arrangement to give compensation so far, but the measure should be taken in this regard.

[English]

Indo-US Talks

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*23. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether high level talks were recently held between India and United States of America;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the leaders of both the countries who took part in the talks;

(c) whether the discussion centred around CTBT, lifting of sanctions, fissile material cut-off treaty, export control regime, missile tests and defence posture;

(d) If so, the details of agreement reached between both the countries;

(e) the specific stand taken by Indian Government on signing CTBT;

(f) the subjects on which disagreement persists;

(g) the venue decided for next round of talks; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve all the outstanding issues within a definite time frame?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India and the US have been

engaged in a high-level intensive dialogue since June 1998. The latest round of Indo-US talks was recently held in New Delhi from January 29-31, 1999.

The Indian side was led by Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister. The US delegation was led by US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott. The main interlocutors have been designated to conduct the dialogue as representatives of the Prime Minister of India and the President of USA respectively. A compact team of officials from both sides assisted the two leaders.

The talks were conducted over three days in plenary sessions as well as smaller groups of designated officials. In addition, Mr. Strobe Talbott also called on the PM, RM and leaders of some political parties.

(c), (d) and (f) As on earlier rounds of bilateral talks, the security perspectives of the two sides were further elaborated and clarified with a view to harmonising perspectives. Both delegations expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the last round of talks. The talks will be continued.

The talks are being conducted on the basis of comprehensive proposals that India put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, namely a unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting it into a de jure obligation, decision to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

The discussions with the United States have narrowed and are now focussed on four issues related to security, disarmament and non-proliferation namely CTBT, FMCT, Indian Defence Posture and Export Control issues.

It has been decided that Indian-US expert level teams will meet in March for follow-up talks on expert controls. The leaders of the delegations will also remain in contact. While these talks continue, both sides will endeavour to create a positive atmosphere for advancing their relations.

(e) The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions".

(g) The next round of the talks is envisioned towards the middle of the year, the dates and venue to be determined in consultation between this two sides.

(h) There is no time-frame fixed for conclusion of these talks. It is the intention of both countries, that a stable understanding should be reached on the remaining issues at an early date. This would provide further momentum to bilateral relations, which is desired by both countries.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister very carefully. It looks as if mountainous labour has produced a mouse. Eight rounds of talks have been held between my good friend Mr. Jaswant Singh, the flamboyant Foreign Minister of this Government and the Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott of United States. But we have not moved even an inch forward. If I can use a coinage in Malayalam, it says:

"Vanchi Ippozhum Thirunakkara Thanne."

It means that the boat is still at Thirunakkara jetty. The boat man rode the whole night to find to his dismay that the boat is still in the same jetty and not moved an inch. That is what I have understood after seeing his statement. However, it has been reported in the Press that he has agreed to sign the C.T.B.T. before September, 1999.

Sir, it has been the consensus stand of this country that the C.T.B.T., in the present form, is discriminatory and we will not agree to sign it in this discriminatory form. I would like to know whether he has agreed to sign the C.T.B.T. in the present form. If yes, it means a dilution of our consensus stand. What is the reason for this dilution, if any?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : It is not dilution; it is negation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : All right. So, what is the reason for this dilution? Is there any condition attached to that, especially the condition of lifting the sanctions imposed unjustly by the US Government? If that is so, please take the House into confidence in these matters.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are essentially two parts to this question. Has there been any movement and has the Government consented to the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty? To the second part, the answer is clear, explicit and unambiguous. No; the Government has not agreed to sign it. The Government's stand on the C.T.B.T. remains what it has been, what it has stated in the House, what the Prime Minister has stated in the UN General Assembly and what is contained in the statement.

More than that, there is not an iota of truth in whatever the Press reports the hon. Member is citing.

On the first part which is an observation relating to movement in talks, I refer the hon. Member only to some aspects like P-5 Resolution or G-8 Statements and compare those Resolutions and Statements to the issues on which the talks had now got confined to. So, there are 12 to 13 descriptive items, and the issues on which we are now confined are just four. That in itself is an arithmetical measurement of the movement that had taken place.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Thank you Mr. Minister for your candid answer. Now you have said that four issues are being identified. Of course, you had mentioned them in the written answer also. But I do not know whether the question of a minimum nuclear deterrence is implicit in these four issues

or whether you have taken up the same question separately. It is because this coinage is doing the round for a long time in this country and I am sure, you must have taken up this issue with your U.S. counterpart. But no mention is made in this reply about the question of minimum nuclear deterrent. If the Government is considering that question to be taken up, then I would like to know whether your perception about the minimum nuclear deterrent is taking into account the India's total security concern in the whole region or it is taking into account only our security concern vis-a-vis Pakistan. I would like to enlighten us on this point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the Government has repeatedly made it clear that the country's nuclear programme is not our nuclear programme, is not country-specific. It has also been made clear that in the outlines that have been defined already by hon. the Prime Minister in the repeated discussions here, they are based on a fundamental premise and that is that India shall define its own requirements and parameters of nuclear deterrent on the basis of our assessment of what our security requirements and considerations are. This is a sovereign function. Either through suggestion or through intrusive measures or in any other aspect, the country shall not and the Government, of course, will not accept any aspect that attempts to explain to India or suggest to India what its minimum nuclear deterrent ought to be. It has also been made clear that minimum nuclear deterrent is the enunciation of a policy framework within which the security concerns of the country shall be met and it is, of course, subject to review and alterations in accordance with the alternative security requirements.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, the Honourable Minister of External Affairs has said in his written answer and also in his supplementary answer that whatever talk is being held between US and USA, is limited to four issues.

[English]

"non-proliferation, namely CTBT, FMCT, Indian defence posture and export control issues."

[Translation]

After these four issues it is said :

[English]

"That a stable understanding should be reached on the remaining issues at an early date."

[Translation]

It means both the countries have been agreed on some issues and have not been agreed on rest of the issues.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister that out of these disputed four issues, on which issues both the countries have been agreed, and what are the issues left, on which they have to agree. In regard to minimum atomic

preventive capacity whether any talk has been pending, on which the Govt. of India have to be agree with USA?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, in regard to four issues whatever, honourable, member has mentioned, it is not so that all the issues have been agreed or consensus have been reached on all the four issues. The Honourable Member might have definitely seen that the Govt. of India have raised these issues; nobody has raised this issues, with India, I have mentioned it is my speech. The progress have been made on all the ideas. The progress has been made on India's view. It means there is control on export. I have told in my first statement in this regard. The record of India is more better than other countries. It is ever better than P-5 countries. So, it is not necessary that some one should teach us regarding export control. More progress has been made on export control than other issues. There are differences on some issues as defence posture, America has made suggestions on F M C T that we should put unilaterally some restrictions in fissile material, it was not agreed by us, we did not agree with this. We have clearly said that whenever conference on disarmament will take place in Geneva on F M C T, India will take positive attitude and we are doing that. Whenever adhoc committee will be formed, India will take part in that, this was our suggestion. As regard to minimum deterrent, my reply will be the same what ever I have replied earlier. India will decide itself, India will not do it in compulsion.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Deputy Foreign Secretary of America had said several times that India do solitary talks, talk confidentially, it should talk publicly. What is the aim of deputy Foreign Secretary of America behind this, what is cooking there, what statement do you give in Parliament and in public, clarification of this very much essential.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever Deputy Foreign Secretary of America has said, it is his own responsibility. I am responsible to my Govt. and to the Parliament. I would like to assure Mr. Mulayam Singh that whatever I say here, there is no ambiguity in that, there is no secret. This Govt. is clearly committed to tell about its policy to Parliament, therefore there is no secret talk which I have not told in Parliament.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, immediately after the latest round of talks, an impression has been given by the chief interlocutor of the United States that the economic sanctions on India are being slackened in view of the fact that India has agreed to certain conditions which till that date India has not agreed.

MR. SPEAKER : Unless your supplementary is brief, you will not get a reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether this is true or not?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Not true, Sir.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have a very short question. Has the United States in the talks rejected India's claim to be considered as a nuclear weapons' power?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It has been made clear to the United States that facts cannot be disinvented. India is a nuclear weapon State. That is a fact. You cannot disinvent facts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Hike in Price of Urea

*24. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently hiked the price of Urea;
- (b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;
- (c) the impact thereof on the farmers particularly on marginal farmers;
- (d) whether such an increase will result in rise of prices of all commodities;
- (e) whether the Government propose to review its decision;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (g) whether prices have been increased to bring down the subsidies on fertilizers; and
- (h) 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), (b), (g) and (h) The price of urea has been increased from Rs. 3660 per MT to Rs. 4000 per MT with effect from 29th January 1999. The increase was warranted both from the point of view of fiscal sustainability and balanced nutrient application.

(c) and (d) The impact of the price increase on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than one per cent while the impact on the general price level would be negligible.

(e) and (f) As the urea price rise was warranted both from fiscal and agronomic considerations and as it is not likely to have any significant adverse effect, it is not proposed to review the decision.

Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

*25. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the per hectare consumption of fertilizers in different States;

(b) the details of Urea and other fertilizers made available to various States during the last 10 months, State-wise;

(c) whether the Urea and fertilizers were supplied to each State according to the demand raised;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) A statement-I indicating the State-wise per hectare consumption of fertilizers in nutrient terms during 1997-98 is enclosed.

2. The details regarding the assessed/projected requirement, availability and sale of major fertilizers for the period 1.4.1998 to 31.1.99 are indicated in statement-II.

3. Urea is the only fertilizer which is controlled and for which assessment of season-wise requirement and allocation are made. The supply of urea in the country is adequate to take care of the demand and no shortages have been reported.

4. In the case of fertilizers other than urea which are decontrolled, Government do not make any allocation nor control their movement. Due to low level of imports during Kharif 1998, localised shortages of Muriate of Potash (MOP) were reported in some parts of the country. Even though the over-all availability was adequate to meet the demands, localised shortages of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) were reported in some North Indian States during October-November, 1998 mainly due to bunching of imports. More availability to these areas was ensured by priority berthing of DAP vessels in ports, quicker movement by rail and also by special import of 55,000 MT of DAP.

5. At present, there is no shortage of any of the major fertilizers in the country.

Statement-I

Estimated State-wise Per Hectare consumption of fertilizers in nutrient terms during 1997-98

Kgs/ha		
Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131.99
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.76
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.19
4.	Assam	21.93

1	2	3
5.	Bihar	89.11
6.	Chandigarh	100.25
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36.81
8.	Daman and Diu	74.00
9.	Delhi	363.24
10.	Goa	39.92
11.	Gujarat	91.47
12.	Haryana	144.09
13.	Himachal Pradesh	36.52
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	56.72
15.	Karnataka	90.02
16.	Kerala	74.77
17.	Lakshadweep	40.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	51.63
19.	Maharashtra	73.40
20.	Manipur	49.68
21.	Meghalaya	15.00
22.	Mizoram	10.18
23.	Nagaland	4.28
24.	Orissa	35.53
25.	Punjab	175.78
26.	Pondicherry	526.30
27.	Rajasthan	39.53
28.	Sikkim	5.79
29.	Tamil Nadu	135.64
30.	Tripura	29.28
31.	Uttar Pradesh	118.32
32.	West Bengal	118.51
Total - All India		87.45

Statement-II

Statement showing assessed/project requirement, availability and sales of major fertilisers during 1.4.1998 to 31.1.99

(in '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	UREA			D A P			M O P		
		Assessed Requirement	Availability	Sale	Projected Requirement	Availability	Sale	Projected Requirement	Availability	Sale
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1702.10	1954.54	1714.18	621.70	674.50	618.38	125.40	152.81	129.88
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.03	0.86	0.86	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.85	1.34	0.09	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.22	0.22
4.	Assam	100.00	115.09	59.19	53.94	17.81	11.95	52.97	15.69	10.33
5.	Bihar	1300.00	1585.28	1196.76	360.00	355.57	279.66	125.00	97.34	74.52
6.	Chandigarh	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.08	0.84	0.84	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
8.	Daman and Diu	0.35	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
9.	Delhi	39.00	35.69	31.83	10.90	2.33	2.33	0.20	0.67	0.67
10.	Goa	5.87	3.50	3.50	0.55	0.62	0.42	0.90	2.18	0.98
11.	Gujarat	1095.00	1144.66	1052.89	435.00	581.33	429.97	70.00	88.03	75.37
12.	Haryana	1240.00	1427.13	1151.52	390.00	409.53	340.74	7.20	3.34	3.34
13.	Himachal Pradesh	46.00	49.62	44.15	0.70	0.00	0.00	2.60	2.93	2.93
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	104.50	81.15	66.50	42.40	33.19	26.62	9.28	1.51	1.51
15.	Karnataka	828.00	918.79	807.08	307.37	359.93	335.24	174.45	163.04	127.77
16.	Kerala	124.76	133.55	100.63	7.12	11.21	8.34	123.97	89.76	57.71
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1340.00	1396.35	1166.43	630.00	513.62	428.36	73.08	48.34	41.35
19.	Maharashtra	1612.50	1706.52	1482.12	412.50	441.09	377.68	195.00	183.56	153.83
20.	Manipur	26.85	29.92	25.37	4.32	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.34	0.34
21.	Meghalaya	4.60	4.27	3.69	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.23	0.23
22.	Mizoram	0.74	1.86	0.00	1.28	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00
23.	Nagaland	0.87	1.56	0.08	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00
24.	Orissa	425.00	518.14	290.64	63.50	87.31	59.66	64.00	65.38	56.89
25.	Punjab	1910.00	2077.28	1786.13	570.00	664.00	600.46	32.00	40.47	23.99
26.	Pondicherry	18.84	19.76	16.04	5.27	6.68	5.47	5.88	5.14	4.63
27.	Rajasthan	1100.00	1157.70	869.71	400.00	351.99	294.58	6.70	6.20	5.64
28.	Sikkim	0.85	1.48	0.20	0.57	4.57	4.54	0.20	0.00	0.00
29.	Tamil Nadu	795.00	851.36	728.23	188.00	247.76	195.64	300.00	289.77	255.12
30.	Tripura	20.50	14.70	14.24	2.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	0.15	0.15
31.	Tea Board (NE)	60.00	29.05	28.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Uttar Pradesh	4425.00	5160.20	4210.13	910.00	1067.92	822.98	136.50	157.99	108.71
33.	West Bengal	880.00	945.53	688.83	300.00	412.72	338.04	220.00	243.45	214.90
Total All India		19211.09	21368.71	17541.18	5721.17	6243.68	5181.06	1751.77	1637.64	1350.99

Dr. Alagh Committee

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

(a) whether the Government have studied the main recommendations of the Dr. Alagh committee;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision on these recommendations;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the recommendations with the Chief Ministers of the concerned States; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources appointed an Expert Group on 2nd January, 1996 for in on the spot assessment of the Status of Standing Crops in the Mettur Ayacut area of Tamil Nadu and Couvery Ayacut in Karnataka, in connection with suit filed by Tamil Nadu in Dec. 1995 in Supreme Court for release of 30 TMC of water.

The Expert Group comprised the following Members :

1. Dr. Y.K. Alagh	Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
2. Dr. Bharat Singh	Vice Chancellor (Retd.), Roorkee University, Roorkee
3. Shri S.P. Caprihan	Engineer-in-Chief (Retd.), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

The terms of reference of the Group were as follows :

i) To visit the Mettur Ayacut in Tamil Nadu and Cauvery Ayacut in Karnataka.

ii) To assess the types and extent of the standing crops affected and likely to be affected for want of water in the above ayacuts.

iii) To assess the quantity of water required to save the crops in Mettur Ayacut area of Tamil Nadu from withering away and to protect the standing crops of Karnataka Ayacut.

The Expert Group submitted its report on 19th Jan. 1996 to Ministry of Water Resources. The main recommendations inter alia contained in the report are as below:

i) Keeping in view, the shortage of water in both Stages, Karnataka must ensure availability of 11.4 TMC of water as due to Tamil Nadu from January to May.

ii) However, to mitigate the problem of shortage in Tamil Nadu particularly in the months of January, February and March when the demand will be at peak, the availability

during these months may be augmented so as to enhance availability at Mettur Dam of an additional 2.5 TMC which may be adjusted from the releases due in April and May. The timing of such releases is very critical.

Prime Minister conveyed the main recommendations of the Expert Group on 2.2.96 to Government of Karnataka with a copy to other Cauvery basin States.

[Translation]

Production of Basmati Rice

*27. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has formulated a new policy to boost the production of Basmati Rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to make seeds easily available to the Basmati growing marginal and small farmers of the country particularly in the coastal areas of Maharashtra and also to provide them financial assistance; 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) The Indian Council of Agriculture Research mandated to develop agro-production technologies have developed high yielding Basmati type varieties and their matching production-protection technologies, and undertakes breeder seed production for the large scale cultivation so as to enhance basmati rice production.

(b) The improved varieties includes Pusa Basmati-1, Haryana Basmati-1, Ranbir Basmati and Kasturi. These varieties have higher yield potential and shorter plant height than traditional varieties, namely Taraori Basmati and Basmati 370.

Intensive research is underway to develop still better varieties and production technologies under the aegis of All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project which has active research programmes on Basmati rice at Kapurthala (Punjab), Kaul (Haryana), Pantnagar (Uttar Pradesh), New Delhi and R.S. Pura (Jammu & Kashmir).

(c) Yes, Sir, concerted efforts are being made to make the quality seed of improved varieties available to marginal and small farmers where Basmati rice is grown. The Basmati rice is, however, not cultivated in coastal areas of Maharashtra.

(d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme under which assistance is provided for the distribution of certified seeds of location specific crop varieties. It is also implementing Rice Seed Minikit Programme under which seed of newly released varieties is distributed in minikits.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

*28. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) funds allocated and released for smooth functioning of these Kendras during the last three years; State-wise;

(c) present criteria laid down for setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra;

(d) whether the Government propose to open such Kendras particularly in remaining districts, backward areas and hilly regions of the country;

(e) the details of the achievements made by these Kendras; and

(f) the action taken to remedy the shortfall, if any, by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Sir, so far 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been set-up in the country by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The Statewise number of KVKs is given in Statement-I.

(b) During the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) an amount of Rs. 118.35 crores were allocated and released. The details are given in Statement-II.

(c) The criteria for setting up of KVKs include:

i) backward/tribal/hilly/coastal/arid/rainfed areas,

ii) availability of 50 acres of cultivable land preferably located at the centre of district,

iii) availability of basic amenities like health, education, market and communication etc,

iv) strong research extension linkage,

v) experience in implementing agricultural development programme and

vi) willingness of the host Institution to provide existing building and other related infrastructure free of cost on long-term basis.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Planning Commission for availability of additional funds to establish KVKs in the remaining districts including backward and hilly regions.

(e) 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) front line demonstration on 4400 hectares in order to demonstrate production potential of important oilseed and pulse crops.

iv) 2299 extension activities such as field days, kishan melas, gothlies and exhibitions and

v) published 21,573 extension literatures.

(f) These KVKs prepare their annual action plans in consultation with the council and meet the target.

Statement-I

*Number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)
in different States*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of KVKs
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	4
5.	Bihar	21
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8
11.	J & K	4
12.	Karnataka	14
13.	Kerala	3
14.	Lakshadweep	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	20
16.	Maharashtra	23
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	1

1	2	3
21.	Orissa	12
22.	Pondicherry	2
23.	Punjab	10
24.	Rajasthan	31
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	16
27.	Tripura	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	30
29.	West Bengal	9
Total		261

Statement-II

*Grant released to Krishi Vigyan Kendras during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98)
(State-wise)*

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	81.64
2.	Andhra Pradesh	734.71
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	37.07
4.	Assam	237.88
5.	Bihar	719.91
6.	Delhi	64.84
7.	Goa	65.83
8.	Gujarat	445.37
9.	Haryana	553.96
10.	Himachal Pradesh	338.56
11.	J & K	164.11
12.	Karnataka	505.80
13.	Kerala	498.00
14.	Lakshadweep	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	811.75
16.	Maharashtra	1425.27
17.	Manipur	43.61

1	2	3
18.	Meghalaya	74.15
19.	Mizoram	48.34
20.	Nagaland	37.04
21.	Orissa	452.50
22.	Pondicherry	51.34
23.	Punjab	393.15
24.	Rajasthan	1350.04
25.	Sikkim	37.76
26.	Tamil Nadu	624.95
27.	Tripura	79.66
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1560.04
29.	West Bengal	398.02
Total		11835.10

India-China Talks

[English]

*29. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for the growing difference between India and China;

(b) whether any efforts are being taken by the Indian Government to remove the misunderstanding and improve bilateral relation with China; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) During my meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister in Manila on July 27, 1998, the Chinese side reiterated their view on our nuclear tests. We conveyed our position and rationale for our nuclear tests. At the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to Panchsheel, and its continuing relevance to the development of good neighbourly and friendly relations between the two countries.

2. India and China have agreed to hold Foreign Office level consultations in Beijing, on February 25 and 26, 1999. These consultations will be the first in the framework of the Protocol on Co-operation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, concluded in August, 1997.

3. Government in taking necessary steps to improve our relations through resumption of dialogue. We seek good relations with all our neighbours, including China. We remain committed to the development of friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

[Translation]

Minimum Nuclear Deterrence

*30. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDALIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America is pressing India to spell out its need for minimum nuclear deterrence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India has declared that it shall maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. The US and other interlocutors are interested in understanding our position and our policies better.

(c) Government has conveyed that India's approach is not derived from Cold War doctrines and is based on our own assessments. India is not engaged in an arms race. India's minimum deterrent is not a fixed quantification; It is a policy approach dictated and determined in the context of our security environment. Government have also conveyed that matters relating to defence postures are sovereign functions and, therefore, not subjects to negotiations.

Production of Soyabean

*31. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether soyabean is being procured at a lower rate than the price fixed by the Government at various places resulting in a heavy loss to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the price of soyabean oil in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the reasons of decline in the price of soyabean seed?

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 of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of yellow

soyabean at Rs. 795 per quintal and for black at 705 per quintal for purchases under the price support scheme. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) through its cooperative agencies are undertaking procurement of soyabean as and when prices rule at MSP and FAQ stocks are offered at MSP level of the prescribed grade specifications. As a central nodal agency, NAFED has procured 2230 tonnes of soyabean under the MSP during the current season.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The main reasons attributed to lower prices of soyabean seed are higher production of soyabean in the country and lower international prices of soya de-oiled cake.

[English]

Extradition of V. Prabhakaran

*32. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to secure the extradition of the accused No. 1 in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination trial, Mr. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE; and

(b) whether the Prime Minister has raised this matter in his meeting with the Sri Lankan counterpart during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) A formal request for the extradition of Shri V. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE was made to the Government of Sri Lanka in June 1995. The issue has been discussed since then with the Government of Sri Lanka from time to time and they have been made fully aware of our position. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that the request is receiving their due consideration and that the extradition, if agreed to, would have to await completion of trial and legal processes in Sri Lanka.

Increase in Amount under MPLADS

*33. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount under MPLADS has been increased from Rs. one crore to two crores per year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken to ensure the implementation of the schemes/projects under MPLADS in time?

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) An

announcement was made by the Government in both the Houses of Parliament on 23.12.1998 conveying the decision to increase the allocation of MPLADS funds from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crores per MP per year from the year 1998-99.

(c) Guidelines on MPLADS stipulate that as far as possible all sanctions for works should be accorded within 45 days from the date of receipt of proposal from concerned MP. All the Collectors have also been asked to stipulate a time limit for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame depending upon the nature of work and take strict action against the implementing agencies in case of failure.

Tubewells

*34. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board for digging deep tubewells in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the survey made, State-wise; and

(c) the details of future plan of the Government to provide sufficient water in the States for irrigation purpose?

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 Board has drilled 13946 wells in different States and Union Territories of the country. State-wise number of wells drilled upto March, 1998 is enclosed as Statement-I. The results have been used in making assessment of the quality and quantity of ground water. Based on survey and exploration, the ground water resources of the country have been assessed as 43.2 million hectare metre as per the details indicated in Statement-II.

(c) The Utilisable Irrigation Potential from ground water is assessed as 64 million hectare. The potential created upto the end of VIII Plan is about 46 million hectare and potential utilised is around 42 million hectare. The target for creating additional irrigation potential during IX plan is 10 million hectare.

The overall strategy for irrigation development and management for the Ninth Plan has been chalked out as given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Exploratory Wells Constructed by Central Ground Water Board since inception upto 31st March, 1998

Sl. No.	State	EW*	OW**	SH***	PZ****	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	763	642	14	146	1565
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	4	1	—	23
3.	Assam	190	86	15	36	327
4.	Bihar	287	190	13	16	506
5.	Gujarat	495	302	20	224	1041
6.	Goa	58	18	—	14	90
7.	Haryana	334	232	22	130	718
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73	4	1	—	78
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	177	62	8	20	267
10.	Karnataka	805	446	7	207	1465
11.	Kerala	175	59	16	112	362
12.	Madhya Pradesh	764	495	7	69	1325
13.	Maharashtra	607	265	1	98	971

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Manipur	25	11	—	—	36
15.	Meghalaya	48	15	2	1	66
16.	Mizoram	3	3	—	—	6
17.	Nagaland	11	3	—	—	14
18.	Orissa	530	162	21	72	785
19.	Punjab	101	143	18	71	333
20.	Rajasthan	683	351	92	245	1371
21.	Sikkim	31	9	—	—	40
22.	Tamil Nadu	506	226	13	70	815
23.	Tripura	48	18	4	—	70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	440	365	35	69	909
25.	West Bengal	177	94	11	124	406
Total		7349	4205	321	1714	13589
<i>Union Territories :</i>						
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	46	13	1	—	60
2.	Chandigarh	7	17	2	7	33
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12	1	—	—	13
4.	Delhi	64	31	10	81	186
5.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	3	3
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Pondicherry	30	20	5	7	62
Total		159	82	18	98	357
Grand Total State + UT		7508	4287	339	1812	13946

* EW - Exploratory Wells

** OW - Observation Wells

***SH - Silt Hole

****PZ - Piezometer

Statement-II*Ground Water Resource of India*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resources (mham/Yr)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.52916
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.14385

1	2	3
3.	Assam	2.47192
4.	Bihar	3.35213
5.	Goa	0.02182
6.	Gujarat	2.03767
7.	Haryana	0.85276
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.03660
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.44257

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	1.61857
11.	Kerala	0.79003
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.08892
13.	Maharashtra	3.78673
14.	Manipur	0.31540
15.	Meghalaya	0.05397
16.	Mizoram	
17.	Nagaland	0.07240
18.	Orissa	2.00014
19.	Punjab	1.86550
20.	Rajasthan	1.27076
21.	Sikkim	
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.63912
23.	Tripura	0.06634
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8.38210
25.	West Bengal	2.30923
Total States		43.14769
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	
2.	Chandigarh	0.002966
3.	Dadar & N. Haveli	0.004220
4.	Daman & Diu	0.001300
5.	NCT Delhi	0.029154
6.	Lakshadweep	0.000243
7.	Pondicherry	0.002877
Total UTs		0.040760
Grand Total		43.18850

Statement-III

The core components for the overall strategy for the 9th Plan for Irrigation Development & Management

- (a) To improve water use efficiency by progressive reduction in conveyance and application losses,
- (b) To bridge the gap between the potential created and its utilisation by strengthening the Command Area Development Programme (CADP), institu-

tional reforms and promoting farmer's involvement in irrigation management,

- (c) To complete all the ongoing 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.
- (d) To restore and modernise the old irrigation systems which were executed during pre-Independence period and 25 years ago.
- (e) To introduce rational pricing of irrigation water, based initially on O & M cost and then to encourage higher level of water use efficiency,
- (f) To take concrete steps towards comprehensive and integrated development of natural water resources, taking into account the possibility of inter-river-basin transfer of surplus water, and
- (g) To promote adaptive research and development to ensure more cost-effective and efficient execution and management of irrigation systems,
- (h) To promote Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) with full involvement of the water user community, which will be at the centre stage of the implementation of above strategies of the Ninth Plan,
- (i) To encourage and implement the conjunctive use of ground and surface waters towards optimal utilisation of water resources and to have its development environmentally sustainable as well.
- (j) To accelerate the development and utilisation of ground water, particularly in the eastern region on sound technical, environmental and economic considerations along with proper regulatory mechanisms.

Crop Insurance Scheme

*35. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the modified crop insurance scheme prepared by a core group has since been submitted to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for the implementation of the scheme?

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 Small Group which was set up to fine-tune the views of the State Governments and other agencies on the proposed Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) has since submitted its recommendations. The main recommendations of the Group comprise coverage of all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) and more crops including some cash/horticultural crops subject to the availability of yield data; charging actuarial premium rates; providing premia-subsidy to small and marginal farmers; implementation of the scheme at a smaller unit area; setting up a separate implementing agency, etc.

Based on the recommendations of the Group, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has submitted a draft Scheme which is presently under examination of the Government.

Passport Adalats

*36. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several complaints are being received from passport applicants regarding difficulties being faced by them;

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government to resolve these complaints;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise passport adalats for the redressal of grievances of passport seekers;

(d) If so, the locations identified for the purpose;

(e) the number of passport applications pending with each regional passport offices as on February 1, 1999; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for early clearance of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (f) In the last one year, the public grievance redressal mechanism has been considerably strengthened. The passport officer meets the public everyday at a designated hour. All passport officers have been advised to maintain complaint registers. In addition to the public grievance redressal mechanism operating in all passport offices, a Central Public Grievance Redressal Cell at the CPO Headquarters in New Delhi was established in 1996. This Cell is manned by two Public Relations Officers and works under the direct supervision of Chief Passport Officer. Separate telephone and fax lines have been provided to this Cell for easy accessibility.

2. The passport officers are considering holding of periodical passport adalats. The Passport Office, Hyderabad, has already started holding passport adalats on an experimental basis and the other passport offices would also start holding these adalats based on the assessment of public response received from such adalats started by Passport Office, Hyderabad.

3. A statement showing the applications pending with each passport office as on February 1, 1999, is enclosed.

4. Every effort is being made to expedite disposal and clear backlog of pending applications.

5. The procedures for issue of passports are also being simplified and streamlined. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are : computerisation of processing procedures, opening of new passport offices and collection centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

Statement

*Number of Passport Applications Pending with
Passport Offices as on 1.2.1999*

Sl. No.	Passport Office	Applications Pending
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	17129
2.	Bangalore	38096
3.	Bareilly	23856
4.	Bhopal	3477
5.	Bhubaneshwar	4861
6.	Mumbai	27211
7.	Calcutta	12167
8.	Chandigarh	28491
9.	Cochin	9489
10.	Delhi	25143
11.	Ghaziabad	6610
12.	Guwahati	2875
13.	Hyderabad	30883
14.	Jaipur	29129
15.	Jalandhar	34117
16.	Jammu	7604
17.	Kozhikode	29018

1	2	3
18.	Lucknow	22681
19.	Chennai	29640
20.	Nagpur	1443
21.	Panaji	861
22.	Patna	7395
23.	Pune	1257
24.	Srinagar	2641
25.	Thane	1597
26.	Trichy	59469
27.	Trivandrum	7331
28.	Viskhapatnam	4532

Underground Water

*37. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee for assessment of availability of ground water resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have launched any plan to fill the underground water artificially;

(d) if so, the total areas of land covered under this plan, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) the total funds spent thereon during the last three years, State-wise; and

(f) the future plan of the Government regarding scarcity of underground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government had constituted a Committee in November, 1995 to review the methodology for estimation of ground water resources and to look into all the related issues. The Committee submitted its report in June, 1997. Gist of recommendations contained in the report is given in Statement I. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government and copies of the report were circulated to ground water organisations of the State Government for use in estimating ground water resources based on revised methodology.

(c) to (e) The Government had started a Central Sector Scheme on pilot basis in 1994-95 for studies in artificial recharge of ground water in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The studies were completed in 1997-98 at a total cost of Rs. 3,29,69,676. State-wise break-up of the amount spent on these studies during last three years is given in Statement-II. Based on the results of these studies, the Government have recently

decided to extend this scheme for studies of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(f) The Government have also formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to Assist the States in Artificial Recharge of Ground Water at an estimated cost of Rs. 101.50 crore. This scheme is at consultation stage. In addition, Government have prepared and circulated a Manual on Artificial Recharge of Ground water to States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge scheme.

Statement-I

Gist of the recommendations of the Committee (1997) Ground Water Resources Estimation.

The revised methodology as recommended has incorporated a number of changes as compared to the recommendations of Ground Water Estimation Committee 1984. In this methodology, watershed has been adopted as the assessment unit in hard rock areas. Ground Water assessment has to be made separately for non-command and command areas and areas of poor quality of ground water have to be treated separately. Ground Water recharge has to be assessed separately for monsoon and non monsoon seasons. An alternative methodology has been provided for estimation of specific yield based on application of ground water balance in dry season which would be applicable in the non command part of hard rock areas. Norms for return flow from irrigation are now based on the source of irrigation i.e. ground water or surface water, type of crops, and depth to water table below ground level. An explicit provision is not introduced on recharge due to water conservations structures. Ground water levels have been made an integral part of ground water assessment and categorisation of areas for ground water development is now based on the stage of ground water development and long term trend of these levels.

Statement-II

State-wise and year-wise break-up of Expenditure on the Central Sector Scheme of Studies in Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

		(Amount in Rupees)				
Sl No.	Name of the State/UT	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	2,12,000	-	2,12,000
2	Karnataka	39,49,459	16,61,957	13,84,880	6,60,265	76,36,371
3	Kerala	-	-	8,88,273	24,35,000	31,23,273
4	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	7,12,500	4,64,000	11,76,500
5	Maharashtra	57,84,000	42,26,280	10,92,933	2,20,802	1,13,04,015
6	Tamil Nadu	-	-	8,50,000	6,50,000	15,00,000
7	West Bengal	-	-	99,250	38,250	1,37,500
8	NCT of Delhi	2,12,000	35,41,257	28,64,399	5,12,361	71,30,017
9	UT of Chandigarh	-	-	2,22,000	5,28,000	7,50,000
Total		99,25,459	94,29,494	81,06,045	55,08,678	3,29,69,676

Growth Rate in Ninth Plan

*38. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lowered growth rate target in Ninth Plan;

(b) If so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Plan outlay and budgetary allocation earmarked for major sectors such as agriculture, education rural development, power etc. for the Ninth Plan giving the figures of allocation made for these sectors in previous 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) and (b) The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, 1997-2002, approved at internal meetings of the Planning Commission was released on March, 1, 1998 by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Subsequently, the Government reviewed the Draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities, as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. Detailed action plans on the above guidelines were prepared and suitably incorporated into the existing Draft. The revised document based on a target growth rate of GDP of 6.5% per year as against 7% per year envisaged in the earlier draft has been approved by the National Development Council on 19th February, 1999. The Planning Commission recommended this lowering of the target rate growth of GDP over the five years of the Ninth Plan in order to take into account the actual realisation of 5.0 per cent growth during 1997-98. (i.e. the first year of the Ninth Plan) and expected realisation of 5.8 per cent growth during 1998-99 (i.e., the second year of the Plan). Implicit in this target is more than 7% of average growth during the remaining three years of the plan.

(c) Sectoral outlay and Budgetary allocation as per the Ninth and the Previous plan are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Public Sector Outlay by Major Heads of Development in the Eighth and Ninth Plan**

	Eighth Plan (1991-92 pr)	Ninth Plan (1996-97 pr)
1	2	3
Agriculture & Allied\$	54992.50	93144
Rural Development	34425.36	73439
Special Programme	6750.16	3649
Energy	115561.09	215545
Industry & Minerals	46921.75	69972

1	2	3
Transport	55925.57	121324
Communication	25109.98	47616
S & T & Environment	9041.69	25529
General Economic Services@	6360.00	26978
Social Services	79011.90	182005
Total	434100.00	859200

\$ Includes Irrigation and Flood Control

@ Includes General Services

[Translation]

Flood Control

*39. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total cultivable land affected due to floods in the country during 1998;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate a water policy to check the flood havoc in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan by the Union Government to each State to control the flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Cultivated area of 7.519 million hectares was affected in the country during the floods of 1998.

(b), (c) and (d) Government of India had adopted a National Water Policy in 1987. A revised draft national water policy, formulated in 1998 has been considered and finalised by the National Water Board in Oct., 98.

The revised National Water Policy emphasises the need for a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. It suggests provision of adequate flood cushion in storage reservoirs wherever possible and formulation of suitable reservoir regulation policy to accommodate flood control in highly flood prone areas. The policy also lays stress on non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing. Watershed management through soil conservation, catchment area treatment, preservation of forests and construction of check dams to reduce the intensity of floods are the other suggestions embodied in the Policy.

(e) Agreed outlay for Ninth Plan, for each State and Union Territory in flood control sub-sector is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Statewise Agreed Outlay in Flood Control Sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)**

Sl. No.	Name of State & U.Ts.	Flood Control (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.52
3.	Assam	120.24
4.	Bihar	400.00
5.	Goa	6.46
6.	Gujarat	10.00
7.	Haryana	60.41
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	85.00
10.	Karnataka	50.00
11.	Kerala	88.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.67
13.	Maharashtra	2.70
14.	Manipur	36.00
15.	Meghalaya	18.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00
17.	Nagaland	5.37
18.	Orissa	20.00
19.	Punjab	409.70
20.	Rajasthan	51.16
21.	Sikkim	30.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00
23.	Tripura	28.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	80.00
25.	West Bengal	328.44
Total States		2051.08
26.	A & N Islands	4.23
27.	Chandigarh	0.00
28.	D & N Havell	0.00

1	2	3
29.	Daman & Diu	2.19
30.	Delhi	120.00
31.	Lakshadweep	17.36
32.	Pondicherry	21.50
Total U.Ts.		165.28
Total States & U.Ts.		2216.36

[English]

Integrated Water Plan for Development of Water Resources

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

(a) whether an integrated water plan for development of water resources for drinking irrigation, industrial, flood control and other uses has been prepared as suggested by the national Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan;

(b) if so, whether modalities for transfer of surplus water to water-deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers has been implemented;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the important on-going projects with their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Water Resources has set up a National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan on 13.9.96. The terms of reference of the National Commission inter alia include to suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the objective of preparing an integrated water plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and other uses. The Commission has not submitted its report.

West Flowing Rivers

233. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rivers flowing into Arabian sea in the country, particularly in the State of Kerala;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken/propose to take some effective measures to harness and utilise the waters of these rivers; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects?

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

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) There are about 90 small and big West Flowing Rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea in the country. Of these, 41 rivers are in the State of Kerala.

(b) and (c) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves according to their own priorities.

GSLV-D-1

234. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct first test firing of GSLV (GSLV-D-1) alongwith G-Sat-1 during the current year;

(b) If so, the time frame worked out therefor; and

(c) the salient features of this test-firing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) and (b) The first Development flight of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-D1 (GSLV-D1) is targeted for the last quarter of 1999 alongwith GSAT-1 spacecraft on a success oriented schedule.

(c) The main objective of this flight is to evaluate the vehicle systems in flight and inject GSAT-1 into Geo-syn-

chronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The Developmental flight will give valuable data for the first time on new vehicle systems such as cryogenic stage, liquid strap-ons and vented interstage as well as on vehicle and mission aspects.

[Translation]

Production of Cash Crops

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any, plan to increase the production of cash crops in different States of the country;

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

(c) the amount of assistance provided or likely to be provided by the Government under this plan during the last three years and current year also?

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 statement is enclosed.

(c) The following amount have been provided to States for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes on cash crops during last three years and the current year;

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1. I.C.D.P. Cotton	1016.73	1156.60	1396.35	1441.00
2. S.J.D.P. Jute	187.21	312.14	373.66	316.00
3. SUBACS Sugarcane Scheme	3026.08	1228.88	1105.08	1600.00
4. OPP—Oilseed Production Programme	8820.00	10569.00	10456.00	8950.00

Statement

The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes on the development of Cash Crops are being implemented by the Government of India

S. Scheme No.	States in which implemented
1. I.C.D.P.-Cotton	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
2. Sepcial Jute Development Programme (SJDP)	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
3. Sustainable Development of of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS)	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Mizoram and Manipur
4. Oil Seed Production Programme (OPP)	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

[English]

Government Employees on Mass Casual Leave

236. DR. SAROJA V :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Union Government went on mass casual leave during January, 1999 in support of their demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) the views of the Governments in regard to their demands;

(d) whether the Government propose to restore the casual leave of the employees on account of the mass agitation; and

(e) if not, the reasons 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) to (c) There has been no instance in January, 1999 when the Central Government employees, numbering more than 38 lakhs, had collectively proceeded on mass casual leave.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The restoration of casual leave would decrease the number of working days of Central Government employees.

Private Irrigation Projects

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

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has received any Irrigation Scheme from the State Governments of North-East, particularly from the State Government of Assam under the Private Irrigation Programme for drought affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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.

Barrage Projects

238. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any monitoring cell has been established by the Government to look after the progress of work of various Barrage Projects in West Bengal;

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

(c) the time by which said 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) Some selected major and medium irrigation projects including Barrage projects are monitored by Central Water Commission. At present 3 major and 4 medium projects of West Bengal are being monitored by Central Water Commission which include critical review of progress and programme of project components, identification of bottlenecks/shortfalls and suggesting remedial measures for early completion of projects. However, the completion of projects depends upon the priority attached to them by the State Government.

Indians in Oman

239. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Oman has declared that they propose to send back 3,60,000 Indians working in their country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government in this regard.

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Projects of Karnataka

240. SHRI C. P. M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a number of projects from the Government of Karnataka for approval and are lying pendings;

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

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on these projects?

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) No, Sir. Planning Commission have no projects pending for clearance.

Pending Schemes of Maharashtra

241. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of schemes received from Maharashtra Government and are lying, pending with the Union Government for clearance/approval;
- (b) the present status of these schemes; and
- (c) the time by which a decision on these schemes is likely to be taken 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 (c) No scheme pertaining to the State of Maharashtra is pending at present with the Planning Commission for its clearance.

Poverty Alleviation Programme

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

- (a) whether a steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India was set up by Planning Commission for the Ninth Five Year Plan to suggest various measures to strengthen, improve and streamline the poverty alleviation programmes;
- (b) if so, whether the Steering Group came out with specific recommendations in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the salient features of those recommendations and how far those recommendations have been implemented?

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 Steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India the Ninth Plan suggested various measures to strengthen, improve and streamline poverty alleviation programmes. The main recommendations/observations of the Steering Group are:

- (i) Continuation of poverty alleviation programmes, namely, self-employment and wage employment programmes with greater vigour in the Ninth Five Year Plan, but with changes in content, design and scope.

Rural Self Employment Programme

- (ii) There is need to make a strategic shift from an individual beneficiary approach to a group/cluster approach under the self-employment programme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

- (iii) At the individual level attempt should be made to consolidate and extend the implementation of the Family Credit Plan (FCP) to other districts of the country, in an attempt at raising the level of per family investment under the IRDP.

- (iv) Under the group/cluster approach viable project profiles would have to be formulated through an organisational apparatus, which could organise the poor into homogenous groups, preferably within viable spatial clusters and identify and synthesize their capability and skills with the local resource endowment and marketability of the venture.

- (v) Recognising that the level of investment is the most crucial variable in determining the incremental income generated through IRDP activities, it was suggested that the average level of investment for the Ninth Plan could be around Rs. 24,000 per family depending on the estimates of the poverty line and the income gap.

- (vi) A Management Information System (MIS) should be developed through which important training institutes of relevance for Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) throughout the country be identified and networked. This would give some idea of the areas deficient in training infrastructure and where investment should flow during the Ninth Plan. In those blocks where there is a concentration of unemployed youth and where there are no reputed institutes in the vicinity, mini-ITIs could be set up, but only very selectively.

- (vii) State Government should take up the task of promoting development of appropriate toolkits for rural artisan groups. They must interact with the Department of Science & Technology, National Small Industries Corporation ITIs for the "development" of appropriate technology and designs for improved toolkits for various artisan groups.

- (viii) To make Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) groups more effective, the emphasis should be on setting up of homogenous groups, sponsoring of viable activities, providing adequate financial assistance and necessary infrastructural support with forward and backward linkages.

Rural Wage Employment Programmes

- (ix) It was suggested that funds allocated for wage employment schemes i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) should basically be used for purposes of employment generation (as reflected in 60:40 wage ratio). Another view expressed was that one of these scheme should be specially directed towards employment generation while the focus of the other scheme be distinctly on asset creation and development of rural infrastructure.

- (x) In addition, in the context of JRY and EAS the following suggestions were made :

a) Urbanised and developed blocks/districts/States would have to be excluded from the purview of this scheme. A suitable criterion for this would have to be evolved;

b) The national allocations to the States should be on the incidence of poverty. A criterion would have to be specified for further allocations to districts or blocks. Alternatively, this devolution of funds to districts/blocks could be left to the State Governments;

c) It would be necessary to protect the flow of funds to the village panchayats, (at least at the present level), in order to ensure that they would be able to take up small works according to the felt-needs of the people. Additional allocations can be distributed between block and district levels;

d) No contractors should be involved, Panchayats should implement these programmes. Activities could be selected on the basis of priorities as reflected in the district plans.

xi) Voluntary Organizations (VOs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions should play an important role in empowering the poor through advocacy, awareness generation and social mobilization. As social animators and rural organisers they should help the poor to form self help groups in order to take advantage of the policies and programmes of the government for their economic betterment.

xii) There is a critical need to determine and appropriate mechanism for facilitating a greater integration of the poverty alleviation programmes with area development schemes and sectoral programmes within the framework of a district plan.

xiii) Within the State there is a need to identify areas/pockets which have a concentration of poverty and unemployment for more focussed attention.

These recommendations/observations made by the Steering Group have been largely incorporated in the Ninth Plan.

Expenditure on Education

243. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) percentage of Expenditure incurred on Education out of total G.D.P. at present;

(b) the percentage increase in the Cost of Education during 1992-97;

(c) whether the proposal for budget allotment of 6 per cent of G.D.P. for Education has been implemented; 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) The percentage of Expenditure incurred on Education out of the total G.D.P.

(Rs. in Crores)

	1996-97 (Budget Estimates)			1996-97 G.D.P. FC All India (At current Prices)	Percentage of Education Exp. of the total GDP
	Budget Provision for Edn. by (Revenue Account)				
	Education Department	Other Departments	Total		
				Quick Estimate	
Total (Centre+State/UTs) (Plan+Non Plan)	36529.29	6883.15	43412.44	1149215	3.78

(b) The percentage increase in the cost of Education during 1992-97

(Rs. in Crores)

Total Education Expenditure	Budget Provision for Education			Percentage of Increase in the cost of Education
	By	(Revenue Account)		
[Centre+States/UT] (Plan+non Plan)	Education Dept.	Other Depts.	Total	1992-93 to 1996-97
1992-93 (Actuals)	20952.97	4077.33	25030.30	
1996-97 (B.E.)	36529.29	6883.15	43412.44	57.66

(c) The proposal for budget allotment of 6 per cent of GDP for Education has not yet been implemented. However, efforts are being made to increase the Governmental spending on Education gradually from existing level of about 3.7% to 6% of the GDP, to provide education for all.

(d) the question does not arise.

Award to Indian Scientist

244. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'NASA Calls Space Station Chandrasekhar' appearing in the Indian Express dated December 23, 1998;

(b) whether the Government propose to confer any posthumous award to this great Indian Scientist; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently there is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Houses for Fishermen

245. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fisheries Department of Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded a scheme valuing Rs. 50.50 lakhs for construction of houses for fishermen under the National Welfare Fund Scheme for Fishermen for the approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the decision/approval has been accorded to the scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the said scheme?

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) No, Sir. Under the Development of Model Fishermen Villages component of the National Welfare of Fishermen scheme, a total number of 460 houses, 23 tubewells and 3 community halls for fishermen were sanctioned in various villages of Madhya Pradesh during the period 1989-90 to 1993-94 and an amount of Rs. 29.37 lakhs was released for the said purpose. However, the progress of utilisation of funds by the State Government is slow and even funds sanctioned during 1989-90 have not been fully utilised so far. Approval for the present scheme submitted by the Govern-

ment of Madhya Pradesh would be accorded after satisfactory progress is achieved by the State Government.

Vacant Posts

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

(a) whether a number of posts of different categories of employees are lying vacant in the various Ministries for a long time;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up the vacant posts during the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons 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) Yes. The total number of posts lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments is estimated at 3.2 lakhs as on 31.3.1997.

(b) As per statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The process of filling up of vacant posts is a continuous one and action in this regard is required to be taken by the administrative Ministries /Departments concerned with due regard to the instructions on the subject issued from time to time. This is also contingent upon the availability of eligible persons to be appointed against general vacancies as of those reserved for SC/ST/OBC etc. and completion of recruitment action. In some cases it may also involve consultation with external agencies like Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission etc.

Statement

Name of Ministry/Deptts.	Estimated number of vacant post as on 31.3.97
1	2
1. Agriculture and Cooperation and Animal Husbandary and Dairying.	1324
2. Agri. Res. & Education	2
3. Atomic Energy	4352
4. Bio-technology	38
5. Cabinet Sectt.	13
6. Chemicals & Petrochemicals	47
7. Civil Aviation	279
8. Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.	88

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9. Coal	81
10. Commerce	442
11. Company Affairs	328
12. Culture	983
13. Defence (Civilian)	77920
14. Economic Affairs	3026
15. Education	333
16. Electronics	220
17. Environments & Forests	809
18. Expenditure	230
19. External Affairs	657
20. Fertilizers	22
21. Food	190
22. Food Processing Industries	111
23. Health & Family Welfare	3196
24. Heavy Industries	2
25. Home Affairs (Including Justice)	26184
26. Indian Audit and Accounts Deptt.	8180
27. Industrial Policy & Promotion	808
28. Information & Broadcasting	7644
29. Labour	1243
30. Legal Affairs	176
31. Legislative Deptt.	57
32. Mines	3364
33. Non Conventional Energy Sources	95
34. Ocean Development	62
35. Parliamentary Affairs	1
36. Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	1075
37. Petroleum and Natural Gas	33
38. Planning Commission	1178
39. Posts	17815
40. Power	284
41. President Sectt.	29

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42. Prime Minister's Office	55
43. Programme Implementation	19
44. Public Enterprises.	29
45. Railways	122772
46. Revenue	9299
47. Rural Areas & Employment	334
48. Science & Technology	2629
49. Space	1149
50. SSI, Agro and Rural Industries	1323
51. Statistics	566
52. Steel	13
53. Supply	627
54. Surface Transport	659
55. Telecommunications	15725
56. Textile	511
57. Tourism	41
58. UPSC	151
59. Urban Affairs and Employment	2231
60. Vice-President's Sectt.	11
61. Waste Land Development	8
62. Water Resources	2070
63. Welfare	25
64. Women and Child Development	63
65. Youth Affairs and Sports	15

Atrocities on Christians

[English]

247. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

SHRI V.V.RAGHAVAN :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether image of the country has fallen with the increasing violence and atrocities against Christians in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister had to cancel his Germany tour because of the atrocities on the Christians; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India's tradition of religious tolerance and secularism in the framework of a pluralistic society is well recognised. The Government of India has emphasised India's strong and continuing commitment to maintaining this tradition. Attention has also been drawn to the statements of the President and Prime Minister of India condemning the recent incidents, the universal public condemnation in India of such occurrences, as well as Government's prompt action in fully investigating and proceeding under the law against all such acts of violence. Foreign Governments, public opinion and international media have been fully sensitised to the above facts. Our Missions and Posts abroad have been duly involved in this effort. These measures have helped to reassure the international community of Government's seriousness of purpose. Understanding has been shown for India's position, and in particular of the fact that these incidents are essentially aberrations due to the actions of criminal elements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The visit could not take place for reasons connected with scheduling.

Underground Water

248. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :

SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual average downfall in the level of Ground Water in different parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) the scientific measure taken by the Government to store rainy water in the country, so far;

(c) whether the Union Government sought and received any foreign assistance for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total funds provided by the Union Government to each State Government to increase ground water level during each of the last three years ?

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

TRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per the observations made by the Central Ground Water Board, average decline of 2 to 3 metres in the level of ground water has been observed during last three years in different parts of the country.

(b) The scientific measures taken by the Government to store rain water in the country include watershed development, afforestation and water conservation works, construction of percolation tanks, injunction wells, check dams, water spreading basins and roof-top rain water harvesting.

(c) and (d) A statement indicating foreign-assisted projects is enclosed at Statement-I.

(e) The Union Government has not provided funds to state Governments to increase ground water level. However, the Government had started Central Sector Scheme on pilot basis in 1994-95 for studies in artificial recharge of ground water in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The studies were completed in 1997-98 at a total cost of Rs. 3,29,69,676/-. State-wise break-up of the amount spent on these studies during last three year is given in Statement-II. Based on the results of these studies, the Government have recently decided to extend this scheme for studies in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement - I

Details of Externally Aided Projects under the Programme of Watershed Management being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

WORLD BANK AIDED PROJECTS

Integrated Watershed Development Project IWDP (Plains)

With the overall objective of minimising ecological degradation by promotion sustainable and replicable rain water conservation measures and diversified production system, the World Bank aided (Plains) was initiated in 1991 with a project life of 7 years (ending March, 1998) in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Orissa. The project life has been extended by one more year and now will be implemented upto 31-3-1999. The performance of the States is quite satisfactory. The cumulative achievement upto 1997-98 was 3.49 lakh ha. incurring an expenditure of Rs. 210,08,20 thousand against the target of 3.60 lakh ha. and outlay of Rs. 265,89,00 thousand.

During 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 44,30,00 thousand has been approved to cover an area of 53,992 ha. States have spent an amount of Rs. 176000 thousand by October, 1998 to cover an area of 30,000 ha. It is expected that entire target will be achieved. The cumulative credit disbursement under the project upto October, 1998 is US\$ 55280 thousand.

Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills)

The Project was designed to address to integrated

development of hilly areas specially of ecologically degraded Shivalik, Karewas ranges in Haryana, HP, J & K and Punjab for a period of 7 years now extended for one more year upto March, 1999.

By the end of 1997-98 states have spend Rs. 2354350 thousand to cover an area of 1.73 lakh ha. against the project target of Rs. 2922670 thousand to treat 2.21 lakh ha.

The outlay for 1998-99 was Rs. 530200 thousand to treat 33700 ha. States have spent an amount of Rs. 190430 thousand by October, 1998 to cover an area of 14000 ha. It is expected that the entire target will be achieved by the end of the project period.

The cumulative credit disbursement upto October, 1998 is US \$ 58600 thousand.

The World Bank funded Agricultural Development Project (ADP)

The multi-sectoral ADPs are presently being implemented in the states of Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Assam for creation of basic infrastructure for multi-sectoral activities. The Tamil Nadu ADP is going to close during Dec. 1998.

The projects have been progressing satisfactorily in Bihar and Rajasthan. However, in case of Assam, there is a slippage. The state is being constantly monitored to speed up implementation of various activities envisaged under the project. The UPDASP project has been launched during current financial year.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ASSISTED PROJECT Doon Valley Project

The objective of the project is to arrest and as far as possible reverse ongoing degradation of Doon Valley Environment. The project was launched in April, 1993 for a period of 9 years and will be completed by Dec. 2001. The project has 37400 ha. as treatable area with an outlay of Rs. 82950 thousand (ECU 237.00 lakh). An amount of Rs. 38720 thousand has been spent upto March, 1998 to treat an area of 8506 ha. The programme for 1998-99 is for Rs. 20230 thousand. The expenditure during 1998-99 upto October, 1998 is Rs. 6440 thousand.

SWISS ASSISTED PROJECTS

People's action for watershed development initiatives (PAWDI) Rajasthan

This project has been taken up in Rajasthan with its 3 years project period (1996-99). An area of 15,000 ha. in the districts of Chittorgarh and Alwar has been taken up for treatment at a cost of Rs. 153390 thousand. Two NGOs have been engaged to facilitate in the community organisation for planning and execution of different programme approved under the Project. An area of 1728 ha. has since been developed by August, 1998 with an expenditure of Rs. 28337 thousand.

Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development Project Karnataka (ISPWD-K)

The Swiss Development Corporation supported Indo-Swiss participative Watershed Development Project is under

implementation since December, 1995 and would last upto March, 1998. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 207300 thousand. An area of 30,000 ha. has been targetted for development under this project upto March, 1998 an area of 15370 ha. has been treated at a cost of Rs. 85570 thousand.

GERMAN (KREDITANSTANT FOR WIDDERAUFBAU) ASSISTED PROJECT KFA Assisted Watershed Management Project-Karnataka

KFW assisted Integrated Watershed Management Project with total project cost of Rs. 550750 thousand (DM 24 million) is being implemented in Karnataka to treat an area of 53633 ha. The programme is being implemented since August, 1996 with the active participation of six NGOs to run up to the year 2002.

KFW assisted Watershed Development in Maharashtra is being implemented through NABARD since April, 1992. The total cost of the project is Rs. 197000 thousand with KFW assistance of DM 12 million. The project is being implemented with active participation of NGOs.

A project on Capacity Building through NGOs for replication of Watershed Development with the total project cost of Rs. 251000 will be implemented after signing of the agreement. The project will create institutional framework for watershed management in cooperation with NGOs.

DANIDA AIDED PROJECTS

Comprehensive Watershed Development Project-Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

This project was launched in 1990-91 with the assistance from DANIDA. The objectives of the project are to arrest further erosion of badly degraded lands and to develop sustainable and cost effective utilisation of several types of land to create long term employment opportunities for farmers not able to cultivate their own land as well as additional employment opportunities for marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers. The main components of the project are survey, extension and training, planting of shelter belts, establishment of demonstration plots, study tours etc. Keeping in view the successful project at a total cost of Rs. 41,7200 thousand (with DANIDA assistance of Rs. 31,7200 thousand has been started). So far, an amount of Rs. 16,2800 thousand has been spent in the second phase.

Comprehensive Watershed Development Project-Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

The project was launched in 1994-95. The objectives of the project are to enable land users in priority watersheds to practise dry land agriculture range management, horticulture and forestry including conservation and use of natural resources on a sustainable basis. The main project components are formulation of village project committee leaders in community organisations, training in nursery raising and borewell maintenance, ploughing, development, establishment of shelter belts, soil and moisture plots, etc. The total project cost is Rs. 130000 thousand. So far, an amount of Rs. 507000 thousand has been spent.

Comprehensive Watershed Development Project, Karnataka

This project was launched in 1990-91 with assistance from DANIDA involving a total cost of Rs. 133500 thousand. The main objectives of the project are to develop an appropriate land use system through soil and moisture conservation activities and tree plantation in order to increase the over all production in the area and to improve the living conditions of landless, small holders and specifically rural women, by increasing production of fodder, wood and minor forest products on wasteland. This project is being implemented in the districts of Belgaum and Dharwar in Karnataka. The major components are soil and water conservation, afforestation, training, survey, studies and research. Total expenditure under phase-I is Rs. 104350 thousand. Keeping in view the successful implementation, DANIDA has agreed for a second phase of this project which started from 1997 at a cost of Rs. 210000 thousand.

Comprehensive Watershed Development Project—Koraput, Orissa

This project was launched in 1993-94. The objectives of the project are to establish sustainable and locally

acceptable land use system which are sustainable and ecologically sound. The land use system would enable the poorer rural communities to improve their living conditions and their supply of food, fuel and other essential without exploiting the natural resource to harmful stress. The main components of the project are soil and water conservation measures, mix tree plantations like horticulture, cashew plantation, sisal cultivation, training and demonstration etc. The total cost of the project was Rs. 132500 thousand. The total expenditure so far is Rs. 93650 thousand.

Comprehensive Watershed Development Project, Madhya Pradesh

The DANIDA Board has approved the project on 11 Sep. 1996. It is being implemented from March, 1997 or a period of five years at total cost of Rs. 131530 thousand. The project covers about 34000 ha. area in Jhabua, Dhar, Ratlam districts of Western Madhya Pradesh.

Statement-II

State-wise and Year-wise break-up of Expenditure on the Central Sector Scheme of studies in Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	2,12,000	—	2,12,000
2.	Karnataka	39,49,459	16,61,957	13,64,690	6,60,265	76,36,371
3.	Kerala	—	—	6,88,273	24,35,000	31,23,273
4.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	7,12,500	4,64,000	11,76,500
5.	Maharashtra	57,64,000	42,26,280	10,92,933	2,20,802	1,13,04,015
6.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	8,50,000	6,50,000	15,00,000
7.	West Bengal	—	—	99,250	38,250	1,37,500
8.	NCT of Delhi	2,12,000	35,41,257	28,64,399	5,12,361	71,30,017
9.	UT of Chandigarh	—	—	2,22,000	5,28,000	7,50,000
	Total	99,25,459	94,29,494	81,06,045	55,08,678	3,29,69,676

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

249. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance made available to each State by the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank during the last three years for the implementation of irrigation projects;

(b) the details of such projects implemented so far and the amount involved in each project, and latest position thereof, State-wise; and

(c) 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) During last three years only the World Bank has provided financial assistance, for irrigation projects, the State-wise details are as under :-

(US \$ Million)							
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Date of Signing Closing	Assistance Amount 31.12.98	Assistance Utilised upto	Assistance 1996-97	Utilised 1997-98 during 1998-99
1.	Maharashtra Composite Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	05.12.1985/ 31.12.1996	187.752	187.752	11.151	—
2.	Upper Krishna Phase II Irrigation Project	Karnataka	16.06.1989/ 31.12.1996	167.498	167.498	167.486	—
3.	Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Project	Punjab	09.02.1990/ 31.07.1998	161.679	156.748	29.175	16.402
4.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	Haryana	06.04.1994/ 31.03.2002	258.900	101.602	30.863	28.441
5.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	Tamil Nadu	29.04.1995/ 31.03.2002	282.900	18.268	02.064	01.9390
6.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Orissa	05.01.1996/ 30.09.2002	290.900	91.535	20.019	40.767
7.	Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	03.06.1997/ 31.01.2002	325.000	60.252	—	58.831

[English]

Construction of Dams

250. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major and medium dams in the country at present and the number out of them which are under construction;

(b) the details of location, estimated cost and progress of work of each dam as on date category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal recently from the State Governments, particu-

larly from the State Government of Kerala for the construction of a dam in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) State-wise number of ongoing major/medium irrigation projects during IX Plan alongwith their latest estimated cost cumulative expenditure upto end of VIII Plan is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Project Report of 35 numbers of dam projects including 3 of Kerala have been received from various State Governments during last 3 years.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of ongoing major projects during IXth Plan	Latest Estd. cost (Rs. Cr.)	Cum. Expdr. upto end of VIII 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.)	Remarks
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	—	—	—	—	—	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	150.58	
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	
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	2704.93	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 -10*	103186.89	39003.29	240	8283.62	4424.12	
		162						

*Deduction for Inter State Projects counted more than once.

Departmental Inquiries

251. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delays are taking place in conducting departmental inquiries in the Government Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the pending inquiries finalised in a time-bound programme; and

(d) the number of departmental inquiries pending as on date alongwith the period of their pendency?

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) Normally disciplinary proceedings are concluded in a time bound manner. However, some of them get delayed mainly for the following reasons.

(i) these proceedings being quasi judicial in nature, Inquiry Officers have to comply with the requirement of natural justice. Accordingly, Inquiry Officers have to allow perusal of additional documents sought for by the charged officers, besides granting adjournments.

(ii) the disciplinary proceedings are challenged in the Court of Law.

The need for eliminating delays and finalisation of departmental proceedings in a time bound manner have been reiterated to the Ministries/Departments. The Ministries/Departments are required to monitor such cases on a regular basis.

(d) Details of the disciplinary proceedings are maintained by the concerned Disciplinary Authorities for the various categories of Government servants and this information is not centrally maintained or monitored. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are concerned with the disciplinary cases of IAS officers serving in the Central Government and the Grade I and above officers of the Central Secretariat Service. In so far as the officers of the Indian Administrative Service working in the Central Government are concerned, there are six officers who are facing departmental inquiries as on date. Thirteen Grade I and above officers of the Central Secretariat Service are also facing departmental inquiries.

Foreign Tour

252. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries visited by the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister since 23rd December, 1998 till date;

(b) the issues discussed during these visits in each country; and

(c) the final outcome of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Prime Minister visited Trinidad and Tobago from February 8-9, 1999; Jamaica from February 9-12, 1999; and Morocco from February 13-14, 1999. The Minister of External Affairs visited the UK from February 2-7, 1999 and Jamaica from February 7-12, 1999.

(b) and (c)

Trinidad and Tobago

Among the issues discussed during Prime Minister's visit to Trinidad and Tobago were economic and technical co-operation in a wide range of areas and strengthening of the close cultural links between the two countries. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed to provide a fresh impetus to the flow of investment, technology, trade and services between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding of Low Cost Housing Support Centre in Port of Spain and laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation. The Institute is intended as a Centre for teaching of Indian dance, music and the Hindi language.

Jamaica

Prime Minister's visit to Jamaica was in the context of the G-15 Summit. The meetings addressed extensively the issues of concern to developing countries, including the current international economic situation in the light of the ongoing financial crises, establishment of a fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international monetary and financial architecture, South-South and intra G-15 cooperation and prospects of undertaking a G-15 - G-8 dialogue in these matters. The Summit also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menace of terrorism. India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the Third WTO International Conference was welcomed by the participants. They also endorsed India's proposal which suggested adoption of a strategic sectors approach for South-South Cooperation focussing on core areas like bio-technology, information technology and infrastructure development.

Morocco

Views were exchanged on important global and regional issues, and on ways and means to further expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. During the visit, a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, a Tourism Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Meghreb Arab Presse (MAP) for mutual professional cooperation were signed. Prime Minister's visit also helped to sensitise Morocco to our concerns.

UK

Discussions were held by the Minister of External Affairs on a wide range of issues including, inter-alia, bilateral cooperation, regional developments, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. These discussions have promoted mutual understanding and have contributed to overcome the hiatus, which had developed in the bilateral relationship after May, 1998.

[Translation]

Irrigation Schemes

253. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement new irrigation schemes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers of the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for their smooth implementation; and

(c) the total Central funds allocated to the State Governments for the purpose during 1996-97 and 1997-98, 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) A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Ganga Kalyan Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment in all the districts of the country with effect from 1.2.1997. During 1996-97, the scheme was operated as sub-scheme under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). From the beginning of the financial year of 1997-98, this scheme has been made an independent scheme with separate budgetary allocation. Under this scheme, central assistance is given to the States on 80:20 basis to provide irrigation through exploitation of Ground water (borewells and tubewells) to individuals and groups of beneficiaries belonging to small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line other than those who have already been assisted under any minor irrigation programme of the State or Central Government. During 1996-97 and 1997-98, Central Allocation under the Scheme was Rs. 9082.00 lakh and Rs. 9999.50 lakh respectively. State-wise Central allocation of the funds for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Central funds allocation under Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) during 1996-97 and 1997-98

State/UTs	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Central 1996-97	Allocation 1997-98
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	743.60	780.15
Arunachal Pradesh	55.53	56.670
Assam	244.95	426.220
Bihar	1445.87	1531.150
Goa	13.03	12.895
Gujarat	273.23	286.590
Haryana	65.34	68.850
Himachal Pradesh	21.74	22.485
Jammu & Kashmir	82.00	90.820
Karnataka	498.66	524.105
Kerala	181.80	190.655
Madhya Pradesh	941.79	989.160
Maharashtra	810.05	850.960
Manipur	40.26	40.870
Meghalaya	42.47	43.410
Mizoram	0.00	18.345

1	2	3
Nagaland	29.43	30.515
Orissa	603.16	633.225
Punjab	46.79	48.960
Rajasthan	390.89	410.990
Sikkim	5.46	5.085
Tamil Nadu	0.00	257.950
Tripura	70.00	112.980
Uttar Pradesh	1809.65	1846.790
West Bengal	666.30	699.575
A & N Islands	0.00	0.000
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	2.725
Daman & Diu	0.00	5.085
Lakshadweep	0.00	1.270
Pondicherry	0.00	10.550
Total	9082.00	9999.500

[English]

Welfare of Agricultural Workers

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

(a) the name of the States who have sent any new proposal to the Union Government for the welfare of Agricultural Workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

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 such proposal has been received from State Government for approval. However, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, propose to enact comprehensive Legislation for Agricultural Workers to provide for regulation of employment and working conditions of service and extend certain welfare measures to them.

[Translation]

Satellite Launching

255. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an internationally renowned satellite company of Russia has offered for cooperation in the field of satellite keeping in view the hurdles being created in this area by some countries after Pokharan nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Drip Irrigation

256. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state?

(a) whether any target has been fixed and financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for setting up of drip irrigation system during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government to raise the target and provide additional financial assistance for drip irrigation; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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 target fixed and financial assistance provided to the Government of Maharashtra during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture, which includes drip irrigation is given below:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Financial target	Assistance provided
1996-97	10.22	20.11
1997-98	19.56	24.47
1998-99	28.19	28.19

(b) and (c) The State Government had requested for providing additional funds to the tune of Rs. 100.00 crores during 1997-98. Based on the budgetary allocations under the scheme and the performance of the State, during 1997-98 the State was provided an assistance of Rs. 24.47 crores against their original target Rs. 19.56 crores. During 1998-99, against the financial allocations of Rs. 28.19 crores the State had demanded an additional Rs. 40 crores. During 1998-99, allocations to Maharashtra has already been stepped up from Rs. 24.47 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 28.19 crores in 1998-99 and the entire allocations of Rs. 28.19 crores for 1998-99 has been released to the State.

ISI Activities

257. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the agents of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and some fundamentalist groups are using Nepal as a base for their operations in India;

(b) If so, whether the Government have discussed the issue with the Nepal Government;

(c) If so, the outcome of the discussion; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop the ISI's activities in that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. Government have seen reports of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and some fundamentalist groups misusing Nepalese territory for their operations in India.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. Government have taken up the matter with the concerned authorities of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and have received assurances at the highest levels that Nepalese territory will not be used for activities inimical to India's interests. The Government of Nepal have been extending their cooperation in curbing such undesirable activities.

ISI Training Centres in Bangladesh

258. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the training camps have been established by Pakistani Intelligence Agency (ISI) in Bangladesh for intrusion of trained terrorists in various parts of the country;

(b) If so, the locations of these camps in Bangladesh;

(c) whether the Government have held any talks with the Government of Bangladesh in this regard; and

(d) If so, the response of the Government of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Reports indicate that agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI, are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. Government have been apprising the Government of Bangladesh regularly about this.

This subject is also part of the agenda at meetings of the Border Security Force, Joint Working Group on Border Management & Security and Home Secretary level talks that India has with Bangladesh. During the Home Secretary level talks with Bangladesh in Dhaka on 20-22 November 1998, both sides reaffirmed their resolve to not allow undesirable elements to use their territories for action prejudicial to the security interests of the other. Both sides agreed to share relevant intelligence towards this end.

[Translation]

Nuclear Control System

259. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has agreed to set up nuclear control system with India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) During the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Lahore, India and Pakistan have agreed to take immediate steps for reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, discuss concepts and doctrines with a view to elaborating measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at prevention of conflict. The two sides have also agreed to notify each other immediately in the event of any accidental, unauthorised or unexplained incident that could create the risk of a fallout with adverse consequences for both sides, or an outbreak of a nuclear war between the two countries, as well as to adopt measures aimed at diminishing the possibility of such actions, or such incidents being misinterpreted by the other. The two sides shall identify/establish the appropriate communication mechanism for this purpose.

(c) Government welcome these measures intended to promote and environment of peace and security between the two countries.

[English]

Production of Kesari Dal

260. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of Kesari Dal is harmful for the human beings;
- (b) if so, whether ICAR have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government on the use of Kesari Dal 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) In certain areas Khesari is produced and consumed by human beings. Consumption of Khesari dal has been reported to be associated with the crippling paralytic disease known as Lathyrism as per published reports.

(b) and (c) A survey about production, consumption pattern and harmful effect of Khesari Dal on human health was conducted in a sample of villages in Chattisgarh region of M.P. by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur in 1996. The major findings of survey are summarized as follows:-

Families surveyed involved marginal, small and medium farmers. It was found that most families use Khesari as dal and some use it in the form of besan and bread. It is reported that those who used Khesari in bulk quantities as food during 1974-75 food deficit period have suffered due to lathyrism. As per report of survey 15 people were found to be affected due to lathyrism. These were cases of 1974-75 and 1980-81. About 48% people surveyed were aware of the harmful affect of Khesari dal consumption.

It is to be mentioned that socio-epidemiological studies conducted in many other countries suggest that there is close association between consumption of Khesari Dal and Lathyrism in human beings.

(d) The ban of the sale and storage for sale of Khesari dal has been in operation since 1961 under Rule 44-A of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act.

Crop Insurance Scheme

261. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL

SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which modified comprehensive crop insurance scheme is likely to be launched;
- (b) whether the Government have decided to send its team to France, South Africa, Australia and Philippines to study the crop insurance system in these countries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and further benefits likely to be given to Indian farmers as compared to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) It is proposed to launch the modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from the Kharif, 1999 season.

(b) No decision in this regard has been taken as yet.

(c) Does not arise.

Status Report on Electronic Industry

262. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have prepared a status report on electronic industry in India;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics regularly monitors the performance of electronic industry in India. The production profile of electronic industry is regularly published in the Electronics Information and Planning journal of the Department for wider circulation. The Department of Electronics has also brought out the 1999 edition of the 'Guide to Electronic Industry in India', as the basic reference source for all information on the Indian Electronics industry. It covers a wide range of information such as:

1. Manufacturers Directory
2. Product Directory
3. Export Product Directory
4. Time series Data on Production & Exports
5. Electronics Units in States etc.

(c) The Department is examining the feasibility of producing a more detailed and comprehensive report about the status of the electronics industry in the country.

Population Below Poverty Line

263. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission have received any representation/proposal from the Government of Orissa to revise the percentage of population living below poverty line in rural areas of States;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(c) the present percentage of the population living below the poverty line in rural areas of Orissa?

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 Government of Orissa has represented for adopting the national level poverty line for estimation of poverty in the States.

(b) The Planning Commission after carefully considering the recommendation of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor has taken the view that state-specific poverty line calculated from state-specific price indices be used to estimate poverty, rather than a national poverty line uniformly for all the States.

(c) As per the latest estimates, 48.56 per cent of the rural population in Orissa were below the poverty line in 1993-94.

[Translation]

National Projects Construction Corporation

264. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees of the corporation have not been paid their salaries for the last one and half year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the revival of NPCC Limited and expeditious payment of its employees?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir, NPCC has not been able to pay salaries/wages to about 1100 employees, mostly posted in non-performing Units, for varying lengths of time.

(d) NPCC Ltd. is a sick Public Sector Undertaking and has been incurring heavy losses since 1989 onwards due to high employment cost, surplus manpower, interest burden on loans, low recovery of outstanding dues from project authorities and insufficient generation of funds.

(e) A set of alternatives on future course of action has been prepared. This Ministry has also been providing loan assistance to NPCC Ltd. for meeting the statutory liabilities for payment of salaries/wages.

[English]

Ninth Plan Draft

265. SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded its approval to the Ninth Plan Draft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the broad features of Draft Plan; and

(d) the details of projections made in financial terms in each sector during the Plan period?

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 Ninth Five year Plan has been approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 48th Meeting held on 19.2.1999. The Plan envisages a target growth rate of 6.5 per cent with Public Sector Outlay of Rs. 859,200 crore at 1996-97 prices consisting of Rs. 492,221 crore for the Centre including UTs without legislature and Rs. 366,979 crore for States including UTs with legislature.

(d) The details of the projections in each sector during the Plan period is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Public Outlay by Major Heads of Development in the Ninth Plan

(Figures as Rs. Crore at 1996-97 prices)

Head of Development	Total	Percentage of Ninth Plan
Agriculture and Allied Activities	42462.41	4.9
Irrigation & Flood Control	55420.25	6.5
Rural Development	74685.80	8.7
Special Programmes	3649.00	0.4
Energy	222375.38	25.9
Industry & Minerals	65147.99	7.6
Transport	119372.52	13.9
Communications	47280.29	5.5
Science & Tech. & Environment	18457.62	2.1
Gen. Economic Services	14579.74	1.7
General Services	12496.18	1.5
Social Services	183272.82	21.3
Total	859200.00	100.0

Letters from MPs

266. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned Sansad Sadasyon tak ke patron ka uttar dena uchit nahi samajhti Sarkar appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 4, 1999.

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein:

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a special cell to monitor correspondence between the Members of Parliament and Government Offices; and

(d) 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are long standing instructions of the Government to the effect that letters received from Members of Parliament must be responded to promptly, within 15 days. However, where a final reply can not be given within that period, an interim reply is to be given. The need for prompt action on such letters has been reiterated from time to time. The Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had requested the Ministers in the Government of India to ensure that replies to communications received from MPs duly acknowledged and attended to promptly. The Cabinet Secretary has also instructed all Secretaries to the Government of India on 23.5.98 and again on 9.9.98 in this regard.

(c) and (d) Guidelines exist under para 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure for keeping a special watch on speedy disposal of communications received from the Members of Parliament and a separate register is maintained in each section of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Further disposal of such communications is also closely monitored by the Joint Secretary/Director of each wing of a Ministry/Department. In view of this, setting up of a special cell to monitor correspondence between the Members of Parliament and the Government Offices is not proposed.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

267. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidy given at present by the Government on different varieties of fertilisers; and

(b) whether the Government propose to decrease the prices of Potash and fertilizers in view of famine and floods and to increase the production of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The rates at which concession (subsidy) is being paid at present for various phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are given below:

Product	Rate of concession (Rs. MT.)
DAP (Indigenous)	4400
DAP (Imported)	3400
MOP	3000
SSP	900
Complexes	2477-4071

In the case of urea the difference between the cost of production/import and the statutorily fixed sale price is borne by the Government as subsidy.

(b) Government had decided not to fix the prices of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during Rabi

1998-99 and that they would be dictated by market forces which would have resulted in some increase in their prices. Keeping in view the prospects of food grains production in the Kharif 1998 season, which was seriously affected by floods and droughts in some parts of the country. Government have fixed the Maximum Retail Prices of these fertilisers, including Muriate of Potash, for Rabi 1998-99 at the levels in force from 1.4.1997.

[English]

Visa Free Entry

268. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hong Kong has reduced the visa free entry period from three months to 14 days for the people of South Asia;

(b) if so, the details of the same and main reasons advanced by that country;

(c) whether this decision of Hong Kong Government is likely to affect a large number of Indians living in Hong Kong;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with that Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) After Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty in June, 1997, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government continued the practice, prevailing during the British rule, of granting visas for three months on arrival to Indian nationals. The HKSAR Government has now decided that, effective from January 18, 1999, holders of Indian passports may enter Hong Kong without visa for a period of not more than 14 days. For a stay of over 14 days, Indian nationals will have to obtain visa from Chinese Embassy or Consulate in the country of origin, or, through the Hong Kong Immigration Department, before arrival.

The Hong Kong Government had earlier conveyed a review of the visa policy applicable to Indian national would be influenced by the fact that India does not extend a reciprocal facility of visa on arrival for Hong Kong passport holders, and by the increasing misuse of the facility of the three month visa on arrival by Indian nationals by overstay-ing and seeking illegal employment.

(c) No, it is likely to affect only those Indian visitors who, intend staying longer than 14 days.

(d) and (e) Government have conveyed its regret to the Chinese side and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at the revision of the visa privileges for Indian passport holders visiting Hong Kong. We have requested that the earlier visa policy for Indian nationals be restored for the smooth development of mutually beneficial trade and economic relations. We have pointed out that this move would adversely affect the Indian visitors (over ninety-three thousand in 1998) to Hong Kong and our bilateral trade which is in excess of US \$ 2.5 billion. We have also pointed out that illegal over-staying cases are negligible.

Pak Ultras

269. SHRI P. SANKARAN : 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 'British Mosques a safe haven for Pak Ultras' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 1, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Mission in UK have submitted any report on the issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Government have taken up the issue with the British Government to curb their activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian High Commission have provided information on activities of extremist groups which could be cause for concern.

(d) and (e) There is on-going cooperation with the British Government on matters relating to terrorist activities. All such reports are brought to the attention of the British Government and corroboration is sought.

Strengthening of UN

270. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : 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 "Paralysis of peace-maker" appearing in the Hindu dated January 31, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the role the Government propose to play in strengthening United Nations mission as a peacemaker; and

(d) the stand taken by India in the reorganisation of 21-member United Nations Special Commission arms

inspecting team and the comprehensive review of the extent of Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Government has seen the article titled "Paralysis of the Peacemaker", which appeared in the Hindu dated January 31, 1999. The article focusses on differences within the UN Security Council with regard to recent air strikes against Iraq and the question of restoration of the weapons inspection regime. Discussions on proposals outlining modalities of future monitoring and verification regime in Iraq are understood to be currently going on in the UN Security Council.

(c) and (d) The Government supports compliance by Iraq with the UN Security Council resolutions in tandem with the lifting of sanctions. India is against the use of force and supports amelioration of the condition of the people of Iraq. India is in touch with concerned member states, including NAM and Security Council members in this regard and is carefully following discussions in the Council.

UN International Convention Treaty

271. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ratified the U.N. International Convention Treaty against Torture and other cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) By what time the Government propose to ratify treaty; and

(d) the names of the countries which have not so far ratified the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) India signed the UN Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment on October 14, 1997. India has, however, not yet ratified the Convention because the need to amend our legislation to bring it in conformity with the provisions of the Convention is under examination. As soon as this process is complete and the necessary amendment of legislation, if found necessary, enacted, the Government will be in a position to ratify the Convention.

(d) A list giving the names of the countries which have not so far ratified the Convention (as on December 05, 1997) is attached as statement.

Statement

List of countries which have not so far ratified the Convention (As on December 05, 1997)

1. Bahamas
2. Bahrain

3. Bangladesh
4. Barbados
5. Bhutan
6. Botswana
7. Brunei Darussalam
8. Burkina Faso
9. Central African Republic
10. Comoros
11. Congo
12. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
13. Djibouti
14. Dominica
15. Equatorial Guinea
16. Eritrea
17. Fiji
18. Ghana
19. Grenada
20. Guinea Bissau
21. Haiti
22. Iran
23. Iraq
24. Jamaica
25. Japan
26. Kazakhstan
27. Lao People's Democratic Republic
28. Lebanon
29. Lesotho
30. Liberia
31. Madagascar
32. Malaysia
33. Maldives
34. Mali
35. Marshall Islands
36. Mauritania

37. Micronesia
38. Mongolia
39. Mozambique
40. Myanmar
41. Niger
42. Oman
43. Pakistan
44. Palau
45. Papua New Guinea
46. Qatar
47. Rwan
48. Saint Kitts and Nevis
49. Saint Lucia
50. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
51. Samoa
52. San Marino
53. Sao Tome and Principe
54. Singapore
55. Solomon Islands
56. Suriname
57. Swaziland
58. Syrian Arab Republic
59. Thailand
60. Trinidad and Tobago
61. Turkmenistan
62. United Arab Emirates
63. Vanuatu
64. Vietnam
65. Zambia
66. Zimbabwe

[Translation]

Quality seeds

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Corporation of seeds have played an important role in the development of quality seeds;

(b) If so, the place of India in the World market of seed trade;

(c) whether the Agriculture Universities or other seeds generating units are working for developing the quality oil seeds for crops namely soyabean, sunflower and ground-nuts;

(d) If so, whether the demand of quality seeds is likely to be more than 100 lakh tonnes in the coming two years; and

(e) If so, the steps taken to meet the demand?

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) India is contributing less than one per cent to the world market of seed trade.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities are working for developing the quality seed including the crops namely soyabean, sunflower and groundnut. There are National Research Centres and All India Coordinated Research Projects in case of these oilseed crops which also cater to the need of breeder seed of the oilseed crops.

(d) No, Sir. The projected demand for certified seed shall be 109.66 lakh quintals by 2001-2002.

(e) The following major steps are taken to meet the demand.

1. Creation and strengthening of suitable infrastructure/facilities for seed production.
2. Provision of Revolving Funds for seed production.
3. Sponsored breeder seed production.
4. Involvement of National Seed Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and other related agencies
5. Provision of centres for buffer stocking and processing viz. at Indian Agricultural Research Institute and its regional research station at Karnal.
6. Project for Production of Breeder Seed of Annual Oilseed Crops.
7. State Seed Corporation, State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes, National Seed Corporation and State Farm Corporation of India have been strengthened under World Bank aided National Seed Project-III.

[English]

Agreements with Russia

273. SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed a number of pacts with Russia during the visit of Russian Prime Minister to India in the month of December, 1998;

(b) if so, the gist of agreements signed;

(c) whether any such agreements covers any new area of mutual interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The following bilateral documents were signed during the visit to India in December 1998 by the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Y.M. Primakov: Extradition Treaty; Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; Consular Convention; Long Term Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation upto the year 2010; Joint Document on Development of Trade Economic, Industrial Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation; Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications; and Air Transport Agreement.

(b) to (d) India and the Russian Federation have traditionally enjoyed close and mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields. The purpose of the above Agreements is to reinforce the existing bilateral cooperation and to expand it further in the concerned fields. Accordingly the agreements contain specific provisions for strengthening and streamlining cooperation in the sectors to which they relate. During the above visit, both sides reaffirmed their determination to impart a long term perspective to their multifaceted ties and actively develop them into the 21st century.

[Translation]

Production of Potato and Onion

274. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the largest producing fruit and vegetables State in the country;

(b) the annual production of fruit and vegetables during the last three years State-wise;

(c) the details of the per capita availability of fruit and vegetables in the country;

(d) whether the prices of fruit and vegetables have increased substantially;

(e) if so, whether the Government have fixed the support price of fruit and vegetables, specially support price of potatoes and onions;

(f) the name of the State sought financial assistance to attain self-sufficiency in vegetables and fruit production; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of fruit and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Bihar in fruits and U.P. in vegetables are the largest producers in the country as per data available for 1995-96.

(b) State-wise annual production of fruits and vegetables during the last three years is not available. However, data for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Availability of fruits and vegetables in the country is about 95.0 gm and 175.0 gm per capita per day respectively.

(d) Prices of fruits have not varied substantially during the year. However, the prices of vegetables especially onion and potatoes had increased considerably during October-November due to poor harvest of onion and potato on account of unfavourable weather condition. The prices have now declined and the wholesale prices of onion and potato, which during November-December, 1998 varied between Rs. 1400 to Rs. 2000 and Rs. 230 to 1367 per quintal respectively are now ruling between Rs. 350 to 700 in case of onion and Rs. 375 per quintal in case of potato.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Kerala State had sought financial assistance to attain self sufficiency in vegetables.

(g) The Government of India are implementing the following schemes for increasing the production of fruits and vegetables:

1. Integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits.
2. Production and supply of vegetable seeds.
3. Development of root and tuber crops.
4. Development of mushroom.
5. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
6. Development of bee-keeping for improving crops productivity.
7. Schemes under National Horticulture Board for post harvest infrastructure.

Statement*State-wise production of fruits & vegetables**Production in metric tonnes*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs.	Fruits			Vegetables		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5022766	5161528	5469626	1420029	2341204	2444295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50266	50266	66392	80117	80117	80117
3.	Assam	1166423	1239064	1211643	1931874	1970007	2484536
4.	Bihar	3583817	3378162	6045390	13610198	11726318	12284700
5.	Delhi	9581	1584	3154	463897	551232	613113
6.	Goa	88260	121450	93599	—	65000	65000
7.	Gujarat	2243756	2447664	2068143	1869900	1729800	2089089
8.	Haryana	123300	133500	145000	1155000	1275000	1420000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	325477	325477	311889	537800	544000	569000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	867528	746143	790309	353706	353706	353706
11.	Karnataka	4196935	4510728	4726421	5035203	5668400	5705142
12.	Kerala	1782949	1809796	1826057	2789555	2789555	2789555
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1320210	1118000	1143000	2551300	2241000	2353000
14.	Maharashtra	5112549	5099340	4798899	2737625	2808022	2957335
15.	Manipur	110000	110075	110998	33000	35000	36250
16.	Meghalaya	236508	202136	239008	238071	199845	211452
17.	Mizoram	43668	50636	71299	45102	76648	79251
18.	Nagaland	55968	72936	71855	107643	87104	87147
19.	Orissa	1150900	1272100	1241500	7983536	7896400	8705654
20.	Punjab	727981	736802	760721	1721379	1721379	1774102
21.	Rajasthan	95005	230134	238475	363164	283357	356908
22.	Sikkim	21557	11500	12000	46911	28792	50640
23.	Tamil Nadu	3620646	4818576	4818576	4389043	4397932	4397932
24.	Tripura	325550	325550	400894	320850	320850	358480
25.	U.P. (Hills)	460345	492616	502200	717850	774408	790530
	U.P. (Plains)	3010529	2870534	3008838	10359928	11911660	13082540
26.	West Bengal	1458123	1219400	1282500	4858500	5340000	5391000
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	16015	16665	16670	18872	16380	15850
28.	Chandigarh	793	—	—	8720	—	—
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7100	7100	7100	13565	13565	13500
30.	Daman & Diu	3375	3375	3375	869	1029	1029
31.	Lakshadweep	478	575	677	127	132	138
32.	Pondicherry	17047	19550	20803	23379	37075	33573
Total		37255405	38602962	41507011	65786713	67285917	71594564

Languages Used in Competitive Exams

275. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given option to write answer in Indian languages in all the competitive examinations for recruitment in various services;

(b) if so, the list of all such services;

(c) whether the resolution passed by the Parliament to this effect on 18 January, 1968 has been fully implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Government propose to implement it?

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) No, Sir. The option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India is available only in Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission.

(c) and (d) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Satish Chandra was asked to examine *inter alia* the issue relating to introduction of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as medium of competitive examinations. The recommendations made by the Expert Committee are under consideration of the Government. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, the Government's effort is to arrive at a consensus.

[English]

Cultivating Global Markets

276. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned 'Cultivating Global Markets' appearing in the Business India dated December 14-27, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have any plans to tap the massive potential available in horticulture and floriculture development; 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) The News Item points out that the export potential for India's agricultural produce has remained untapped, inadequate and primitive post-harvest infrastructure, insufficient

storage and cooling facilities and lack of immediate market for the perishables are the main reasons for not being able to tap the potential. While attempting to tap the potential for exports, the vulnerability of the Indian consumer due to increasing population also cannot be overlooked. It has also been mentioned that India enjoys strong advantage in food production and a growth in the food industry will bring increased benefits to the economy, raising agricultural yields, improving productivity, creating employment and raising the standard of living of the large number of people. The promise held by horticulture and floriculture has been specially mentioned.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, recognising the potential of horticulture and floriculture, increased the allocation of Horticulture including Floriculture of Rs. 1000/- crores during the 8th Five Year Plan. Various schemes implemented in this sector promote expansion of area under these crops, availability of seeds and planting material of high yielding varieties, improved productivity of existing plantations, development of infrastructure for Post harvest management, demonstration and export enhancement.

Ground Water

277. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is constant fall in Ground Water level in desert districts of Western Rajasthan viz., Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore;

(b) if so, whether a number of drinking water schemes in said districts have become defunct due to fall of underground water level; and

(c) the details thereof and the measures being taken by the Government to increase ground level in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a decline of more than four metres in the level of Ground Water in desert districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore in Western Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Water supply being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, execute, operate and maintain water supply schemes. Union Government have not identified any water supply scheme which has become defunct in the desert districts of Western Rajasthan. The steps taken by the Union Government to check the decline in the level of ground water in the country, including the desert districts of Western Rajasthan include:

- (i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, including Rajasthan, to enable

- them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'over-exploited' and 'Dark blocks' of the country.

[Translation]

Cow Smuggling and Slaughtering

278. SHRI ADITYANATH :

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidences of cow-smuggling and cow-slaughtering in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) whether any plan has been made by the Government to check the same;

(c) If so, the details thereof; 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) The Central Government has not received any report in this matter. The Delhi Administration has also not received any report.

(b) to (d) The preservation and protection of cattle is a matter in the State List in The Seventh Schedule of The Constitution. In view of (a) above and the position in the Constitution, no action needs to be taken by the Central Government.

[English]

Supply of DTH Rigs

279. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of water in the districts of Kathua, Udhampur and Doda of J & K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have assured that DTH Rigs are to be provided to Central Ground Board, Jammu; and

(d) If so, the time by which these rigs are likely to be provided and become operational in the State?

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 assessment by Central Ground Water Board of availability of resources, as ground water is in abundance in tarai belt of Kathua district. Scarcity conditions are experienced in Kandl belt of Kathua close to foothills due to the fact that ground water is available at relatively greater depth.

The Central Ground Water Board has carried out ground water survey at Udhampur and Doda districts. However, the exploration assessment of availability of ground water in these districts has not been done so far.

As per information received from the State Government 954 water supply schemes are in operation in the districts of Kathua (176), Udhampur (323) and Doda (455).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) CGWB has planned for the deployment of one Down-The-Hole (DTH) rig in Jammu area of Jammu & Kashmir during 1999-2000.

Gross Domestic Product

280. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product from agriculture was lower in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to bring the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product from agriculture at par with the population growth rate in the States;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the measure taken by the Government to raise public investment for building a strong farming and post harvest infrastructure in the country; and

(f) impact of such measures in the development of Agricultural Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The annual growth rate of gross domestic product from agriculture sector at constant prices (1993-94) during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 was -0.1 per cent, 9.6 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively. The state-wise details as per the latest available information are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The growth rate of agriculture sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been projected at 4.5% which is more than the growth rate of population.

(e) and (f) The Government envisage to increase public investment and encourage private investment in agricul-

ture during the Ninth Plan besides encouraging greater community participation in irrigation management. In order to complete long pending incomplete rural infrastructure projects, RIDF is in existence since 1995-96 to provide credit flow in priority sector such as irrigation (major, medium and minor) water shed management, rural roads, bridges flood protection measures etc. On completion of the sanctioned projects, additional potential will be created to irrigate 3.5 million hectares and employment of over 1 million will be created. Government has also launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of long spill over valley projects.

Statement

Annual Growth Rate of GSDP from Agriculture Sector at Constant (1980-81) Price over Previous Year

(per cent)				
Sl. No.	State/UT	1995-96 (P)	1996-97 (Q)	1997-98 (A)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.4	5.2	-16.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.9	-21.7	24.2
3.	Assam	1.6	2.2	-
4.	Bihar	-12.2	2.4	-
5.	Delhi	-41.9	-11.7	-
6.	Goa	2.1	9.3	-
7.	Gujarat	-25.7	29.3	-
8.	Haryana	-5.7	11.2	-8.4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8.1	-	-
10.	J & K	4.3	-	-
11.	Karnataka	3.6	0.9	-
12.	Kerala	2.5	3.2	4.1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.5	8.1	-
14.	Maharashtra	7.9	16.9	-
15.	Manipur	-6.1	3.1	-
16.	Meghalaya	19.5	5.8	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	-3.1	-15.6	-
19.	Punjab	-0.6	9.2	-4.4
20.	Rajasthan	-6.3	25.4	-3.3
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-16.4	-4.7	23.9
23.	Tripura	10.3	6.2	-

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.2	10.4	-5.8
25.	West Bengal	1.2	8.8	-
26.	A & N Island	4.5	-	-
27.	Pondicherry	-9.6	-5.5	-
All India		-0.1	9.6	-1.3
GDP (Rs. Crores)				
at (1993-94) prices				

Replenishment of Fish

281. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether overfishing in Indian Ocean is destroying eco-system and habitats in many areas; and

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken to ensure replenishment of fish and maintain eco-balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Fishing in the Indian Ocean is moderate at present compared to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. However, exploitation from inshore areas of majority of the countries bordering Indian Ocean including India has reached optimum level with respect to certain target species/groups.

Various steps are being undertaken to maintain eco-balance such as optimising and rationalising fishing fleet as well as the fishing efforts by area-wise deployment of different categories of fishing vessels, making suitable regulations of fishing gear and mesh size, uniform closed fishing season, developing deep sea fishing including diversified fishing, undertaking projects on sea ranching, setting up of artificial reefs, etc.

[Translation]

Kelo Irrigation Project

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

(a) whether the Kelo Irrigation Project of Madhya Pradesh is pending with Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the total cost of the project and the time by which the work on this project is likely to commence?

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 Project Report of the Kelo Irrigation Project estimated to cost Rs. 57.88 crores was received from Madhya Pradesh during May, 1988. The project report was sent back to the State due to non-compliance of observations of the

Central Appraising Agencies by the State. The Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted during July, 1998 updated estimate of Rs. 188.18 crores. The State Government has, however, been requested to submit modified Project Report with updated cost estimates incorporating therein the compliances of the comments of the Centre.

Water Logging

283. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total cultivable land affected in the country due to water logging during 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from any State Government, particularly from Bihar for draining of water in water logged areas; and

(c) if so, the decision 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) Information regarding areas of total cultivable lands affected due to waterlogging in the country during 1998-99 is not available. However, the waterlogged areas in cultivable lands, both in irrigated and unirrigated areas, as assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture (1984-85) is 85.26 lakh ha. The State-wise details are given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) has been receiving and projects from different State Governments including Bihar for reclamation of Waterlogged areas in irrigated commands covered under centrally sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme. The Ministry had issued administrative approval on merits from time to time to take up reclamation works.

Statement

Extent of Waterlogged Areas as Estimated by Ministry of Agriculture (1984-85)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Waterlogged areas (in lakh ha.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.39
2.	Assam	4.50
3.	Bihar	7.07
4.	Gujarat	4.84
5.	Haryana	6.20
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.10

1	2	3
7.	Karnataka	0.10
8.	Kerala	0.61
9.	Madhya Pradesh	0.57
10.	Maharashtra	1.11
11.	Orissa	0.60
12.	Punjab	10.90
13.	Rajasthan	3.48
14.	Tamil Nadu	0.18
15.	Uttar Pradesh	19.80
16.	West Bengal	21.80
17.	Delhi	0.01
	Total	85.26
	m.ha.	8.53

Irrigation Projects

284. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects proposed to be constructed in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them completed so far;

(c) the target fixed for the irrigation capacity and achieved by the Government during the last Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the percentage of irrigation capacity actually utilised during the 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) State-wise details of the ongoing and new Major and Medium Irrigation Projects under construction during IX Plan is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) A target of 5.08 million hectares through Major and Medium Irrigation Projects was fixed during Eighth Five Year Plan period of which 2.08 million hectares was created.

(d) Against a target of 4.25 million hectares for utilisation of created potential; 2.05 million hectares (48%) was utilised during 8th Five Year Plan.

Statement**Number of Irrigation Projects in Ninth Plan**

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	No. of Projects spillover from previous plan		No. of New projects proposed in IX Plan	
		Major	Medium	Major	Medium
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	20	12	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	4	9	—	6
4.	Bihar	14	29	7	30
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—
6.	Gujarat	9	9	1	4
7.	Haryana	5	—	7	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	9	—	1
10.	Karnataka	14	15	8	8
11.	Kerala	7	5	2	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	32	7	20
13.	Maharashtra	36	66	11	7
14.	Manipur	2	2	—	1
15.	Meghalaya	—	1	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	5	10	6	4
19.	Punjab	—	1	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	6	6	6	16
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	2	1	2
23.	Tripura	—	3	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18	2	3	14
25.	West Bengal	3	17	6	18
Total		162	240	78	139

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

285. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers of Jammu & Kashmir State have been benefited under the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(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) and (b) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is already under implementation in the country since kharif, 1985. All farmers who avail crop loan from rural financial institutions viz., cooperatives, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks for growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), oil seeds and pulses are eligible for insurance coverage under the scheme. The sum insured is equal to the crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer. The insurance charges payable are 2% (for wheat, paddy and Millets) and 1% (for oilseeds and pulses) of the sum insured. 50% of the premium payable by small and marginal farmers is subsidized jointly by the Central and State Governments on 50:50 basis. The scheme is voluntary in nature and the States are free to opt in favour of it.

(c) to (e) Jammu & Kashmir has participated in the Scheme during Rabi 1986-87, Kharif 1987 and Rabi 1987-88 seasons only. During these seasons 54,586 farmers were covered for a sum insured of Rs. 789.48 lakh. The total claims amounting to Rs. 65.20 lakh were paid during these seasons.

[Translation]

Horticulture and Fisheries

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

(a) the names of the schemes implemented in the field of horticulture, fisheries etc. during each of the last three years;

(b) the funds made available by the Government during each of the last three years and current year also to each State;

(c) the amount actually utilised by each of the State Government during the said period; and

(d) whether the State Government have sought additional funds during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A list of schemes implemented for development of horticulture and fisheries during the last three years is given at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) State-wise release/utilisation of funds during the last three years and current year under Horticulture and Fisheries schemes are given at Statement-II and III respectively.

(d) Details of the Additional Funds sought by State Government during the current year are given below:-

Scheme	State	Outlay 1998-99	Additional Fund sought during 1998-99 (Rs. Lakhs)
Use of Plastic in Agriculture	Rajasthan	384.90	100.00
	Andhra Pradesh	1410.75	1000.00
	Tamil Nadu	1060.00	2400.00

Statement-I

List of Schemes implemented in the field of Horticulture and Fisheries

Horticulture

1. Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits.
2. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds.
3. Development of Commercial Floriculture.
4. Development of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants.

Fisheries

5. Development of Cocoa.
6. Development of Root and Tuber Crops.
7. Development of Beekeeping in India for increasing the production of Horticulture crops.
8. Development of Mushroom.
9. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.
10. Programme for Development of Cashew in India.
11. Promotion of Use of Plastics in Horticulture.
- 12.* Development of Beetelvine.
- 13.* Development of Arecanut.

* Dropped in Ninth Plan.

Statement-II

State-wise Release & Utilisation of Funds during Last Three Years and 1998-99 under Horticulture Schemes

(Provisional Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State	REL. 95-96	UTI. 95-96	REL. 96-97	UTI. 96-97	REL. 97-98	UTI. 97-98	Release of funds 98-99 as on 30.9.98	Expend. during 1998-99 as on 30.9.98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	466.08	806.59	3045.9	1265.2	1308.49	1770.98	847.57	1245.13
Arunachal Pradesh	115.13	127.39	93.49	88.92	142.15	190.06	161.09	0.00
Assam	39.26	43.53	17.80	17.80	43.51	23.84	41.75	0.00
Bihar	8.88	11.47	150.67	154.09	127.82	168.65	168.15	0.00
Goa	140.44	119.91	145.55	128.69	46.90	141.88	110.75	101.92
Gujarat	54.45	104.84	44.12	243.50	206.55	182.53	177.36	3.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	177.61	173.50	126.06	257.53	132.07	141.92	298.15	133.55
Himachal Pradesh	38.25	141.86	53.10	131.69	37.00	122.46	106.27	41.00
Jammu & Kashmir	533.74	360.59	799.92	715.37	825.91	897.25	262.00	0.00
Karnataka	1486.0	1801.5	2262.8	2684.9	2752.18	2705.38	2283.33	1019.64
Kerala	1801.7	2527.3	2178.7	2184.1	1904.24	1763.22	1345.08	161.38
Madhya Pradesh	497.09	229.13	19.75	484.51	297.66	230.98	233.64	63.00
Maharashtra	2722.3	2178.2	2522.8	3053.5	3283.05	3120.36	1999.91	0.00
Manipur	162.69	87.55	209.83	272.80	300.12	137.56	81.62	40.00
Meghalaya	75.42	62.20	58.33	66.14	64.46	1.13	86.00	0.00
Mizoram	70.88	88.13	129.08	94.97	109.26	134.22	88.05	73.39
Nagaland	101.29	128.46	140.10	141.18	169.24	90.84	84.00	82.40
Orissa	391.47	281.70	621.46	590.59	739.30	554.65	223.00	0.00
Punjab	211.43	134.12	238.56	94.34	103.00	292.08	146.97	0.00
Rajasthan	147.92	244.95	231.76	286.17	443.53	457.83	301.97	192.85
Tamil Nadu	1222.4	947.37	1286.7	1210.8	883.29	381.44	1086.10	353.08
Tripura	53.61	31.08	29.29	75.94	69.58	19.52	53.10	3.03
Uttar Pradesh	93.36	99.51	0.00	70.92	128.74	230.10	34.50	100.08
West Bengal	37.57	32.83	25.31	76.12	110.00	51.41	35.50	36.00
Sikkim	49.28	119.85	103.51	112.13	142.85	114.76	149.25	98.19
A & N Islands	15.28	15.28	16.18	16.18	34.62	16.08	19.40	6.21
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	12.50	0.00	1.00	0.00
Dadra & N Haveli	0.65	0.65	11.43	0.00	13.30	0.00	2.50	0.00
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	11.33	0.00	14.80	0.00	7.50	0.00
Delhi	37.00	9.50	11.42	18.44	57.00	16.53	83.47	1.53
Lakshadweep	11.97	11.97	11.87	11.87	15.40	7.95	10.00	0.00
Pondicherry	16.62	8.84	11.80	4.98	10.50	3.00	13.13	0.00
Total	10780	10930	14615	14553	14514.04	13998.61	10542.11	3756.17

*Excluding schemes/programmes being implemented directly by CDB/NHB.

Statement-III

Funds released to States and U.Ts. for schemes relating to fisheries*

(Rs. lakhs)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	359.78	314.96	265.71	3.50
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	26.00	24.00	1.00

	1	2	3	4	5
3. Assam		26.20	59.18	41.50	3.50
4. Bihar		54.10	35.75	127.80	-
5. Goa		5.19	35.51	108.77	23.91
6. Gujarat		692.94	808.54	842.05	544.87
7. Haryana		66.25	30.96	26.42	22.00
8. Himachal Pradesh		32.21	2.13	18.56	15.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir		44.40	46.62	75.67	-
10. Karnataka		268.24	213.24	644.44	556.87

1	2	3	4	5
11. Kerala	983.33	1,229.08	1,027.52	399.00
12. Madhya Pradesh	201.79	165.13	265.78	203.00
13. Maharashtra	316.49	780.04	1,082.83	359.57
14. Manipur	44.88	28.02	30.24	14.85
15. Meghalaya	52.00	2.00	35.60	—
16. Mizoram	5.93	14.50	9.50	—
17. Nagaland	33.00	105.00	41.12	40.00
18. Orissa	181.04	423.21	284.02	16.36
19. Punjab	51.50	42.00	65.01	—
20. Rajasthan	36.00	25.60	21.39	3.00
21. Sikkim	5.00	2.00	5.00	—
22. Tamil Nadu	1,055.13	848.22	636.17	509.13
23. Tripura	263.76	259.75	33.76	13.40
24. Uttar Pradesh	237.00	365.02	362.15	123.50
25. West Bengal	349.00	287.73	463.34	245.50
26. A & N Islands	0.34	1.47	7.93	0.90
27. Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
29. Daman & Diu	13.42	48.22	90.00	—
30. Delhi	—	—	—	—
31. Laskhadweep	0.83	0.88	—	0.50
32. Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
Total	5,361.75	6,200.76	6,416.29	3,099.36

*Funds utilisation figures are not separately available.

[English]

Prices and Availability of Fertilizers

287. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to regulate the prices and availability of fertilizers;

(b) If so, details thereof;

(c) the reasons for making change in regard to subsidy on fertilizers;

(d) whether the delay in formulating the policy on fertilizers especially Di-ammonium Phosphate has adversely affected their availability during the Kharif Crop of 1998; and

(e) If so, 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) Urea is the only controlled fertilizer and its maximum farm gate price is fixed by Government and the availability is ensured through statewise and manufacturewise allocations in every season under the Fertiliser (Control) Order 1985. In the case of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, the Government indicate a Maximum Retail Price and bear, the subsidy required to keep the prices at that level. Government do not make any allocations of the decontrolled fertilizers, nor control their movement.

(c) The subsidy on fertilizers depends on their cost of sales and the prices fixed indicated by the Government. Keeping in view the changes in the cost of sales and prices from time to time the quantum of subsidy also undergoes change.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indians in Foreign Jails

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

(a) the number of Indians in jails of various countries for alleged offence; and

(b) the action taken to get their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) According to information available with the Government, there are at present 5116 Indians imprisoned in various foreign countries.

(b) As soon as an Indian diplomatic Mission/Post is apprised about the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host government for seeking consular access. An officer of the Mission/Post visits the detainee and ascertains the circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with host government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of the sentence. The prisoners are normally released on completion of their sentences. However, in deserving cases, our Missions/Posts have often succeeded in obtaining remission or reduction of sentences.

Fishery Harbours

289. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fishery harbours functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number and location of fishing harbours on which work is in progress, State-wise;

(c) whether a number of proposals are pending for setting up fishing harbours;

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

(e) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

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 details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Two proposals for setting up of fishing harbours at Okha in Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.60 crores and Diamond Harbour in West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.73 crores received by the Ministry of Agriculture during January 1999 are under examination.

Statement

	Fishing Harbours Completed/ Commissioned	Fishing Harbours In Progress
Andhra Pradesh	1. Kakinada 2. Nizamapatnam 3. Bavanapadu 4. Visakhapatnam	1. Machilipatnam
Gujarat	1. Veraval 2. Mangrol 3. Porbandar	1. Jakhau 2. Mangrol stage-II
Kerala	1. Vizhinjam stage-I 2. Puthiappa 3. Munambam 4. Vizhinjam stage-II 5. Neendakara 6. Cochin	1. Chombal 2. Mopla Bay 3. Kayakulam 4. Vizhinjam stage-III 5. Thangassery
Karnataka	1. Karwar 2. Honnavar 3. Tadri 4. Mangalore 5. Malpe stage-I	1. Malpe stage-II 2. Mangalore stage-II 3. Karwar stage-II
Maharashtra	1. Ratnagiri 2. Sassoon Dock	1. Agrao
Orissa	1. Gopalpur 2. Dharma 3. Naugarh (Astrang) 4. Paradip	1. Dhamra stage-II
Tamil Nadu	1. Tuticorin 2. Mallipatnam 3. Kodlakai 4. Vallinokkam 5. Taondi 6. Pazhyar 7. Madras	1. Chinnamuttom
West Bengal	1. Fraser Ganj 2. Digha stage-I 3. Roychowk	1. Digha stage-II
Pondicherry	—	1. Pondicherry
A & N Islands	1. Phoenix Bay	

[Translation]

NAFED

290. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "NAFED" may vayapak sthar par dhan ka thruypuyug-jaanch samiti ney Khulasa kiya" appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara", dated January 6, 1999;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) : One news-items appeared in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated 6.1.99 regarding alleged misappropriation of funds in NAFED. Based on an 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 case against certain officials of NAFED in connections with the alleged irregularities.

[English]

ISRO Branch at IIT, Kharagpur

291. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation has set up its branch at IIT, Kharagpur for conducting research pertaining to satellite communication;

(b) if so, the details of jobs entrusted to this branch; and

(c) the achievements made by this branch during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Under the aegis of the Space Technology Cell (STC) and the Sponsored Research Programme (RESPOND) of the Department of Space at IIT, Kharagpur, a few Research and Development activities relating to the field of Satellite Communications have been undertaken.

(b) Research and Development projects in the Satellite Communications are as per details below have been initiated.

(i) Analysis, Design and Development of GTEM cells:

The project will Design and Develop Giga Hertz Traverse Electro Magnetic (GTEM) Cell for measurement of radiated emission to deter-

mine Electromagnetic Interference, Compatibility and Magnetic pulsing standards of Communication satellites.

- (ii) Study on interplay of source and channel coder parameters for use in digital satellite communications.
- (iii) Development beam forming network analysis software for multi-fed contoured beam antennas.

(c) The project indicated at (i) above has reached the stage of completion of Development of GTEM Cell. The various cell parameters have been measured and tested and full fabrication of GTEM cell has been accomplished. The project indicated at (ii) above has carried out survey on the concepts of channel coding schemes, source coding schemes for digital wireless communication including satellite based fixed and mobile communication systems. The project indicated at (iii) above has just commenced in January, 1999.

[Translation]

Allocation for Marine Products

292. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Maharashtra for the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to boost the production of marine products during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Year-wise; and

(b) the number of fishermen benefited from the Scheme and the quantum of marine production increased as a result 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) The Government of Maharashtra was provided with Rs. 343.44 lakhs in 1997-98 and Rs. 332 lakhs in 1998-99 (till 15.2.1999) as central share for the component Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on high speed diesel oil purchased by mechanised finishing boats of below 20 meter length under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries". About 6000 small mechanised fishing boats are benefited per annum under the programme and the Scheme inter-alia has helped in increasing the fish production from 3.88 lakh tonnes in 1992-93 to 4.53 lakh tonnes in 1997-98.

[English]

Teesta Barrage

293. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of work completed in respect of Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal and the total area being irrigated by this project as on date;

(b) whether the progress of completion work of this project is quite slow; and

(c) if so, 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) Presently, first Sub-stage of Stage-I of Phase-I of Teesta Barrage Project is under execution. The percentage completion of various components of this Project as on December, 1998 are as below:-

Components		Percentage completion
Barrages		
1.	Teesta Barrage	100%
2.	Maharashtra Barrage	100%
3.	Dauk Barrage	100%
Canals		
1.	Teesta Mahananda Link Canal	100%
2.	Mahananda Main Canal	100%
3.	Dauk Nagar Main Canal	79%
4.	Teesta Jal Dhaka Main Canal	73%

Potential created under this project is 91.81 Th. ha. up to 6/98

(b) and (c) The progress of project works has been slow mainly because of land acquisition problem.

[Translation]

Indian Rare Earth Limited

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

(a) the number of projects launched by the Indian Rare Earth Ltd. during the last three years alongwith the allocation made for each project; and

(b) the target fixed for production and actual productions during the last three years, year-wise and the project wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The details of projects launched by the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, during the last three years alongwith fund allocation, production capacity and status of production /implementation are as under:

Sl. No.	Location	Description of the project	Capital cost (Rs. in lakh)	Production Capacity (in metric tonnes-MT)	Status
1.	Chavara, Kollam, Kerala	Mineral recovery Plan-II	2100.00	1.70 lakh of concentrate	In production since September, 97. Production of 1,18,908 MT in 1997-98 and 1,27,253 MT in April-Dec., 98.
2.	Manavalakurichi Tamil Nadu	Additional recovery of zircon/rutile	656.00	1040 of zircon 374 of rutile	Under implementation.
3.	Alwaye, Kerala	Production of 95% pure Neodymium oxide in first stage and of 99% purity in second stage.	892.00	—	First stage completed. Second stage under implementation.
4.	Chavara Kollam, Kerala	Zircon grinding (fine)	548.00	800 of 3 micron size zircon powder	In production since June 97. Production of 123.5 MT in 1997-98 and 145.3 MT in April-December, 98.

Living Standard of Farmers

295. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Agriculture Policy to improve the living standard of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A National Policy on Agriculture is in the final stage of drafting. It seeks to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to promote sustainable development of agriculture. The Policy will, to this end, seek to make optimal use of new opportunities emerging as a result of economic liberalisation and advancement of science and technology. The farmers will be the principal focus of attention in the National Policy, both as the mainspring and the beneficiaries of agricultural development.

[English]

Lifting of Sanctions

296. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countries which imposed sanctions on India after the nuclear test have relaxed the sanctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are talking to those countries so as to lift the sanctions totally; and

(d) if so, the result achieved so far and by what time does the Government think that the sanctions will be lifted in total?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The US had imposed certain restrictive economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994. The restrictive measures imposed by the other countries relate mainly to developmental assistance or concessional loans. Some of these countries have variously exempted assistance related to humanitarian, poverty alleviation, food and basic human needs from these measures. The G-8 countries had indicated that they will not oppose the World Bank loans meant to meet basic human needs. The US has announced partial relaxation of the measures.

(c) and (d) While it may not be possible to indicate a definite time frame by which the economic measures imposed against India will be lifted in totality, India is engaged in a continuous dialogue with key interlocutors related issues.

Water Management

297. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three-day International Exhibition was held recently in New Delhi to discuss the water and water resources management;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the outcome of the International Exhibition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES: (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A three-day International Exhibition titled "Water Asia-1999" was held in New Delhi during the period January 19-21, 1999. It was a focused event on Water, waste water and corrosion industry. Around 47 companies participated and 1800 visitors visited the exhibition. The event was purely commercial in nature and was intended to create awareness and to showcase the products and technologies available in the water, waste water and corrosion industry. There was also a conference held simultaneously along with the exhibition where experts from the water sector and industry discussed the technologies.

Natural Calamities

298. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH :

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the loss of life, property and the damage caused to standing crops due to heavy rains, hail storms, bursting of clouds and cyclones in various States during each of the last three years and particularly during the last 10 months, State-wise;

(b) the details of the Central teams sent to each of the affected State to assess the losses, damage caused to standing crops;

(c) the findings thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) the financial and other assistance sought under various heads, allocated and actually released to each affected State; and

(e) the reasons for low allocations and delay in release of financial and other assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) On the basis of the information supplied by the State Governments, the details of cropped area and houses/huts damaged, loss of human life and animals during 1995-96 to 1997-98 and during 1998-99 (so far) due to heavy rains/floods, cyclones, landslides and hailstorms are indicated below:-

Year	cropped area damaged (lakh ha.)	houses/huts damaged (lakhs)	human lives lost (lakhs)	animals lost (lakhs)
1995-96	79.84	22.16	0.03	1.03
1996-97	57.14	24.02	0.04	2.09
1997-98	41.52	9.49	0.02	0.32
1998-99	75.19	15.63	0.05	1.09

(b) to (e) 15 Central Teams were deputed in 1995-96, 17 in 1996-97, 14 in 1997-98 and 14 so far during 1998-99 for assessment of the situation in the wake of natural calamities mentioned above.

Funds are allocated to all the State Governments every year under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to undertake rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures for the people affected by natural calamities. The Central and State Governments contribute to this Fund in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share is released in four equal quarterly instalments. Statements indicating total allocation, Central share and State share under CRF for the years 1995-96 to 1998-99 are enclosed herewith (Statements I, II, III).

In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity, after following the established procedure. It is the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) which ultimately decides on the quantum of assistance, if any, to be provided to the States from the NFCR after considering in detail all relevant aspects. Statements indicating the assistance sought by the State Governments and provided by the Central Government during 1995-96 to 1998-99 in the wake of above mentioned natural calamities are enclosed herewith. (Statements-IV, V, VI, VII).

Statement-I

Calamity Relief Fund for 1995-96 to 1998-99

State	(Rs. Lakhs)			
	Calamity Relief Fund			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	11721	12419	13105	13773
Arunachal Pradesh	664	704	743	781
Assam	4720	5001	5277	5547

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	4904	5196	5483	5763
Goa	101	107	113	119
Gujarat	13176	13960	14731	15483
Haryana	2365	2505	2644	2779
Himachal Pradesh	2544	2695	2844	2989
Jammu & Kashmir	1860	1971	2079	2184
Karnataka	3949	4185	4416	4641
Kerala	5229	5540	5847	6144
Madhya Pradesh	4821	5108	5389	5665
Maharashtra	6437	6820	7197	7564
Manipur	235	248	261	275
Meghalaya	263	279	295	309
Mizoram	120	127	133	140
Nagaland	160	171	180	188
Orissa	4625	4901	5172	5436
Punjab	5111	5415	5715	6005
Rajasthan	16899	17904	18893	19856
Sikkim	444	471	497	523
Tamil Nadu	5602	5935	6263	6583
Tripura	424	449	475	499
Uttar Pradesh	11809	12512	13203	13876
West Bengal	4844	5132	5416	5692
Total	113026	119755	126371	132815

Statement-II

*Centre's Share in Calamity Relief Fund
during 1995-96 to 1998-99*

(Rs lakh)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	8791	9314	9829	10330
Arunachal Pradesh	498	528	557	586
Assam	3540	3751	3958	4160

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	3678	3897	4112	4322
Goa	76	80	85	89
Gujarat	9882	10470	11048	11612
Haryana	1774	1879	1983	2084
Himachal Pradesh	1908	2021	2133	2242
Jammu & Kashmir	1395	1478	1559	1639
Karnataka	2962	3139	3312	3481
Kerala	3922	4155	4385	4608
Madhya Pradesh	3616	3831	4042	4249
Maharashtra	4828	5115	5398	5673
Manipur	176	186	196	206
Meghalaya	197	209	221	232
Mizoram	90	95	100	105
Nagaland	120	128	135	141
Orissa	3469	3676	3879	4077
Punjab	3833	4061	4286	4504
Rajasthan	12674	13428	14170	14892
Sikkim	333	353	373	392
Tamil Nadu	4201	4451	4697	4937
Tripura	318	337	356	374
Uttar Pradesh	8857	9384	9902	10407
West Bengal	3633	3849	4062	4269
Total	84771	89815	94778	99611

Statement-III

*State's Share in Calamity Relief Fund
for 1995-96 to 1998-99*

(Rs lakhs)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	2930	3105	3276	3443
Arunachal Pradesh	166	178	188	195
Assam	1180	1250	1319	1387

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	1226	1299	1371	1441
Goa	25	27	28	30
Gujarat	3294	3490	3683	3871
Haryana	591	626	661	695
Himachal Pradesh	636	674	711	747
Jammu & Kashmir	465	493	520	546
Karnataka	987	1046	1104	1160
Kerala	1307	1385	1462	1536
Madhya Pradesh	1205	1277	1347	1416
Maharashtra	1609	1705	1799	1891
Manipur	59	62	65	69
Meghalaya	66	70	74	77
Mizoram	30	32	33	35
Nagaland	40	43	45	47
Orissa	1156	1225	1293	1359
Punjab	1278	1354	1429	1501
Rajasthan	4225	4476	4723	4964
Sikkim	111	118	124	131
Tamil Nadu	1400	1484	1566	1646
Tripura	106	112	119	125
Uttar Pradesh	2952	3128	3301	3469
West Bengal	1211	1283	1354	1423
Total	28255	29940	31593	33204

Statement-IV*Status of Requests for Assistance from N.F.C.R.***1995-96**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. State No.	Calamity	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	Flood/Cyclone	293.20	—
	Flood	582.06	21.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Flood	50.50	10.00
3. Bihar	Flood	1102.28	21.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Haryana	Flood	588.09	39.41
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Flood	481.96	12.49
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Flood	211.08	18.17
7.	Meghalaya	Flood/Landslide	41.13	10.00
8.	Mizoram	Flood	59.99	4.71
9.	Orissa	Cyclone	264.00 300.00	25.75 5.00
10.	Punjab	Flood	658.00	16.16
11.	Rajasthan	Flood	235.99	21.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood	357.40	-
13.	West Bengal	Flood	631.99	21.00

Statement-V*Status of Requests for Assistance from N.F.C.R.***1996-97**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. State No.	Calamity	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	i. Flood/Cyclone	125.74	—
	ii. Flood/Cyclone	550.63	
	iii. Flood/Cyclone	2143.00	142.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Flood	110.53	03.00
3. Assam	Flood	415.91	21.00
4. Bihar	Flood	168.92	07.00
5. Gujarat	Flood	282.01	—
6. Haryana	Flood	102.00	—
7. Himachal Pradesh	Flood	458.37	10.56
8. Jammu & Kashmir	Flood	273.97	—
9. Karnataka	Flood	621.00	—
10. Kerala	Flood	342.00	—
11. Madhya Pradesh	i. Flood	55.00	—
12. Rajasthan	Flood	321.00	—
13. Sikkim	Flood	43.92	5.52
14. Tamil Nadu	Cyclone/Flood	621.55	25.00
15. Uttar Pradesh	Flood	589.90	—
16. West Bengal	Flood	309.00	—

Statement-VI*Status of Requests for Assistance from N.F.C.R.***1997-98**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Calamity	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hailstorm Cyclone	82.11 168.00	Nil Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Flood	105.15	
3.	Bihar	Flood/Hailstorm	428.82	10.00
4.	Gujarat	Flood	664.33	86.90
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Flood	609.78	24.80
6.	Kerala	Flood/Landslide	1106.26	12.91
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Flood Hailstorm Heavy Rains Hailstorm	121.36 129.16 2103.75 156.09	22.50 Nil \$ —
8.	Maharashtra	Drought, flood, Hailstorm & U.T.Rains	156.76	—
9.	Manipur	Flood	59.13	—
10.	Orissa	Heavy Rains	151.50	—
11.	Punjab	Flood	175.72	Nil
12.	Sikkim	Landslide	107.39	7.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Heavy Rains Flood/Landslide	242.97 323.10	Nil —
14.	West Bengal	Flood	177.00	Nil

\$ Under consideration

Statement-VII*Status of Requests Received during 1998-99
for Assistance from NFCR*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Calamity	Assistance sought	Assistance provided
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rains/Floods Cyclone	500.00 100.00	* ***
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rains/ landslides	200.23	*
3.	Assam	Floods	1001.98	*
4.	Bihar	Floods	1003.75	*

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	Cyclone Floods	610.65 200.00	* **
6.	Haryana	Untimely Rains	757.29	*
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Rains/floods	266.06	***
8.	Karnataka	Rains/floods	1352.13	*
9.	Kerala	Rains/floods	962.13	*
10.	Maharashtra	Floods	152.26	***
11.	Punjab	Untimely rains	1140.60	*
12.	Sikkim	Floods/ landslides	141.41	*
13.	Tripura	Floods	3011	*
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Hailstorms/ rains Floods/ landslides	114.81 2139.49	** *
15.	West Bengal	Thunder Squalls Landslides/ floods	98.83 705.60	** *

* Under various stages of process.

** Not considered as a Calamity of rare severity.

*** Under consideration.

*[Translation]***Denial of Visa**

299. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US administration has sent back a number of scientists working on various American research projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US administration also refused visa to Indian Scientists proposing to visit America in connection with various conferences and other assignments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) In July 1998, seven Indian scientists working in the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, were asked to wind up their work and leave the US. Similar action was not taken in the case of the remaining 23 scientists from India working at NIST.

The US Government stated that the decision asking Indian Scientists to leave had been taken under Section (D) of the US Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 (Glenn Amendment) which seeks to deny "other financial assistance" to India and Pakistan. A "Facts" document was issued by US Department of Energy (DOE) on July 23, 1998 elaborating the measures to be taken in this respect.

US Spokesman subsequently stated that this action was not an across the board restriction on scientists from India, but on researchers from institutions which, the US believed, were involved with India's nuclear and missile programme.

Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, who was invited, in his capacity as Vice-President of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCR), to attend the Annual Executive Meeting of the IUCR to be held at Arlington, USA, in July 1998, was not granted a US visa by the US authorities.

Subsequently on July 16, 1998, the US Embassy in New Delhi gave the following press statement:

"Dr. R. Chidambaram applied for a visa on 29th June. His passport and application fee were returned to him on July 9 and he was told that this was not a good time to make such an application and this did not technically constitute a refusal."

The International Crystallography Union protested the denial of visa to Dr. Chidambaram. The American Physical Society which has a membership of 41,000 also protested and warned that this might set a dangerous precedent. US Congressman, Frank Pallone wrote a letter to US Secretary of State, Madeline Albright questioning the State Department's decision to revoke the visa of seven Indian scientists.

Government considers US decision to deny visa and terminate research projects of certain Indian scientists as unwarranted. We do not agree with any targeted policy of denying and revoking visas particularly those which come in the way of scientific exchange and interaction. The matter regarding Dr. Chidambaram and other scientists has been taken up with the US Government. GOI position is that coercive and unilateral measures whether in the economic or technology field are counter-productive.

[English]

Hirakud Dam

300. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any crack has been developed in Hirakud Dam recently;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair the cracks; and
- (c) the amount spent on the repair and maintenance work of the dam 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 works of under water mapping and sample testing of the material at fresh crack area has already been taken up on the suggestion of Hirakund Dam Crack Review Panel and Dam Safety Review panel.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 3.94 crores has been incurred upto 31.12.98 for under water mapping survey and treatment of cracks.

Mullaperiyar Dam

301. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have resolved the dispute between the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the matter of water level height of Mullaperiyar dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the Chief Ministers and officials of the two States have taken place during the last three years to resolve the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) It is a matter between the Government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and they should settle the matter amicably. However, the Central Government had made attempts to bring about an amicable settlement. An official level meeting was held in the Ministry of Water Resources on 25.6.98 with the officers of Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Subsequently the representatives of the two States had been meeting to discuss the issue.

Talks on Border Issue

302. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has stalled the next round of the Joint Working Group meeting on the Border issue by refusing to fix a date for the talks;

(b) if so, the reasons why China has refused to have further talks on this issue;

(c) the details of talks held between both the countries during the last one year on this issue and outcome thereof; and

(d) the further steps Government propose to take to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question was formed in 1988 to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. The JWG is headed by Vice Foreign Minister on the Chinese side and Foreign Secretary on the Indian side. The JWG has met ten times so far, the last being in Delhi in August, 1997. The 11th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG), scheduled to meet in Beijing in 1998, was not convened by the Chinese side.

It had been proposed that JWG-11 be convened in the last quarter of 1998. The Chinese side, however, suggested that a "preparatory" meeting be convened, before convening of the JWG could be considered. It has since been agreed that Foreign Office Consultations, in the framework of the Protocol on this subject, concluded in August 1997, be held in Beijing on 25-26 February, 1999.

(d) We seek good relations with all our neighbours including China. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to the development of friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

303. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of medium and major

irrigation projects in Karnataka have witnessed abnormal escalation in terms of time and cost over-runs;

(b) If so, the details thereof, project-wise alongwith its original cost;

(c) the main reasons for such high escalation;

(d) the present status, revised cost and time schedule for their completion, project-wise; and

(e) the funds made available during the year 1999-2000 and earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the completion 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) to (e) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources as per their own priorities. The normal completion period is 10-15 years in respect of major projects and 5-10 years in respect of medium irrigation projects. This period and increase in estimated cost of a project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearance from various appraising agencies, geological conditions, etc. Equally important are the funds allotted by State Governments to individual projects. At present there are 11 on-going major projects and 12 on-going medium projects in Karnataka. A statement indicating their names, approved cost, latest estimated cost, expenditure to the end of VIII plan, expenditure during Annual plan 1997-98, outlay as recommended by Working Group of Planning Commission during IX Plan and revised schedule of completion is enclosed. Outlay during the year 1999-2000 is not available as the Annual Plan 1999-2000 has not yet been finalised.

Statement

Project Lagging Behind Schedule-Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Started in Plan	Cost Approved	Latest Estimated	Expenditure		Cumulative Expenditure to end of 3/98 (97-98)	Outlay IX Plan Rec. by working Group	Revised Completion Schedule
					to end of VIII Plan 3/97	& during 1997-98			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>On going Major Project</i>									
1.	Bhadra	I	31.93	155.23	143.06	7.11	150.17	17	1998-99
2.	Tungabhadra Dam I & LBC	I	33.41	230.33	203.69	12.51	216.2	27	1998-99
3.	Tungabhadra Right Bank High Level Canal	II	2.57	62.93	43.33	2.31	45.64	10	1998-99
4.	Kabini (NP)	II	UA	1251	301.07	17.41	318.48	-	
5.	Malaprabha	III	19.91	603.56	427.04	41.41	468.45	190	2002

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Harangi (NP)	III	UA	310	229.65	18.14	247.79	—	
7.	Hemavathi (NP)	AP 66-69	UA	2484.73	1092.79	134.32	1227.11	—	
8.	Upper Krishna ST-I	IV	58.2	3785.46	2457.07	784.87	3241.94	1450	2000
9.	Karanja	V	98	284.92	162.58	21.55	184.11	98	2002
10.	Bennithore	V	73.25	153	74.02	25.58	99.6	85	1998-99
11.	Hippargi	V	UA	524.21	21.19	4.89	26.08	200	Beyond IX
<i>Medium Project</i>									
1.	Manchanbale	IV	0.77	57.5	47.36	7.89	55.25	12	1997-98
2.	Iggalur (NP)	IV	UA	70	30.21	4.38	34.59	—	
3.	Votehole	V	2.05	47.5	34.02	1.32	35.34	4	
4.	Amarja	V	5.7	79.25	54.28	11.07	65.35	24	1998-99
5.	Lower Mallamarl	V	8.37	100	59.63	16.84	76.47	37	1998-99
6.	Maskinala	V	3.11	25.28	12.96	5.21	10.17	13	1997-98
7.	F.C. Nanikera	V	UA	9.19	8.9	0.29	9.19	0.35	
8.	Chulkinala (NP)	V	3.8	53.5	33.47	10.75	44.22	20	1998-99
9.	Arkavathi	V	UA	106.5	40.03	5.58	45.61	—	
10.	Chicklihole (NP)	AP 78-80	UA	17.35	16.25	0.59	16.84	—	
11.	Uduthore Halla (NP)	AP 78-80	UA	144.1	76.25	6.53	82.78	—	
12.	Hirehalla	VI	6.35	90	67.52	17.12	84.64	23	1998-99

Note : N.P. - Non-Plan Projects in Cauvery Basin.

Outlay has not been provided by Planning Commission.

U.A. - Unapproved.

[Translation]

Passport Fee

304. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in passport fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to streamline the system of issue of passport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) No, Sir. The last revision of passport fees was done in 1993.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Streamlining the system of issue of passport is an ongoing process. A number of steps have been taken to simplify and streamline the procedures for expeditious issue of passports which, inter-alia, are;

(a) upgradation of office facilities including

computerisation leading to faster screening and processing of applications;

(b) self-attested documents being accepted.

(c) issue of passports on post-police verification basis in cases where police reports are not received during the prescribed time-limit of four weeks;

(d) a thought scrutiny of application at the acceptance stage itself to check their completeness in all respects;

(e) augmentation of staff strength to reduce and clear pendencies;

(f) provision of issue passports in cases of specified emergencies on out of turn basis on the strength of Verification Certificate issued by authorised officials;

(g) expansion of the list of officials authorised to sign Verification Certificates;

(h) introduction of passports valid for 20 years; and

(i) automatic release of passports on expiry on post-police verification basis.

[English]

Information Technology Report on Hardware

305. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some quarters have raised any objections on the outcome of some key recommendations of the Information Technology Report on hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Peripherals Manufacturers Association had sent comments regarding manufacture of monitor in the country. A Labour Union had sent comments relating to Labour Laws.

(c) The comments received were general in nature and did not call for any action.

Scarcity of Water and Electricity

306. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of water and electricity in the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remove the scarcity for these items; and

(c) the time limit fixed to ensure the regular supply of electricity and water for the National Capital Region?

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) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

National River

307. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the river Ganga as a National River;

(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) As per existing Constitutional provisions "Water" being a State subject, there is no proposal to declare any river in the country as National River. However, the Ganga-Baghirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as National Waterway with effect from October, 1986. This waterway is being developed for shipping and navigation by providing infrastructural facilities such as navigational channel by way of bandalling and dredging, channel marking, pilotage, 24 hours navigational aids and terminals at selected locations.

CTBT

308. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have spelt out certain conditions for signing of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);

(b) if so, the precise conditions spelt out by Government;

(c) the response of the US and other Nuclear powers thereto; and

(d) the time by which India is likely to sign CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Government's position on the CTBT has been placed on record before Parliament. On December 15, 1998, Prime Minister had stated that "India is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions. That remains our position. For the successful conclusion of the talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient". Our statement has elicited a positive response and has been seen as a constructive step forward.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income

309. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difference in per capita income is increasing continuously between the rural areas and urban areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to mitigate the difference?

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 estimates of income in rural and urban areas worked out by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in terms of Net Domestic Product (NDP) for the years 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1990-91 (Provisional) are as follows:

Per Capita Net Domestic Product

(Rs./Year at current prices)

	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91(P)
1. Rural	529	1245	3510
2. Urban	1294	2888	9579
3. Urban -Rural Disparity (2)/(1)	2.4	2.3	2.7

The per capita income between urban and rural areas at current prices had shown a narrowing of the disparity from 2.4 times in 1970-71 to 2.3 times in 1980-81. However, the corresponding ratio in the provisional estimate for 1990-91 is 2.7.

(c) The reduction in urban-rural disparities, particularly in income and consumption is targeted to be achieved through a greater focus on agriculture and other rural activities. One of the important objectives of the Ninth Plan is to give priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to provide adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

[English]

Attacks on Christians

310. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "MEA steps in late to control international damage" appearing in the Statesman dated January 13, 1999;

(b) if so, whether attacks on Christians in the country are damaging the image of the Government in the world particularly Christians of Indian origin in abroad; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) India's tradition of religious tolerance and secularism in the framework of a pluralistic society is well recognised. The Government of India has emphasised India's strong and continuing commitment to maintaining this tradition. Attention has also been drawn to the statements of the President and Prime Minister of India condemning the recent incidents, the universal public condemnation in India of such occurrences, as well as Government's prompt action in fully investigating and proceeding under the law against all such acts of violence. Foreign Governments, public opinion and international media have been fully sensitised to the above facts. Our Missions and Posts abroad have been duly involved in this effort. These measures have helped to reassure the international community of Government's seriousness of purpose. Understanding has been shown for India's position, and in particular of the fact that these incidents are essentially aberrations due to the actions of criminal elements.

Strategy to Improve Foodgrain Production

311. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASSOCHAM has suggested multi-pronged strategy for increasing the production of foodgrain; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision 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) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry have in their document entitled "Strategic Plan for Indian Agriculture Sector, July, 1998" analysed various issues concerning Indian Agriculture including measures to reach the target of 500 million tonnes of foodgrains production by 2020. The suggestions include modifications in land lease norms, harnessing of ground water resources, making available bank finance for minor irrigation projects, greater involvement of private sector and contract farming. The suggestions made by the Chamber will be considered while formulating strategies for the development of the agriculture sector in the Country.

Interest of Coconut Farmers

312. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut farmers are the worst sufferers due to fall in price, disease to trees and lack of proper manure and irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of the coconut farmers?

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) In order to safeguard the interest of coconut farmers, following steps are taken:-

(i) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra is fixed to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers. The MSP fixed for 1999 Season at Rs. 3100/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 3325/- per quintal for ball copra are Rs. 200/- per quintal higher than for the previous year.

(ii) In order to fetch higher prices the farmers are provided financial assistance limited to 10,000/- or 50% the cost for installation of modern copra dryers for production of quality copra.

(iii) For promoting product diversification, the Coconut Development Board has developed technologies for various coconut products.

(iv) For control of pests and diseases, assistance is provided to farmers @ Rs. 200/- per palm for cutting and removal of diseased/senile palms; Rs. 8/- per palm for promoting use of plant protection chemicals and fertilizers; and Rs. 200/- per ha. for adoption of multi-species cropping under the project "Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement."

(v) Parasite breeding laboratories are established/maintained for biological control of leaf eating caterpillar in coconut;

(vi) Assistance is provided @ Rs. 6,000/- per ha. in 3 annual instalments for area expansion with package of practices.

(vii) Farmers are supported to the extent of Rs. 25,000/- per ha. for installations of drip irrigation units.

China, India and Russia Axis

313. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government subscribe to the idea propagated by Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Mr. Primakov to form an axis between China, India and Russia;

(b) if so, the specific points made by the Government and the Russian counterpart's reaction to it;

(c) whether the Government is aware about the reaction of Chinese Government to it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow up steps taken for the confidence building measures vis-a-vis Russia and China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No such formal proposal was made by the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Y.M. Primakov during his official visit to India on 20-22 December 1998. However, while responding to the media on 21 December 1998, Mr. Primakov referred in general to the idea of such trilateral cooperation, nothing that "much in the region depends on the policies pursued by Russia, India and China", and adding that "it will be good for security and stability in the region."

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During his visit to Egypt on January 3-5, 1999, the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, reportedly stated in response to a press query from Al Ahram, a prominent Egyptian daily - on the reference to an India-China-Russia strategic alliance by Russian Prime Minister Primakov in New Delhi - that Russia had not consulted China beforehand on this "proposal", nor was it necessary for China to enter any alliances.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bansagar Irrigation Project

314. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) when the construction work on Bansagar Inter-State Irrigation Project was started;

(b) the estimated cost at the inception of the project and total expenditure incurred thereon till date;

(c) the latest position of the project at present and measures being taken by the Government for its expeditious completion; and

(d) the time by which the project 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) The construction work on Bansagar Inter-State Irrigation Project was started in the year 1978.

(b) The estimated cost at the inception of the project in the year 1978 was Rs. 91.3 crores and the total expenditure was Rs. 556.10 crores on Bansagar Dam Project upto December 1998 including for land acquisition and rehabilitation.

(c) The masonry work is 97.6% complete and concreting is 78% complete.

This is an Inter-State Irrigation Project being funded by Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However, the Union Government has also provided Central Loan Assistance for this project for early completion under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. The year-wise releases are Rs. 23.25 crores in 1996-97; Rs. 65.50 crores in 1997-98 and Rs. 37.50 crores in 1998-99 respectively.

(d) The completion date for project is dependent on the priority fixed for this project by the party States and the funds provided by them.

[English]

Indo-Japan Relations

315. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) the steps the Government propose to take to normalise bilateral relations between India and Japan;

(b) the conditions put forth by Japan to ease the restrictions on loans for ongoing projects;

(c) when the last Official talks between India and Japan took place;

(d) whether the ongoing projects funded by Japan are at halt; and

(e) if so, from when and further steps the Government proposed to take to carry on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) We value our relations with Japan. We believe that a composite dialogue encompassing various aspects of our multifaceted relations is to mutual benefit. Since the beginning of this year, a series of official level meetings have been held. This include : Foreign Secretary level talks (January 17-21, 1999). Trade talks (at Commerce Secretary level, February 5-6, 1999) and MEA-MITI dialogue (at Secretary level, February 22, 1999). Other meetings are being scheduled.

In regard to loans for on-going projects, Japan has said that it would review such projects case by case. Japan would like India to take some 'positive' steps on the nuclear non-proliferation issue in order to enable positive consideration.

The Japanese Government have frozen Yen-loan programme and grant aid for new projects except grant aid for emergency, humanitarian and grassroots projects. Disbursements for the ongoing projects (both loans and grants) continue. During 1998-99, there will be no impact on disbursements. They will, however, be affected from 1999-2000, if these restrictive measures continue unaltered. Second and subsequent tranches for the ongoing projects are to be committed by the Government of Japan on a case by case basis.

[Translation]

Development of Horticulture and Floriculture

316. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI K. PARYMOHAN :

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the development of horticulture and floriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the financial allocation made for the development of horticulture and floriculture during the last three years and also for the current years, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any system to record output to the above crops;

(d) whether the Government have estimated the annual loss of revenue from fruits, vegetables and flowers which perish or suffer during the post harvest handling;

(e) whether the Government sought help to boost the production from other countries like Israel;

(f) if so, the details of the assistance sought;

(g) whether any pilot project for the development of horticulture and floriculture in backward areas of the country is under the consideration of the Government; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to promote horticulture and floriculture 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) Horticulture development has received focus since VIII Plan and strategies for achieving accelerated growth in area expansion, production and productivity, through central sector/centrally sponsored horticulture schemes have been finalised. These schemes cover horticulture crops of fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, flowers, spices, cashew, coconut, cocoa, medicinal and aromatic plants, bee keeping, use of plastics in agriculture and programmes of National Horticulture Board.

(b) The States have been provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 504.51 crores under various horticulture schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation including floriculture during the period from 1995-96 to 1998-99. (Details furnished in the statement enclosed).

(c) For a large number of horticulture crops, with major share in the value of output, the system of generating production estimates exists.

(d) It is estimated that approximately 25-30% of the production of fruits, vegetables and flowers are lost due to inadequate infrastructure for post harvest handling and marketing, which is approximately valued to be about Rs. 5,000/- crores per year.

(e) and (f) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have not sought assistance from countries such as Israel for boosting production.

(g) During the IX Plan it is proposed to start a new initiative for Tribal and Backward Areas Development which is yet to be approved.

(h) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides assistance to States/UTs for the following Horticulture Schemes :

1. Development of Fruits in Tropical, Temperate and Semi Arid Zones,
2. Development of Vegetables including root and tuber crops,
3. Development of Mushroom,

4. Development of Commercial Floriculture,
5. Integrated Development of Spices,
6. Development of Cashew and cocoa, Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants,
7. Promotion of Bee keeping
8. Use of Plastics in agriculture and
9. Programmes of NHB
10. Programmes of CDB.

Important components under these schemes are :

- a) Expansion of area under different crops
- b) Improving availability of seed/planting material of HYVs
- c) Improving productivity of existing plantations
- d) Development of infrastructure for PHM and Marketing
- e) Transfer of Technology and demonstration
- f) Export Enhancement

Statement

Horticulture Division

Scheme-wise release of funds during last three years

(1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98)

						(Rs. in lakhs)
Name of State	Rel. 95-96	Rel. 96-97	Rel. 97-98	Alloc. 98-99	Release of funds during 1998-99	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	*	466.08	3045.9	1308.49	2107.55	847.57
Arunachal Pradesh	*	115.13	93.49	142.15	253.07	161.09
Assam	*	39.26	17.80	43.51	142.29	41.75
Bihar	*	8.88	150.67	127.82	446.20	168.15
Goa	*	140.44	145.55	46.90	234.83	110.75
Gujarat	*	54.45	44.12	206.55	461.84	177.36
Haryana	2	177.61	126.06	132.07	387.87	298.15
Himachal Pradesh	*	38.25	53.10	37.00	291.22	106.27
Jammu & Kashmir	*	533.74	799.92	825.91	785.37	262.00
Karnataka	*	1486.0	2262.8	2752.18	3232.29	2283.33
Kerala	*	1801.7	2178.7	1904.24	1936.98	1345.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	*	497.09	19.75	297.66	623.18	233.64
Maharashtra	*	2722.3	2522.8	3263.05	4032.48	1999.91
Manipur	*	162.69	209.83	300.12	261.84	81.62
Meghalaya	8	75.42	58.33	64.48	216.60	86.00
Mizoram	6	70.88	129.08	109.26	154.64	88.05
Nagaland	8	101.29	140.10	169.24	224.90	84.00
Orissa	*	391.47	621.46	739.30	959.17	223.00
Punjab	8	211.43	238.56	103.00	287.68	146.97
Rajasthan	*	147.92	231.76	443.53	640.42	301.97
Tamil Nadu	*	1222.4	1286.7	883.29	1648.86	1086.10
Tripura	9	53.61	29.29	69.58	161.89	53.10
Uttar Pradesh	*	93.36	0.00	128.74	307.27	34.50
West Bengal	*	37.57	25.31	110.00	234.91	35.50
Sikkim	0	49.28	103.51	147.85	239.03	149.25
A & N Islands	0	15.28	16.18	34.62	36.19	19.40
Chandigarh	0	0.00	6.00	12.50	2.50	1.00
Dadra & N. Havell	0	0.65	11.43	13.30	13.71	2.50
Daman & Diu	0	0.00	11.33	14.80	15.56	7.50
Delhi	0	37.00	11.42	57.00	122.70	83.47
Lakshadweep	0	11.97	11.87	15.40	19.95	10.00
Pondicherry	5	16.62	11.80	10.50	59.21	13.13
Total		10780	14615	14514.04	20542.50	10542.11

Note : These figures are exclusive of the programmes of Coconut Development Board and National Horticulture Board

[English]

Trade Relations with Sri Lanka

317. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

DR. RAVI MALLU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed by her with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed in New Delhi;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions of this agreement;

(e) whether India also propose to accord Sri Lanka the most favoured nation status to help boost bilateral trade; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (f) No, Sir.

At the invitation of the President of India, Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, paid a State visit to India from 27-30 December, 1998.

During her visit, President Kumaratunga called on the President, Shri K.R.Narayanan and held talks with the Prime Minister, Shri A.B. Vajpayee. The talks between the two sides covered the full range of bilateral relations and several regional and international matters of mutual interest. Both sides expressed great satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations and the warmth and understanding that exist between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on the setting up of an India-Sri Lanka Foundation was signed by the External Affairs Minister and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. The Foundation will promote bilateral exchanges in the field of art, culture, trade, commerce, and science and technology.

During the visit, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the President of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area between India and Sri Lanka. The free trade arrangement is expected to lead to expansion of bilateral trade and investment through graduated reduction of tariffs. India will phase out tariffs on Sri Lankan goods in three years; Sri Lanka will take eight years to remove tariffs on Indian goods. The Agreement has built-in safeguards to prevent market disruption in sensitive domestic sectors on both sides.

As founder members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.), India and Sri Lanka have already been according Most Favoured Nation status to each other.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Dams

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

(a) whether several dams across the different rivers in U.P. have been destroyed due to floods;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of annual amount allocated by the Union Government to the Government of U.P. for maintenance of dams 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) Several flood embankments on rivers Rapti, Gandak and Ghaghra in Uttar Pradesh were partly damaged due to floods during monsoon of 1998.

(b) Details of the damaged embankments are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Irrigation and flood control being States subject, maintenance of dams and embankments is done by the respective State Governments out of State's non-plan funds. Union Government does not provide specific financial assistance for such activity.

Statement

Details of the Flood Embankment Damaged in Uttar Pradesh during 1998

Sl. No.	Name of the Embankment	Name of the river
1	2	3
1.	Madarhawa - Ashokgaya (Sidhartha Nagar)	Burhi Rapti
2.	Gobardhanpur (Sidhartha Nagar)	Kura
3.	Mohammad Nagar (Sidhartha Nagar)	Budhwar Nala
4.	Uttara Lakhanpur (Sidhartha Nagar)	Kura
5.	Gora Dhowaha Jamindari Bandh (Sidhartha Nagar)	Rapti
6.	Bansi Dumariaganj (Sidhartha Nagar)	Rapti
7.	Bansi Panghatiya (Sidhartha Nagar)	Burhi Rapti
8.	Kakarhi Gohna (Sidhartha Nagar)	Burhi Rapti
9.	Kariram Malauli (Gorakhpur)	Rapti & Am-confluence
10.	Bardi Path (Gorakhpur)	Gurra
11.	Binha Ring Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
12.	Kansasur Khutbhar Ring Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
13.	Baswanpur Ring Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
14.	Belsar Rigauli (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
15.	Rigauli Badhya (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
16.	Maloni Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti
17.	Vistuiya Ring Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Kuano/left
18.	Vilvari Gunni Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti/left
19.	Bakhriya Ring Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti/left
20.	Badhaya Kotha (Gorakhpur)	Rapti/left
21.	Nuasad Kalani (Gorakhpur)	Rapti/left
22.	Sahajna Dumariya Bandh (Gorakhpur)	Rapti/left
23.	Nagva Chapra (Deoria)	Rapti
24.	Paliya Chapra (Deoria)	Gurra

1	2	3
25.	Tighra Marachi (Deoria)	Gurra
26.	Madanpur Kevatliya (Deoria)	Rapti
27.	Kevatliya Mohan (Deoria)	Rapti
28.	Turtipar Churiya (Deoria)	Ghaghra
29.	Pipra Piprasi (Kushi Nagar)	Gandak
30.	Ayodhya Bilva Hari Ghat (Faizabad)	Ghaghra
31.	Naithla (Murad Nagar)	Yamuna
32.	Prajapati Pur Kalyan Patti (Sant Kabir Nagar)	Kuano

[English]

Farmers Welfare Fund

319. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments to set up Farmers Welfare Fund for providing compensation to farmers in case of crop failure;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount demanded for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the decision 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) to (c) Proposal from the Government of Karnataka and some other States have been received by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for the creation of Farmers Welfare Fund for compensating the farmers in case of crop failures.

The matter has been considered and the Central Government is already preparing a modified Crop Insurance Scheme under which the farmers will be duly compensated for failure of crops. In addition, the National Calamity Relief Fund is already there from which assistance is provided to State Governments for giving financial assistance to the farmers in case of crop failures due to natural calamities. In view of this, creation of a separate Farmers Welfare Fund is not considered necessary.

[Translation]

Konar Irrigation Project

320. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the Konar Irrigation Scheme of Bihar;

(b) whether there is any dispute over the said Project;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have resolved the dispute;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) Konar Irrigation Project for irrigating 61923 ha. annually in Girdih and Hazaribagh Distts. of Bihar was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in March 1984 for an estimated cost of Rs. 93.61 crores. The Project was not accepted due to inter-state issues. The expenditure up to March, 1998 on the project is Rs. 93.31 crores. The outlay proposed by the State Government for the year 1998-99 for this project is Rs. 12.33 crores. Bihar Government has not submitted the project proposals as per the decisions taken in the inter-state meeting on 5.12.97.

Employment for Ten Crore Unemployed

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme to generate employment for ten crores unemployed during the next ten years; and

(b) 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) and (b) As a follow-up of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Independence Day address on 15th August, 1998, the Government have set up a Task Force to suggest strategies of employment generation for achieving the target of providing employment opportunities to ten crore people over the next ten years. This implies strategies for providing employment opportunities to one crore on an average per year. The Task Force set up by the Planning Commission is already engaged in this work.

Contribution of States in GDP

322. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made assessment of the contribution made by States in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country;

(b) if so, the contribution of each State in the Gross Domestic Product;

(c) the States whose contribution in the Gross

Domestic Product has increased during the last three years; and

(d) the name of States whose contribution has continuously decreased during the above period?

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 estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the total economy are compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), as the sum total of goods and services produced in economy as a whole. The estimates of the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) are compiled by the respective State Governments. Contribution of activities of military, para-military and High Seas, etc. are taken into account in the GDP of the economy but not in the GSDP.

(b) The share of each State's GSDP in the GDP of the total economy is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Haryana and Maharashtra.

(d) Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

Statement

Contribution of States (Percentage Share) in Gross Domestic Product

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pr.	7.2	7.4	7.3
2.	Arunachal Pr.	0.1	0.1	0.1
3.	Assam	1.9	1.8	1.7
4.	Bihar	4.8	4.1	4.0
5.	Goa	0.3	0.3	0.3
6.	Gujarat	6.7	6.0	6.2
7.	Haryana	2.8	2.8	3.0
8.	Himachal Pr.	0.6	0.5	NA
9.	J & K	NA	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	5.1	5.1	4.9
11.	Kerala	3.1	3.2	3.2
12.	Madhya Pr.	5.7	5.5	5.6
13.	Maharashtra	14.3	14.7	14.7
14.	Manipur	0.2	0.2	0.2
15.	Meghalaya	0.2	0.2	0.2
16.	Mizoram	0.1	0.1	NA

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Nagaland	0.2	0.2	NA
18.	Orissa	2.4	2.4	2.2
19.	Punjab	4.1	4.0	4.0
20.	Rajasthan	4.0	3.8	4.1
21.	Sikkim	neg.	neg.	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	7.0	6.7	6.8
23.	Tripura	0.2	0.2	0.2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.4	10.1	10.3
25.	West Bengal	6.9	6.8	6.8
26.	Delhi	2.7	2.7	2.5
27.	Pondicherry	0.1	0.1	0.1

Note : Information available for latest three years

NA- Not available

neg.- negligible connotes a contribution less than 0.1 %

[English]

Indira Gandhi Canal

323. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Indira Gandhi Canal Project in Rajasthan is likely to be completed;

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government for this project during the last three years and the fund proposed to be increased for the current financial year;

(c) whether the construction of canal in command areas are likely to be completed within the stipulated time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The canal works of Indira Gandhi Canal Project are proposed to be completed by the year 2005.

(b) The Central assistance provided for this project during the last three years is as under:

Year	Central assistance under Border Area Development Programme (BADP)	Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)	Total
1995-96	Rs. 60 crores	—	Rs. 60 Crores
1996-97	Rs. 60 crores	—	Rs. 60 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 60 crores	Rs. 36 Crores	Rs. 96 Crores

For the current financial year 1998-99, Rs.30 crores under Border Area Development Programme has been agreed as Central assistance against which the first instalment of Rs. 15 crores has already been recommended for release, a Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 40 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been approved of which Rs. 20 crores has been released.

(c) As per programme, canals in command areas are proposed to be completed by the year 2005.

(d) and (e) Against an estimated 9180 km. of lined canals of distributary system in two stages, a length of about 5930 km. has been complete till the end of VIII Plan. It is proposed to be completed 1941 km. length in the IX Plan and the balance 1309 km. length in the first three years of X plan.

[Translation]

Basic Amenities for Every Citizen

324. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plans of the Government have failed to provide basic amenities to every citizen of the country after fifty years of independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to solve these problems on priority basis; 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) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to provide basic amenities to all the people in the country since the beginning of the planning process. While substantial progress has made towards fulfilling this objective, the goal of achieving full coverage for the entire population has not been realised.

Great strides have been made to ensure access of all to primary education, primary health care and safe drinking water. As per the latest available information, 83% of the total habitations in the country were served by a primary school within 1km. of walking distance. As compared to only 37.8% of the 6-11 age group children (called the Gross Enrolment Ratio) who had access to primary education in 1951, 104.3% of this age group children have been covered by the year 1995-96. Access to Primary Health Care has also witnessed significant achievements. At the All India level, the objective of setting up a network of Sub Centres (SC's) and Primary Health Centres (PHC's) has been fully achieved as per norms. The improved situation in the provision of Primary Health Care is reflected in marked improvement in health indices; Crude Death Rate (CDR) has declined from 25.1 in 1951 to 8.9 in 1996, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 146 in 1951 to 72 in 1996 and Life Expectancy has risen from 32 years in 1947 to 61.1 years in 1991. Considerable progress

has also been made insofar as access to Safe Drinking Water is concerned. In respect of Water Supply to rural areas, as on 1.4.98, 74.1% of all habitations had access to Safe Drinking Water, 21.9% of all habitations had partial access to Drinking Water with only 4% of the habitations lacking access to Safe Drinking Water. In Urban areas, 85% of the total Urban population as on 31.3.93 had access to Safe Drinking Water as per norms.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the objective of achieving full access of both rural and urban population to basic amenities, the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme was launched in 1996. Seven Basic Services were identified for priority attention. The Services are Safe drinking water for all, Primary health service facilities for all, Universalisation of primary education, Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor, Nutrition to certain disadvantaged Sections, Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations and Streamlining of the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

In addition to the provision of funds for BMS made in the Plans of the States and Union Territories (UTs) and funds routed through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, in 1996 the Centre introduced a system of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States/UTs exclusively for BMS. In 1996-97, the Centre allocated Rs. 2244 crore as ACA for BMS to States and UTs which was increased to Rs. 2970 crore in 1997-98 and further enhanced to Rs. 3410 crore in 1998-99. The distribution of ACA among States is based on the relative gaps in the BMS infrastructure in the States. The total BMS outlay of the States/UTs is earmarked in their Annual Plans so that no diversion to non-BMS sectors is possible. States and UTs have full freedom and flexibility to spend ACA among the seven BMS areas as per their own priorities. The implementation of the BMS programme rests entirely with the States and UTs.

Special Action Plan have been drawn up for the BMS sectors of Safe Drinking Water, Primary Health Care, Primary Education and Housing for the Shelterless Poor in the Ninth Plan.

[English]

Agricultural University

325. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the existing criteria adopted for providing grants to Agricultural Universities of various States by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(c) the details of grants provided to Agricultural Universities during each of the last three years, State wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Agricultural University in Jammu & Kashmir; 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) There are 28 State Agricultural Universities and one Central Agricultural University in the country (enclosed statement).

(b) In view of the mandatory role of the Council for regulating Agricultural Education, the Council is supporting universities for developing and strengthening educational programme in the universities over the years. Council has provided substantial support for development of various academic activities in different State Agricultural Universities. During IX Plan, major emphasis is on skill development for which commensurate support as per the revised guidelines for the scheme on "Development and Strengthening of State Agricultural Universities" is being provided.

(c) enclosed statement.

(d) There is already one State Agricultural University for Jammu & Kashmir State by the name of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology.

The Central Government will not establish second Agricultural University in Jammu. Agricultural Education is a State subject and the State Government has been requested to establish a separate Agricultural University in Jammu.

(e) It has been agreed in principle by Planning Commission, ICAR and State Govt. to establish a State Agricultural University at Jammu. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has to issue gazette notification in this context.

The Council as well as Planning Commission will provide support during IX Plan for establishment of the University.

Statement

State Agricultural Universities and Central Agricultural University and details of the grant provided during the last three years

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University Hyderabad	—	146.00	80.00	226.00
2.	Assam Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	88.76	—	270.00	358.76
3.	Bihar Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar)	20.24	30.00	70.00	120.24

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke Ranchi	—	146.74	95.00	241.74
5.	Gujarat Gujarat Agricultural University, Banaskantha	128.86	56.04	85.00	269.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh Himachal Pradesh Krishi, Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur	80.00	64.00	62.00	206.00
7.	Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan	81.00	77.26	99.00	257.26
8.	Haryana CSS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	73.00	35.00	71.00	179.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu	10.00	109.78	80.00	199.78
10.	Kerala Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	57.93	15.24	70.00	143.17
11.	Karnataka University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore	17.93	49.31	80.00	147.24
12.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	24.99	105.37	60.00	190.36
13.	Maharashtra Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	18.61	56.71	75.00	150.32
14.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	66.45	49.80	72.00	188.25
15.	Maraathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	55.00	30.53	68.00	153.53
16.	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	85.25	33.95	57.00	176.20
17.	Madhya Pradesh Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	90.00	115.36	108.00	313.36
18.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vidyalya, Raipur	43.67	96.28	69.00	148.95
19.	Orissa Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar	221.00	—	70.00	291.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Punjab Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	—	57.00	70.00	127.00
21.	Rajasthan Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	239.25	51.00	150.00	440.25
22.	Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	17.93	57.69	55.00	130.62
23.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai	15.00	61.00	60.00	136.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur	78.22	—	63.00	141.22
25.	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	62.00	49.70	95.00	206.70
26.	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad	—	58.00	55.00	113.00
27.	West Bengal Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mohanpur	43.10	153.55	61.00	257.65
28.	West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Calcutta	—	25.00	60.00	85.00
TOTAL					5598.50
29.	Central Agricultural University, Imphal	300	360	500	1160

Utilisation of Interest Accrued under MPLADS

326. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken special measures for utilisation of interest accrued on the grants under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any review of progress made in the implementation of the Scheme has been done by the Government recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise the interest amount?

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) (b) and (e) The interest accrued on MPLADS funds may be used for the same purpose for which the basic amount of MPLADS funds has been allocated.

(c) and (d) The review of implementation of MPLADS by the Government is a continuous process. As on 31.1.1999, the Government has released an amount of Rs. 3398.38 crores under the Scheme. As per the information received from the concerned Collectors, works for an amount of Rs. 2940.68 crores have been sanctioned while the actual expenditure is reported to be Rs. 2208.39 crores out of the releases made by the Government.

[Translation]

Indian Management System

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

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up of Indian Management Centre for Watershed and Farming in the State; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. No proposal to set up Indian Management Centre for Watershed and Farming has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Missile Sale to Pak

328. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : 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 "US get new data on China's missile tech sale to Pak" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 8, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the threat posed by the transfer of missile technology to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had noticed the news-item of the 'Washington Times'. This item reports, by quoting US intelligence and national security officials, who claim to possess new information regarding

China's missile technology transfers to Pakistan for its medium range missile known as the 'Shaheen', that the transfer included telemetry equipment that could be used in the testing of medium range missiles.

(c) India has consistently highlighted in various fora the continuing support to Pakistan's missile programme despite the existence of multi-lateral export control regimes, also uni-lateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions by supplier countries. Government remains fully committed to effectively safeguarding the country's security interests.

Indians in Foreign Jails

329. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians languishing in various jails in the Gulf countries as on 31 December, 1998;

(b) whether capital punishments have been awarded to certain detainees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) As per the information available with the Government there are 2605 Indians detained in various jails in Gulf countries as on 31st December, 1998.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There are 14 cases in which capital punishment has been awarded. In most of the cases, the detainees were involved in serious crimes such as murder, rape and drug trafficking.

Diseases in Coconut Trees

330. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coconut trees are getting destroyed due to various diseases in different parts of the country and particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the annual loss suffered by the farmers; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government stem the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The following diseases are affecting coconut trees in different parts of the country including Kerala:-

- i) Bud rot, stem bleeding and leaf spot
- ii) Root wilt
- iii) Ganoderma wilt
- iv) Thattipaka

As per Central Plantation Crops Research Institutes (ICAR), Kasargod, Kerala, the details of the extent of damage caused by these diseases are as under:-

Bud rot : The disease occurs during the monsoon sporadically. It can cause upto 40% loss.

Stem Bleeding : A very limited survey conducted in Kannur and Kasaragod districts of Kerala show that the incidence can go upto 80% in certain localities as proper crop loss estimates are not available.

Root wilt : A survey conducted by Coconut Development Board on production loss due to this disease in Kerala during 1984-85 revealed the annual loss as nearly 1000 million nuts.

Ganoderma : A survey conducted in Tamil Nadu indicated 0.6 to 4.9% incidence in various regions and estimates of crop loss are not available.

Thattipaka : Nearly 25,000 palms are affected in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Reply to part (c) of the question is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The effective steps being taken by the Government to stem the disease are as under:-

Bud rot : Spraying the crop with 1% Bordeaux mixture at the on-set of monsoon. Removal and destruction of all the affected tissues followed by treatment of wound with 10% Bordeaux paste or Mancozeb slurry and then covering wound with plastic sheets.

Stem Bleeding : Removal of affected tissues and dressing with hot-coaltar or Bordeaux paste, avoiding any mechanical injury to the stem and to fill the holes with cement or mud.

Root wilt : Removal of all coconut trees giving less than 10 nuts/per annum and proper manuring and management to improve the health and natural resistance of coconut trees. Mixed farming to improve the growth and general conditions of coconut trees is recommended.

Thattipaka : Eradication of affected palms to contain the disease is recommended.

Ganoderma : Management practices to control the disease include eradication of dead trees, application of adequate fertilizers and organic matter with 5 Kg neem cake, root feeding with 5 % Tridemorph.

Leaf spot : To improve the general condition of coconut palms, proper manuring and management is recommended.

The Coconut Development Board, Cochin is also implementing a scheme viz. Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement to arrest the spread of the disease and to improve the productivity of the disease

affected garden. Under this programme financial incentive is provided to farmers for (a) cutting and removal of disease advanced senile and unproductive palms @ Rs. 200/- per palm (b) replanting with quality seedlings @ Rs. 5/- per seedling (c) fertilizer application and plant protection measures @ Rs. 8/- per palm and (d) adoption of multispecies cropping @ Rs. 200/- per ha.

Nuclear Issue

331. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether United Nation have made their intention clear on the nuclear issue;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether US has conveyed to India that they will not accept India as a nuclear power;
- (d) If so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of countries who have so far agreed to recognise India as a nuclear power?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Nuclear Testing on 4th December 1998, 'strongly deploring the nuclear tests conducted in South Asia' by 117 votes in favour, 9 against and 34 abstentions. India voted against the resolution. The text of the resolution and the voting chart are enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) Government are aware of reports quoting US officials that India cannot be accepted as a nuclear-weapon State because of the legal definition contained in the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). India's dialogue with the United States is based on the premise that India is a State possessing nuclear weapons and is committed to maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent in accordance with its own assessment of national security requirements. US is engaged in dialogue with us on this basis, as are other countries, thus indicating their acceptance of this reality.

General Assembly Fifty-Third Session Plenary Meeting : 79

Item : 71

Symbol : A/53/584

Draft Resolution G

Recorded Vote

Adopted

Date : 4D

Time : 11

Vote : 9

Yes : 117

No:

Abstain:

Resolution 53/77G

Subject : Nuclear Testing

Y Afghanistan

Y Albania

A Algeria

Y Andorra

N

N

Y

Y

Y

Angola

Antigua-Barbuda

Argentina

Armenia

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bahamas

Y

A

Y

Y

Y

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Barbados

Belarus

Statement

Nuclear Testing

Co-sponsors (23) : Australia, Canada, Malta, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Congo, Costa-Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, ROK Solomon Islands and Uruguay

The General Assembly,

- (1) **Reaffirming** that the cessation of all nuclear testing will contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament leading to the ultimate objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and therefore to the further enhancement of international peace and security.
 - (2) **Also reaffirming** its commitment to and the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and as essential foundations for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.
 - (3) **Convinced** that all States that have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay and without conditions.
 - (4) **Sharing alarm** expressed internationally, regionally and nationally, at recent nuclear tests.
 - (5) **Recalling** United Nations Security Council Resolution 1172 adopted unanimously on 6 June 1998.
1. **Express** grave concern over and strongly deplores the recent nuclear tests conducted in South Asia.
 2. **Notes** that the States concerned have declared moratoria on further testing and have said that they are willing to enter into legal commitments not to conduct any further nuclear tests, and reiterates the need for such legal commitments to be expressed in legal form by signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Y	Belgium	A	Ethiopia	Y	Luxembourg	Y	St Vincent-Gi
Y	Belize	Y	Fiji	Y	Madagascar	Y	Samoa
Y	Benin	Y	Finland	N	Malawi	Y	San Marino
N	Bhutan	Y	France	Y	Malaysia		S Tome Prince
Y	Bolivia	Y	Gabon	A	Maldives		Saudi Arabia
	Bosnia/Herzeg		Gambia		Mali	Y	Senegal
Y	Botswana	Y	Georgia	Y	Malta		Seychelles
Y	Brazil	Y	Germany	Y	Marshall Islands	Y	Sierra Leone
Y	Brunei Dar-Salam	A	Ghana		Mauritania	Y	Singapore
Y	Bulgaria	Y	Greece	A	Mauritius	Y	Slovakia
	Burkina Faso	A	Grenada	Y	Mexico	Y	Slovenia
	Burundi	Y	Gutemala	Y	Micronesia (FS)	Y	Solomon Isla
	Cambodia	Y	Guinea	Y	Monaco		Somalia
Y	Cameroon	Y	Guinea-Bissau	Y	Mongolia	Y	South Africa
Y	Canada	A	Guyana	A	Morocco	Y	Spain
	Cape Verde	Y	Haiti	A	Mozambique	A	Sri Lanka
Y	Central AFR Rep	Y	Honduras	Y	Myanmar	A	Sudan
Y	Chad	Y	Hungary	N	Namibia	Y	Suriname
Y	Chile	Y	Hungary	A	Nepal	Y	Swaziland
Y	China	Y	Iceland	Y	Netherlands	Y	Sweden
Y	Colombia	N	India	Y	New Zealand	A	Syrian AR
Y	Comoros	Y	Indonesia	Y	Nicaragua	Y	Tajikistan
	Congo	Y	Iran (ISL R)	A	Niger	Y	Thailand
			Iraq	N	Nigeria	Y	TFYR Macedoni
Y	Costa Rica	Y	Ireland	Y	Norway	Y	Togo
Y	Cote D' Ivoire	A	Israel	Y	Oman	A	Trinidad-Toba
Y	Croatia	Y	Italy	A	Pakistan	A	Tunisia
A	Cuba	Y	Jamaica	N	Palau	A	Turkey
A	Cyprus	Y	Japan		Panama		Turkmenistan
Y	Czech Republic	Y	Jordan	Y	Papua N Guinea		Uganda
	DFR of Korea	A	Kazakhstan	Y	Paraguay	Y	Ukraine
	DEM Rep of Congo	Y	Kenya	Y	Peru	Y	UA Emirates
Y	Denmark	A	Kuwait	Y	Philippines	Y	United Kingdom
Y	Djibouti	Y	Kyrgyzstan	Y	Poland	A	UR Tanzania
	Dominica	Y	Lao PDR	Y	Portugal	Y	United States
Y	Dominican Rep		Latvia	Y	Qatar	Y	Uruguay
Y	Ecuador	Y	Lebanon	Y	Rep of Korea	Y	Uzbekistan
Y	Egypt	Y	Lesotho	Y	Rep of Moldova	Y	Vanuatu
Y	EL Salvador		Liberia	Y	Romania	Y	Venezuela
Y	Equat Guinea	Y	Liberia	Y	Russian Fed	A	Viet Nam
A	Eritrea	A	Libyan AJ		Rwanda	A	Yemen
Y	Estonia	Y	Liechtenstein	A	St Kitts-Neu	A	Yugoslavia
		Y	Lithuania	A	Saint Lucia	A	Zambia
						N	Zimbabwe

[Translation]

Funds for Research Work

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

(a) whether the Government are providing sufficient funds for conducting agricultural research work to enable our scientist to compete the World's scientist; and

(b) 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) In so far as Department of Agricultural Research and Education is concerned, the plan funds investment in agricultural research is between 0.3 and 0.4% of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product. However, the total investment including plan and non-plan will be around 0.66% of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product.

The adequate allocations to support agricultural research have not been possible on account of resource constraints. However, our scientists are doing their best within the limited resources.

Crop Insurance Scheme

333. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any amount to the farmers of the country under the Crop Insurance Scheme during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(d) whether any amount of claim is outstanding with the Union Government; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the time by which the amount is likely to be paid?

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 statement indicating State-wise details of claims paid during the last three years under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is given in statement-I.

(c) A statement indicating State-wise details of number of farmers benefited under CCIS during the last three years is given in statement-II

(d) and (e) All the admissible claims pertaining to the

last three years have been approved by the Government of India except those relating to the Kharif 1997 season in respect of Madhya Pradesh where the implementing agency was having some reservations and will be settled soon.

Claims in respect of some States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal are pending with the implementing agency i.e. General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) on account of non-receipt of 1/3rd share from the concerned State Governments. These claims would be settled on receipt of the required contribution from the State Governments.

Statement-I

(Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1859.72	8272.42	8197.76
2.	Assam	0.66	2.00	0.57
3.	Bihar	347.59	228.11	210.19
4.	Goa	0.12	0.06	0.02
5.	Gujarat	8422.20	389.42	172.42
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.08	0.26	0.00
7.	Karnataka	367.82	469.45	0.00
8.	Kerala	33.75	202.39	64.95
9.	Madhya Pradesh	479.89	1081.69	363.10
10.	Maharashtra	1405.85	513.37	2738.17
11.	Meghalaya	0.22	1.48	0.00
12.	Orissa	759.30	4431.81	0.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	766.22	1438.77	210.97
14.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	West Bengal	423.77	114.98	0.00
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.01	1.35
17.	Pondicherry	0.00	4.79	11.29
Total		14867.19	17151.01	11970.79

Statement-II

S.No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	163964	321424	388351
2.	Assam	78	90	10
3.	Bihar	34409	23567	1236

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Goa	82	57	5
5.	Gujarat	384318	29848	24997
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8	246	0
7.	Karnataka	48981	54306	0
8.	Kerala	5874	10945	8980
9.	Madhya Pradesh	134956	220148	46692
10.	Maharashtra	130250	61562	417873
11.	Meghalaya	194	559	0
12.	Orissa	109243	296417	0
13.	Tamil Nadu	46775	62530	16645
14.	Tripura	0	0	0
15.	West Bengal	112887	25575	0
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	6	88
17.	Pondicherry	0	715	807
Total		1172019	1107995	916912

[English]

Crop Forecasting System

334. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Crop Forecasting Centres at the Centre as well as State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the Crop Forecasting Centres; and

(c) the steps 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) to (c) The Government has set up a National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) in the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the process of decision making and management of agriculture sector. The NCFC has started functioning with effect from 3.12.98 with a small professional team, carved out of existing resources of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

To begin with the focus of tracking the crop prospects is prioritised to thirteen major crops viz. Rice, Wheat, Maize, Bajra, Tur, Gram, Groundnut, Rapeseed and Mustard, Soyabean, Sugarcane, Cotton, Potato and Onion.

The mandate for NCFC is to provide effective and uni-

fied institutional framework for the entire crop forecasting system involving data flow from different sources and its assimilation analysis using state-of-the-art methods and techniques.

The State Governments have been asked to nominate a nodal agency for integration and real-time flow of data/information on a computerised network. Human resource development is also made part of this endeavour.

Recommendations of Shukla Commission

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

(a) whether a Central Pool of Resources for implementation of various recommendations contained in the report of the Shukla Commission for the North-Eastern States has been set up;

(b) if so, the resources collected under this Central Pool; and

(c) the funds allocated for each of the specific projects in the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) A non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted for assisting development projects, including the infrastructure sector, in the North East and Sikkim. The funds being credited by various Union Ministries/Departments to the Pool are expected to enable meeting the initial requirements in the current financial year.

2. Project proposals relating, inter-alia, to the recommendations of the Shukla Commission, are envisaged to be identified, from time to time, for assistance, on merits, from the Central Pool for implementation through appropriate Central/State agencies. Releases amounting to Rs. 93.10 crore have so far been made for the projects in the North East.

[Translation]

Milk and Milk Products

336. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of milk production in the country annually and the annual requirement of milk in the country; State-wise;

(b) whether the shortage of milk in several States is due to improper distribution of milk and milk products despite its adequate production;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to meet the requirement of milk and milk products including the Central assistance being provided to the deficit States for the purpose; and

(d) the details of the import and exports of milk and its products 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) The quantum of milk production and requirement in the country during 1997-98, Statewise is given in the Statement-I.

(b) No shortage of milk and milk products has been reported by any State.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details of import and exports of milk and its products during the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Production and requirement of milk during 1997-98

Sl.No.	States	Milk Prod. (Prov.) (000 MT)	Requirement ^a of milk (000 MT)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4510	5968
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44	82
3.	Assam	775	2065
4.	Bihar	3475	7975
5.	Goa	39	107
6.	Gujarat	4860	3723
7.	Haryana	4082	1516
8.	Himachal Pradesh	707	471
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	938	715
10.	Karnataka	3970	3980
11.	Kerala	2348	2557
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5378	6035
13.	Maharashtra	5193	7196
14.	Manipur	62	172
15.	Meghalaya	59	166
16.	Mizoram	20	68

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	46	120
18.	Orissa	670	2860
19.	Punjab	7165	1791
20.	Rajasthan	5500	4039
21.	Sikkim	35	40
22.	Tamil Nadu	4000	4779
23.	Tripura	47	258
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12934	12505
25.	West Bengal	3415	6090
U.Ts.			
26.	A & N Islands	22	29
27.	Chandigarh	43	68
28.	D & N Haveli	4	13
29.	Delhi	266	952
30.	Lakshdweep	1	5
31.	Daman & Diu	1	9
32.	Pondicherry	36	74
Total		70645	76428

^aBased on nutritional requirement of 220 grams per capita per day as recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Statement-II

Details of imports and exports of milk and milk products (in Value terms during 1995-96 to 1997-98)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Commodity	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
A. Imports				
1.	Skimmed Milk	807.6	196.4	412.1
2.	Milk and cream Powder	2513.0	0.8	3.8
3.	Milk for babies	20.2	42.7	54.0

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Butter/butter oil/ Melted Butter	2489.6	162.4	2200.2
5.	Cheese of all kinds	95.6	72.6	64.4
6.	Others	292.7	29.4	193.2
B. Exports				
1.	Skimmed Milk	1538.3	250.0	790.0
2.	Whole Milk	66.6	107.2	85.5
3.	Milk/Milk food for babies	37.9	142.9	7.3
4.	Butter/Melted Butter	660.5	528.5	318.6
5.	Cheese of all kinds	1.8	63.7	24.3
6.	Others	268.1	103.6	54.7

[English]

Curb on Infiltration

337. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks with Bangladesh were held on issues of exchange of enclaves;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and outcome thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to curb infiltration and smuggling along the Indo-Bangla borders?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India, records pertaining to all of which have been jointly reconciled by the Survey authorities of the two countries. The exchange of these enclaves is directly linked to ratification of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement, which will follow completion of the demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh for which work is going on. Government are fully committed to an early settlement of all boundary-related issues with Bangladesh.

(c) The problem of infiltration and smuggling along the Indo-Bangladesh borders has been discussed between the Governments of India and Bangladesh. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb the menace of smuggling and infiltration and have underlined the need to take appropriate measures by involving the civil administration and the local police. At the Home Secretary level talks with Bangladesh in November 1998, the Bangladesh side assured the Indian side that measures would be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

[Translation]

Use of Bio-Fertilizer

338. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved any programme to encourage production and use of bio-fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the adverse affects of the chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the health of the people; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to provide its substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) To encourage the use of biofertilisers as a supplementary source of nutrients to the crops, Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Development and Use of Biofertilisers. Under this scheme, Government gives grants to encourage the production of biofertilisers. Field demonstrations/ farmers fair and training for Extension workers and dealers are organised under the scheme to create widespread awareness about importance and use of biofertilisers among farming community.

Annual production capacity of biofertiliser units is about 16300 tonnes in the country. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The average consumption of plant nutrients through chemical fertilisers was about 87.0 Kg per ha. during 1997-98. This level of consumption is not considered high enough for causing adverse affects on soils/crops. However, the Govt. encourages Balanced and Integrated Use of Chemical Fertilizers, Organic manures and biofertilisers for achieving optimum results.

To safeguard against the possible harm due to the use of chemical pesticides, Integrated Pest Management practices are being popularised among farmers. Further, the effective implementation of the Insecticides Act, 1968, pesticides, within safety limits - to human beings, animals and the environment.

Statement

Units financed by GOI			Others	
Unit	Capacity (mt)	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakhs)	Unit	Capacity (mt)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>				
1. MFL, Vijayawada	75	13.00	1. A.N.G. Ranga Agri Univ., Amaravathi, Guntur	70
2. APAU, Hyderabad	75	13.00	2. Regional Soil Testing Lab, Hyderabad	7
3. GFL, Secunderabad	100	13.00		
<i>Assam</i>				
1. Assam Agro Ind., Corpn., Guwahati	150	20.00		
2. HFC, Namrup	75	13.00		
3. HFC, Silchar	150	20.00		
<i>Bihar</i>				
1. SCADA	150	20.00	1. Birsa Agric. Univ., Ranchi	11
2. PPCL, Amjhore	75	9.83		
3. HFC, Sindri	75	13.00		
4. HFC, Barauni	75	13.00		
<i>Gujarat</i>				
1. KRIBHCO, Surat	225	32.50		
2. Gujarat State Coop., Mktg. Fed., Ahmedabad	125	10.50		
3. GSFC, Vadodara	475	53.00		
4. Gujarat State Agro Ind. Corporation	150	20.00		
<i>Haryana</i>				
1. CCS HAU, Hisar	75	13.00		
2. RBDC, Hisar	50	DAC		
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>				
1. Dept. of Agri., Shimla	75	11.16		
<i>Karnataka</i>				
1. Karnataka Compost Dev. Corporation	150	20.00	1. Azo Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd., Mysore	375
2. Karnataka State Agro Ind. Corporation	150	20.00	2. KCD Corpn., Bangalore	150

1	2	3	4	5
3. RBDC, Bangalore	50	DAC	3. UAS, Dharwad	5
4. NFL, Bangalore	75	13.00	4. UAS (GKVK), Bangalore	50
			5. Kadur Agro, Mylasandu, Bangalore	100
Kerala				
1. Dept. of Agric., Pattambi	75	7.83		
2. FACT, Travencore	150	20.00		
Madhya Pradesh				
1. NFL, Indore	100	12.50		
2. M.P. Agro Ind. Corp., Bhopal	450	29.30		
3. HFC, Gwalior	75	13.00		
4. HFC, Bhopal	75	13.00		
5. NAFED Biofertiliser, Indore	200	13.00		
6. M. P. Oilseed Corp., Dhar	150	17.70		
7. RBDC, Jabalpur	50	DAC		
Maharashtra				
1. BAIF, Pune	1000	12.60	1. Indian Organic Chemicals, Khopoli, Raigadh	300
2. RCF, Chembur	75	12.50	2. Kumar Krishi Mitra Pvt. Ltd., Pune	2400
3. RBDC, Nagpur	50	DAC	3. Ajay Biotech (India), Pune	1500
			4. MPAU, Pune	36
			5. MAIDC, Chinchwad, Pune	300
			6. K-Ferts Laboratories, Nanded	60
Manipur				
1. RBDC, Imphal	50	DAC		
Mizoram				
1. Dept. of Agric., Aizawl	75	13.00		
Nagaland				
1. Dept. of Agric., Nagaland	150	20.00		

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Orissa</i>				
1. OAIC, Bhubaneswar	75	13.00		
2. OAIC, Sambalpur	150	20.00		
3. OAIC, Rayagada	150	20.00		
4. HFC, Cuttack	150	20.00		
5. RBDC, Bhubaneswar	50	DAC		
<i>Punjab</i>				
1. PAIC, Ludhiana	75	11.83	1. PAU, Ludhiana	3
<i>Rajasthan</i>				
1. RAIC, Jaipur	75	13.00	1. RCL-Dept. of Agric., Durgapura	50
2. SFCI, Suratgarh	150	20.00	2. Raj. College of Agric., Udaipur	2
			3. Jaipur Biofertiliser, Jaipur	1000
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>				
1. MFL, Chennai	75	13.00	1. Luxmi Biotech, Cuddalore	150
2. Dept. of Agric., Salem	250	13.00	2. ESVIN Biosystems, Erode	20
3. Dept. of Agric., Kudumiamalai	75	13.00	3. Magnam Associates, Chennai	250
4. T. Stanes & Co. Coimbatore	925	13.00	4. Main Biocontrol Res. Lab., Chengalpattu	300
5. SPIC Biotech Div., Chennai	75	13.00	5. Monarch Biof. & Res. Centre, Chennai	22
6. Seema Cotton Dev. Res. Association, Coimbatore	75	13.00	6. Detp. of Agric., Pudukottai	250
			7. TNAU, Coimbatore	17
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>				
1. IFFCO, Phoolpur	75	13.00	1. Deptt. of Agric., Meerut, Aligarh, Lucknow, Badaun, Etawah, Sultanpur, Banda, Jhansi, Azamgarh and Varanasi	300
2. Dept. of Agric. Etah, Baharalch and Orai	150	20.00		

1	2	3	4	5
3. NBDC, Ghazibad <i>West Bengal</i>	75	DAC		
1. BCKV, Kalyani	75	13.00	1. Nitrofix Labs, Calcutta	150
2. HFC, Durgapur	75	12.08	2. Micro Bac India Shyamnagar	84
3. HFC, Siliguri	150	20.00		
<i>Pondicherry</i>				
1. P. Agro Service & Ind. Corpn. Pondicherry	75	13.00		
<i>Delhi</i>			1. IARI, Pusa, New Delhi	3
<i>Tripura</i>			1. Dept. of Agric., Tripura	10
Total	8350	812.43		7975
Grand Total				16325

[English]

Adulterated Vegetables

339. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that vegetables sold in the market are sprinkled or mashed with pesticides to keep them free from pests and provide a shining look;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government intend to check the use of pesticides on vegetables and propose to bring them under the Food Adulteration Act; and

(d) if so, the steps being 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) to (d) Under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Rules framed thereunder (administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), the tolerance limits of pesticides residues in different food articles including vegetables are prescribed. Violation thereof is an punishable offence under the Act.

The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to keep a strict vigil on the presence of pesticides residues in different food articles including vegetables.

Information Technology Industry

340. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide all support to the Information Technology Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any conference on the subject was held recently in New Delhi;

(d) if so, the suggestions made therein;

(e) whether the suggestions have been accepted by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to implement them?

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) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has made recommendations for accomplishing of Info-Infrastructure Drive, \$ 50 Billion Annual Export of IT Software and IT Services and IT for All by 2008. It has suggested various measures relating to Soft-Bonded Unit, Fiscal and Financial Policies, Procedures Simplification, Export, Investment and RBI related issues, Banking Issues, Company Law Issues, Labour Laws, Information Technology Units in DTA, Information Technology Product, Design Development for providing support to Information Technology Industry.

(c) No conference relating to support to Information Technology Industry as proposed by the National Task Force has been held recently.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Use of Force on Iraq

341. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States has been acting unilaterally in using force against Iraq without the approval of the Security Council;

(b) if so, the Government's stand thereon in this matter; and

(c) the role likely to be played by the Government in bringing peace in West Asia and also ensure Iraq complied with UN resolution?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) On 17 December, 1998, the Prime Minister had made a statement in the House on this issue. A copy of the statement is enclosed.

(c) West Asia represents India's proximate neighbourhood. India is therefore vitally interested in peace and prosperity in the region and has supported all efforts to defuse the crises relating to Iraq. India has repeatedly called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We have also sought effective response from the international community to remove the sufferings of the Iraqi people. Towards these ends, India has called for the resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the UN. In this regard, India is in touch with all Member-States concerned, including members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Security Council.

Statement

1. We have been closely following developments relating to Iraq. India has close historical ties and strong affinities with the countries and peoples of the region. We have been deeply concerned about the sufferings of the people Iraq, and have called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We have consistently counselled restraints and moderation in resolving differences that have emerged from time to time in the interaction of the UN special Commission (UNSCOM) with Iraq.

2. The Government of India is gravely concerned at and deploras these airstrikes being carried out on Iraq by the U.S. and U.K. It is particularly regrettable that this unilateral step has been undertaken at the very time when the UN Security Council was in session to discuss developments arising from the report of the Head of UNSCOM, which the UNSG had forwarded to the Council with his recommendations proposing alternative courses of action. This attack raises serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN security Council. It also undermines the ability of the Council to verify Iraq's compliance with the relevant Council Resolutions.

3. It has been our considered view that use of force in

this situation would be counter-productive. This issue needs to be resolved diplomatically through peaceful means and dialogue. We have supported efforts by the UN in this direction. We have noted the statement of the UN Secretary General expressing deep regret at the latest development. We call for an immediate halt to the military action and a resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the UN.

4. The Indian community in Iraq numbering about 50 persons is safe. We have been in touch with our Embassy and are taking all measures to ensure their welfare.

Welfare of Fishermen

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small fishermen in Orissa are being exploited by big fish merchants and prawn mafias;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check such practices?

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 are some reports on exploitation of small fishermen by big fish merchants as well as traders at few places in Orissa. The small fishermen from marine sector in these places have availed loan at exorbitant rates for replacement of their wooden catamarans with FRP motorised catamarans from non-formal sources including fish merchants and traders.

(c) The Government have taken adequate steps to check such practices by organising the small fishermen into Cooperative Societies through which they get necessary financial assistance from Banks, NABARD, National Cooperative Development Corporation, etc. Further, a fishing zone extending upto five Kms. from the shore has been exclusively earmarked for traditional fishermen for fishing under the provisions of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act. The Government is also enforcing such fishing regulation effectively under the provisions of the Act. Besides, financial assistance in the form of subsidy is provided to traditional fishermen for motorisation of their craft which would enable them to extend the area of fishing operations at sea.

Compensation to Pokhran Victims

343. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give adequate compensation to those people of Pokhran area who suffered any type of loss on account of nuclear tests carried out on 11th and 13th May, 1998;

(b) if so, whether any compensation has since been paid to the victims;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The yields of the devices tested at Pokhran were carefully chosen to ensure that there would be minimal or no damage caused to structures in neighbouring villages. The Government of Rajasthan has conducted a detailed survey and action has been initiated to release compensation in this regard.

Sugarcane

344. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Indian Sugarcane is far sweeter on Foreign Soil" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 9, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for transportation of sugarcane to the Sugar Mills within 24 to 48 hours of its harvesting in order to avoid conversion of sucrose of the sugarcane into alcohol due to natural fermentation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Many Sugarcane varieties developed at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore named as Co. canes have been utilized by several foreign sugarcane growing countries either as commercial varieties for general cultivation during the initial stage of establishment of their own sugarcane research organisation or as a parent (genetic stock) for the development of locally suitable varieties.

(c) The cooperative mills in Maharashtra, Gujarat and North Karnataka undertake the harvesting and transportation of cane themselves. While in other States, harvesting and transportation is undertaken by the growers themselves.

In Northern States, the growers are required to supply cane to the factory at the gate where harvesting and transportation is not undertaken by the factory itself, while purchase centres are set-up for convenience of the farmers particularly those situated away from the mills. The gap between harvesting and crushing rarely exceeds 24 hours.

[Translation]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

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

(a) the capital investment made in the agriculture sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the total capital investment in this sector has been reduced; and

(c) if so, 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) A statement giving the details of public sector, private sector and the total capital investment in agriculture at current and 1993-94 prices during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Whereas there has been an increasing trend in the overall capital investment at current prices, the public sector investment at 1993-94 prices has declined which is attributed to diversion of resources from investment to current expenditure in the form of subsidies.

Statement

Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Agriculture Total		Agriculture Private		Agriculture Public	
	At current Prices	At 1993-94 Prices	At current Prices	At 1993-94 Prices	At current Prices	At 1993-94 Prices
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1995-96	23942	19944	17954	15168	5988	4776
1996-97	29296	19902	20184	15555	6112	4347
1997-98*	29700	20995	22767	16579	6933	4416

*Quick Estimates

[English]

Haj Pilgrims

346. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by Haj and Mansarovar pilgrims last year during their pilgrimage;

(b) whether Government are taking various steps to minimise their difficulties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement**I. Haj**

The problems faced by pilgrims in Saudi Arabia arise from their unfamiliarity with the living conditions and measures required for their safety. The specific problems faced by pilgrims during Haj-98 related to the delays in their flights, particularly on the return journey, as a result of technical snags in aircraft.

To address these problems, the Haj Committee, Mumbai, was to organise orientation/training programmes for pilgrims, particularly at the district level, for Haj-99. This is being implemented in a number of states. Again, in order to meet the requirements of pilgrims who do not go through such orientation programmes in India, the Consulate General in Jeddah has prepared detailed guidelines in five languages (English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Tamil) which are being distributed to pilgrims on arrival. The India-based and local staff have also been put through an extensive training programme to equip them to meet the needs of our pilgrims, particularly in respect of safety measures during emergencies.

In order to ensure that disruptions in Haj charter flights are minimised, for Haj-99, the Haj Committee, Mumbai, in association with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India and Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA), has signed a contract with an international company that is providing newer aircraft. So far, the haj air charter operations are proceeding satisfactorily.

II. Kailash - Mansarovar Yatra

Last year, an unprecedented national calamity hit the 12th batch of this Yatra on 17th August, 1998. When pilgrims were camped at Village Malpa, Distt. Pithoragarh (U.P.), a massive landslide devastated the village. All 60 pilgrims of this batch were reported dead and the Yatra was discontinued after this tragedy.

The arrangements for this year's Yatra take into account the above tragedy. The possibilities of providing an alternative route for the Yatra has been under discussion with the Chinese since 1993, taking into account the growing popularity of the Yatra, constraint along the existing route and requests from resident of the border areas, specially Laddakh. The Chinese authorities are yet to respond positively to our suggestions. The Government's efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Subsidy on DAP

347. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DAP subsidy hike delayed due to official faux pass" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated Dec., 12, 1998;

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

(c) the action 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There was no delay in announcing the concession (subsidy) for phosphatic and potassic fertilisers for Kharif 1998 and Rabi 1998-99 after Government took a decision in the matter.

Promotion of Aquaculture

348. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved any schemes for promotion of aquaculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated 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) and (b) The Government of India is implementing two Centrally Sponsored schemes for Development of Aquaculture. Details of the two schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The funds allocated during the 1998-99 for the scheme on Development of Freshwater Aquaculture is Rs. 1850 lakhs and for the scheme on Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture Rs. 300 lakhs. No State-wise allocation of funds are made. However, funds are released to the State Governments as per their requirement with proper justification and duly supported by utilisation certificates.

Statement

I. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) is being implemented by the States/Union Territory. At present 422 FFDAs have been sanctioned for establishment covering the major potential districts in the country. Under the scheme, expenditure on developmental activities such as, construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc.), running water fish culture, aerators, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, salary of incremental staff, cost of vehicle, training of fish farmers, etc. is shared on 50:50 basis by the Government of India and the State Governments. However, the expenditure on base staff salary, maintenance of vehicles and office contingencies is incurred 100% by the respective State Governments.

II. Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Development of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture", a package of financial, technical and extension support is provided to the small-scale shrimp farmers through 39 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDDAs) set up in the coastal States of the country and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A subsidy of Rs. 30,000/- per hectare of water area is provided to the beneficiaries for developmental costs and inputs. Assistance of Rupees one Lakh per hatchery or 10 per cent of the cost, whichever is lower is given for prawn seed hatcheries of 2-5 million capacity per annum. Trainees are provided stipend @ Rs. 25/- per day and travelling allowance limited to Rs. 140/- per trainee for two months training.

Indo-Pak Talks

349. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
 SHRI K.P. NAIDU :
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
 SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
 SHRI SURESH KURUP :
 SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 SHRI ADITYANATH :
 SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the official level talks between India and Pakistan on various contentions issues;

(b) whether any substantial breakthrough have been achieved on the Kashmir issue and nuclear arms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main hurdles coming in way in the normalisation of relationship between both the countries; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve all the outstanding issues?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) The resumed composite dialogue process between India and Pakistan began with a meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in Islamabad from 15-18 October, 1998, for discussions on the subjects of Peace and Security, including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu & Kashmir. The discussions focussed on the need for exchanging views on security concepts and nuclear doctrines, developing nuclear and conventional CBMs, putting in place communication links that are fail-safe, secure and dedicated, increased information flow for greater transparency and predictability, as well as setting up of a consultative mechanism for periodic review and improved implementation of the CBMs in place. There was a convergence of views on these issues and it was agreed to continue these discussions. In the discussions on Jammu & Kashmir, we have made it clear that the entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and this legal status does not admit of any change. We have also demanded that Pakistan cease its futile sponsorship of terrorism and adhere to the provisions of the Simla Agreement, including the status quo which was established in Jammu & Kashmir under that Agreement.

The composite dialogue process continued in New Delhi with talks being held from 5-13 November, 1998, on the subjects of Tulbul Navigation Project, Siachen, Sir Creek, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

During discussions on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, Government gave Pakistan detailed evidence regarding its role in sponsoring terrorism against India and demanded that this should stop. Government also asked Pakistan to close down training camps for terrorists and hand over terrorists and fugitives from the law who had been given sanctuary in Pakistan.

In discussions on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, the two sides recognised the usefulness of cooperation. In international fora on issues such as the environment and the social clause and felt the need for enhanced exchange of information on economic and commercial matters. As a result of these discussions, expert level talks were held in Pakistan and India on the possible purchase of power by India from Pakistan. Following the second round of these discussions, the Pakistan delegation confirmed the availability of 300 MW capacity for export to India for the next ten years with periodical increase of 600 MW. It was decided that the tariff and other commercial terms for purchase of power would be discussed in the next round of discussions to be held in March 1999 in Pakistan.

On the subject of Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields, the two sides agreed to hold expert level talks on civilian prisoners, railway traffic and starting the bus service between Delhi and Lahore. The two sides also agreed that fishermen who innocently stray into each other's territorial waters should be released immediately on completion of necessary procedures. Both India and Pakistan released fishermen in their custody following these talks. Liberalisation of the visa regime was also discussed. Following expert level talks on bus service between Delhi and Lahore, an agreement and protocol for the regulation of this service was signed between the Governments of India and Pakistan in Islamabad on 17 February, 1999. The inaugural Delhi-Lahore run of the bus service took place on 20th February 99. Prime Minister visited Pakistan on this occasion.

On the subjects of Siachen, Sir Creek and Tulbul Navigation Project, Government gave reasonable, practical and realistic proposals to Pakistan. It has been agreed to continue discussions on all identified subjects.

There has been some progress during the first round of discussions in the composite dialogue process. India's approach to this process is positive and constructive and we look forward to engaging Pakistan in a sustained dialogue on all aspects of our relations, i.e. cooperation, confidence building, and resolution of outstanding issues.

A strong impetus to the comprehensive dialogue process has been provided by Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore Bus Service. In the talks between Prime Minister and his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, it was decided that the process should be intensified.

The date of the next round of official level talks under the composite dialogue process will be decided through mutual consultation between the two Governments.

Gloomy Picture of State Finances

350. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its recent report has pointed out a gloomy picture of the State finances pointing out that the States Plans are funded almost exclusively by borrowings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government as a follow-up measure on the report?

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) Borrowings, on an average, accounted for 84 per cent of total resources for financing the State Plans of 25 States in 1998-99. In addition, a large part of Central Assistance which accounted for 43 per cent of States' Plan resources

is also in the form of loans to the States. Planning Commission has been impressing upon States to generate higher level of own resources through increase in tax and non-tax revenue and also by containing non-plan revenue expenditure.

Use of Hindi in Indian High Commissions and Embassies Abroad

[Translation]

351. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi is not used predominantly in the Indian High Commissions and embassies;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to propagate the use of Hindi;

(c) the percentage of amount spent on Hindi books, newspapers, magazines etc. in embassies out of the total allocation made for magazines for the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make available bilingual forms for all the forms available in English in the Indian embassies?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) While the Ministry of External Affairs/Missions and Posts abroad deals primarily with foreign countries and officials, the Missions/Posts are, on a continuing basis, making all efforts for popularisation and progressive use of Hindi abroad. Interactions with the Indian community abroad, including during National Day celebrations, are in Hindi.

(b) The Ministry has a well formulated scheme of propagation of Hindi abroad including dissemination of Hindi literature comprising books in Hindi on various subjects such as Indian culture, art, literature, language, history, philosophy to Indian Missions abroad for building Hindi libraries in the Missions as also for donating to educational institutions and voluntary organisations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad. Hindi teaching material including text books dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, computer Hindi software, CD ROM etc. are also being sent. The Missions on their part maintain close contact with local organisations and Indian community etc., and fulfil their Hindi language related requirements. They also coordinate the work relating to selection of foreign students for studying Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, on Government of India scholarships. Some of our Missions have been organising Hindi conferences, literary events, Hindi essay competitions to promote Hindi in the countries of their accreditation. Some Missions abroad conduct classes for local people keen to learn Hindi. Liberal financial assistance is given to the organisations engaged in the promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad.

Hindi forms an integral part of the Foreign Service Institute training programme. Intensive training about the Official Language Policy of the Government of India and how to implement it, is given to the officials going on posting abroad.

(c) Approximately 15%.

(d) All the Forms for Passports and other consular services forwarded by Ministry to Missions abroad are in bilingual format.

[English]

CBI Enquiry

352. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received any petition seeking his sanction, required under the Prevention of Corruption Act against any Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Free Press Journal, Mumbai dated January 13, 1999 wherein it has been reported that the CBI has completed its investigation concerning certain charges levelled against a particular Minister;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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. JANARATHANAN) : (a) to (e) A petition has been received from Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Member of Parliament seeking sanction of prosecution of a Central Minister under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the matter is receiving attention of the Government.

[Translation]

Traditional Crops

353. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to develop the traditional crops in India as they are being developed appropriately in the developed countries; and

(b) if so, the action 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) and (b) The process of evaluation and development of traditional crops in India is being continued through the implementation of a number of programmes in respect of research,

development and extension. These programmes include All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Projects of Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as Centrally Sponsored/ Central Sector Schemes.

[English]

Soil Erosion in Kerala

354. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there is constant soil erosion on the banks of various rivers in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government of Kerala during the last three years till date to check the menace?

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) Soil erosion on the banks of Moovattupuzha, Periyar, Koddor, Meenachil and Mutter rivers in Kerala has been reported.

(c) Flood Management Works, including anti soil erosion works, is a State subject and are executed by the States out their own Plan Funds as per their priorities and availability of funds. Planning Commission allocates funds to the State as block grants and loans. The outlays in flood control sub-sector provided to Government to Kerala in the last three years are as below :

1995-96	Rs. 21.00 crores
1996-97	Rs. 35.50 crores
1997-98	Rs. 25.50 crore

From these funds Government of Kerala has also been undertaking river bank protection works on various rivers.

Ties with the U.K.

355. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to normalise relations with UK;

(b) whether any dialogue was initiated by both the countries in the matter; and

(c) if so, when and the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Principal Secretary to Prime Minister visited the U.K. from January 20-21, 1999. The Minister of External Affairs visited the UK from February 2-7, 1999. The visits have allowed for frank discussions with the political leadership in Britain on a wide range of issues including, inter-alia, bilateral cooperation, regional developments, and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

[Translation]

National Gene Bank

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

(a) whether the National Gene Banks have been set up in the country;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the main purpose of setting up of such banks?

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 National Gene Bank is located at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

National Gene Bank has a capacity to conserve one million accessions under medium term (4°C) as well as long term storage (-20°C). It has cryobank with an additional a quarter million capacity of holding accessions.

At present 1,70,000 accessions belonging to 80 genera of agri-horticultural crops as base collection (-20°C), 1250 seed samples in cryo bank (liquid/vapour nitrogen at (-196 C) and 850 tissue culture materials comprising about 25 genera has been conserved in the gene bank.

The gene bank is supported by a net work of medium term seed gene banks which have been established at National Active Germplasm sites located in different crop based institutes of ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, NBPGR Regional Stations in different States as listed below:-

1. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Shillong, Meghalaya.
2. Central Rice Research Institute (ICAR), Cuttack, Orissa.
3. Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR), Jhansi, U.P.

4. Indian Institute of Pulses Research (ICAR), Kanpur, U.P.

5. Central Institute for Cotton Research (ICAR), Nagpur, M.S.

6. Directorate of Wheat Research (ICAR), Karnal, Haryana.

7. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka.

8. Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Raipur, M.P.

9. National Research Centre for Groundnut (ICAR), Junagarh, Gujarat.

10. Directorate of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, U.P.

11. Directorate of Oilseeds Research (ICAR), Hyderabad, A.P.

12. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, Karnataka.

13. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, T.N.

14. NBPGR Regional Station, Thirssur, Kerala.

15. NBPGR Regional Station, Hyderabad, A.P.

16. NBPGR Regional Station, Akola, M.S.

17. NBPGR Regional Station, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

18. NBPGR Regional Station, Shillong, Meghalaya.

19. NBPGR Regional Station, Shimla, H.P.

20. NBPGR Regional Station, Bhowali, U.P.

(c) The establishment of these have costed about Rupees 20 crores.

(d) The purpose of the National Gene Bank is to conserve plant genetic wealth in controlled conditions to ensure that the diversity available at farmers fields is not lost because of change over to new improved varieties. These also ensure availability of plant genetic resources, which are the basic raw material utilized for developing new high yielding varieties of agri-horticultural plants by the plant breeders. The rich heritage of agri-horticultural plants and their wild relatives, which feeds and sustains human kind and is of utmost importance for present and future use is conserved in the gene bank in the form of seeds, tissue cultured plants, embryos, pollen, DNA etc.

[English]

Passport Applications

357. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending at each of the passport offices in Kerala as on 31st January, 1999;

(b) whether the applications are to be cleared under time bound programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure for issue of passport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) The number of applications pending at the three passport offices in Kerala as on 31.1.99 is given below:

Sl. No.	Passport Office	Total Pendency
1.	RPO, Cochin	8,737
2.	PO, Kozhikode	29,018
3.	PO, Trivandrum	7,331

(b) and (c) The major reasons for delay in issue of passports are increase in the number of applications, receipt of negative or incomplete reports from police authorities, discrepancies in documents/applications submitted by the applicants, lack of response from applicants, who are asked to submit additional documents, etc.

Every effort is being made to expedite disposal and reduce the backlog of pending applications.

(d) and (e) The simplification and streamlining of procedures for issue of passports is an on going process. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are : computerisation of processing procedures, opening of new passport offices and collection centres, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, etc.

Attack on Christians

358. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any of the foreign countries or dignitaries have expressed their reaction/concern on recent violence against Christians/Christian missions in various parts of our country;

(b) if so, the names of such countries/dignitaries and issues raised by them;

(c) whether the Government have responded to them; and

(d) if so, details of such response?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Concern has been expressed in some countries including Australia, the UK, the US, as well as in the European Parliament, following some recent incidents of violence in India involving members of the Christian community. In the UK House of Commons, this issue was discussed in an Adjournment Motion on 10th February, 1999. In his response, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Mr. Tony Lloyd pointed out that India has been a model of a successful, diverse and democratic State. The European Parliament in its Urgency Resolution Procedures adopted on 11th February, 1999, a non-binding Resolution on religious freedom. While expressing anxiety about the increase in persecution of religious minorities in various countries, the Resolution also applauded the PM's speech to the nation supporting freedom of religion and calling upon the Indian authorities to bring to justice the guilty. The Australian Foreign Minister issued a statement conveying their Government's concern and sorrow. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed her concern generally over such matters in her discussions during her visit to India in mid-February, 1999.

Government of India has emphasised India's strong and continuing commitment to the maintenance of our long established tradition of religious tolerance and secularism. The statements of the President and Prime Minister of India condemning the recent incidents as well as the widespread public condemnation of these events have also been brought to the attention of interlocutors in countries where concern has been expressed. It has further been emphasised that government is fully committed to safeguarding the right of all citizens to freedom of religion, and that this is enshrined in the Constitution. Government's prompt action to fully investigate and proceed under the law against all such acts of violence, and to preserve India's long tradition of peaceful co-existence and social harmony between people of different religious faiths has also been made known. Foreign Governments, public opinion and the international media have been fully sensitised to the above facts. Our Missions and Posts abroad have been duly involved in this effort. These measures have effectively conveyed the facts, also that these recent incidents were essentially aberrations.

Space Policy

359. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating a national policy to enable the private sector to participate in satellite launching and maintenance programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also decided to permit private broadcasters to uplink from the Indian soil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have approved a policy frame work which provides for private ownership and maintenance of communication satellites.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following seven private broadcasters have been permitted to uplink from Indian soil:

- (1) M/s. Uday TV,
268-269, (2nd floor), Anna Salai,
Teynampet, Chennai-600 018.
- (2) M/s. Eannadu TV, Shantishikhera
Complex, Raj Bhawan Road,
Hyderabad-500 082.
- (3) M/s. Sumangali Publication, Pvt. Ltd.
93-Kodambakkam High Road,
Chennai-600034.
- (4) M/s. Gemini TV,
268-269, II Floor, Anna Salai,
Teynampet, Chennai-600 018.
- (5) M/s. Television International
268-Masjid Moth, Uday Park,
New Delhi-110049.
- (6) M/s. Asianet Communication Ltd.,
1-C, Nungambakkam High Road,
Chennai-600034.
- (7) M/s. Vijay TV, Mc Dowell House,
3-Second Line Beach,
Chennai-600001

Reasons for permitting private broadcasters to uplink from the Indian soil are :

- (i) It would remove the imbalance existing earlier of permitting downlinking and not permitting uplinking.
- (ii) It would result in saving a huge outflow of foreign exchange from the country which was being released by the Government for uplinking facilities being hired by these private parties from abroad.
- (iii) In permitting uplinking from Indian soil, a condition is now stipulated that the private channel operators would adhere to programme and advertisement code of Conduct of Prasar Bharati.

Irrigation Projects of Orissa

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

(a) the total number of irrigation projects submitted by the State Government of Orissa to the Central Water Commission for clearance, during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them cleared so far; and

(c) the details of the remaining projects?

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 of Orissa submitted 11 Irrigation Projects to Centre for its approval during last three years. Of these, one major project has since been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

(c) The details of remaining 10 projects is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Present Status
<i>Major Projects</i>		
1.	Upper Indravati Extension	Accept by Technical Advisory Committee Subject to observation
2.	Kanupur	-do-
3.	Ong Dam	-do-
4.	Ib	Under Correspondence with State Government
5.	Brutang	-do-
6.	Upper Kolab Extension	-do-
<i>Medium Projects</i>		
7.	Dhauragoth	Accepted by Technical Advisory Committee Subject to observation
8.	Telengir	-do-
9.	Ret	-do-
10.	Upper Lanth	-do-

[Translation]

Subsidies to Farmers

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

(a) the subsidies being given to the farmers directly and indirectly on various counts, separately;

(b) the policy of the Government in regard to reduce or to abolish these subsidies;

(c) the amount of subsidy reduced on Urea and other fertilizers alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of subsidy on agriculture being provided in other developed countries in comparison to our country?

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 farmers are fertilisers, irrigation and power. A statement giving details of these subsidies is enclosed. Subsidies on irrigation and power are given directly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that of the actual cost. The subsidies on fertilizers are routed through the manufacturers/suppliers of fertilizers.

(b) The policy of the Government is to provide inputs to the farmers at affordable prices while keeping the subsidy within reasonable limits.

(c) The price of Urea, which is under Statutory price control, has been enhanced by Rs. 340 per tonne from Rs. 3660 to Rs. 4000 per tonne w.e.f. 29.1.1999. The rationale behind the increase in prices are (i) fiscal sustainability and (ii) balanced fertilisation.

(d) The estimates of producers subsidy (net of input subsidies and output taxes) as a percentage of value of agricultural production as worked out by Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development are as under:

Japan	68
EC	48
USA	30
Australia	11

Such estimates have not been worked out by the OECD for India. However, Fertilizer Association of India had placed it at 5%.

Statement

Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

(Rs. Crores)						
Item	1993-94 Actuals	1994-95 Actuals	1995-96 Actuals	1996-97 Actuals	1997-98 RE	1998-99 BE
Subsidy to Agriculture Sector through Inputs						
1. Fertiliser (Total)	4562	5769	6735	7578	10026	9983
1.1 Indigenous fertiliser	3800	4075	4300	4743	6600	6000
1.2 Imported fertiliser	762	1166	1935	1163	826	983
1.3 Fertiliser Subsidy to Small and Marginal farmers	—	—	—	—	—	—
1.4 Sale of decontrolled Fertiliser with concession to farmers	—	528	500	1672	2600	3000
2. Electricity **	2400	2338	1828	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3. Irrigation ##	5872	6769	7909	9256	9778+	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.

Source : 1. Fertilisers : Expenditure Budget 1998-99, 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

[English]

Availability of Water

362. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita water availability in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the details of sharing of water amongst the agricultural, industrial and the domestic sector, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Assessment of average annual availability of surface water resources in the country has been made river basin-wise as river basin has been considered as a unit of water resources

development in accordance with the National Water Policy. A statement showing per capita surface water availability and replenishable ground water resources of River Basins in the country is enclosed.

(b) The present (1997) utilisation of water for various purposes is as under (surface and ground water combined):-

Purpose	Utilisation (in billion cubic metres)	
Irrigation	501.00	82.8%
Domestic	30.00	5%
Industrial	20.00	3.3%
Energy	20.00	3.3%
Others	34.00	5.6%
Total	605.00	

Statement**River Basin Water Availability**

River Basin	Catchment Area (million hectares)	Average Annual Surface Water Availability (BCM)	Replenishable Groundwater Resources (BCM)	Estimated 1991 Population (millions)	Per Capita Available Surface Water (cubic meters)	Per Capita Surface and Ground Water (cubic meters)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Indus	32.13	73.31	26.55	41.90	1,749	2383.29
Ganga	109.76	1110.62	206.07	392.04	18,061	3358.56
Brahmaputra						
Meghna System (includes Ganga & Brahmaputra Barak)						
Ganga	86.15	525.02	171	356.80	1,471	1950.73
Brahmaputra & Barak	23.61	585.60	35.07	35.24	16,589	17612.66
Godavari	31.28	110.54	40.6	53.98	2,048	2799.93
Krishna	25.89	78.12	26.4	60.78	1,285	1719.64
Cauvery	8.12	21.36	12.3	29.33	728	1147.63
Subernrekha	2.92	12.37	1.8	9.46	1,307	1497.89
Brahmani-Vaitarni	5.18	28.48	4.05	9.77	2,915	3329.58
Mahanadi	14.16	66.88	16.50	26.60	2,513	3134.59
Pennar	5.52	6.32	4.93	9.70	651	1159.79
Mahi	3.48	11.02		10.58	1,052	1051.53
Sabarmati	2.17	3.81		10.48	360	360.11
Narmada	9.88	45.64	10.80	14.70	3,109	3839.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tapi	6.51	14.88	8.27	14.80	1,007	1564.19
East Flowing rivers			28.90			
Tapi to Tadri	5.59	87.41		25.80	3,383	3387.98
Tadri to Kanyakumari	5.62	113.53		32.60	3,480	3482.52
Kutch and Saurashtra incl. Luni	32.19	15.10		22.10	683	683.26
East Flowing rivers			18.20			
Mahanadi	8.66	22.52		23.60	953	954.21
Godavari Pennar to Kanyakumari	10.01	16.46		45.20	366	364.16
Sea of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	6			7.10		
Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	3.63	31.00		2.10	14,623	

CBI Action in Security SCAMS

363. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI has received a complaint from a Member of Parliament against the former Union Minister, seeking his prosecution under the prevention of Corruption Act in the security scam concerning Fairgrowth Financial Services Limited; and

(b) if so, the date of receipt of the complaint and the proposed action by the CBI?

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. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation, a complaint from Dr. Subramanian Swamy, M.P. was received by them on 13.7.1998 against a former Union Minister. A similar complaint had earlier been dismissed both by the Special Judge, Delhi and the High Court of Delhi. After examining the matter in depth, the Central Bureau of Investigation came to the conclusion that the present complaint does not disclose any fresh material which may constitute a case against the former Union Minister under the prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Subsequently, another letter dated 16th February, 1999 has been received from Dr. Subramanian Swamy, M.P., which

has been sent to the Central Bureau of Investigation for comments.

Issue of Passport

364. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that the Ministry was responsible in clearing the passport for Dawood Ibrahim's mother on March, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry had issued the passport without any proper verification or as no records were available either with the South District Police or with the Special Board;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has conducted any enquiry as to how this passport was issued without proper verification; and

(d) the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Regional Passport Office Delhi had issued a passport in favour of Smt. Amina B. Sheikh Ebrahim Kaskar on 19.7.93. On the basis of statement by the applicant that she needed to visit Dubai urgently since her only son had met with a serious accident in Dubai, a short validity passport valid for UAE only, was issued to her. There was no indi-

OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) The production and area of wheat, rice, oilseeds and
pulses-all India and State-wise during 1995-96, 1996-97
and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The estimates of production and requirement during the 1998-99 are as follows :-

(Million tonnes)

Commodity	Requirement	Production
Foodgrains of which	197.33	195.25
Pulses	16.27	14.78
Edible Oils	8.20	6.80

Foodgrains of which	197.33	195.25
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Pulses	16.27	14.78
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Edible Oils	8.20	6.80
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The country has almost achieved self sufficiency in cereals. However, there are shortages in the case of pulses and edible oils/oilseeds.

(e) In order to increase production of these crops, the Government is implementing crop specific centrally sponsored schemes/programmes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has been given thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

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Area-Million Hectares
Prod - Million Tonnes

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Jammu & Kashmir	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	-
Karnataka	1.3	3.0	1.4	3.2	1.4	3.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.5	0.7	1.8	0.7	1.7	0.5	2.6	1.7	2.6	1.8	2.2	1.3
Kerala	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.4	4.5	4.0	6.7	4.3	7.8	4.5	7.3	5.2	3.1	5.0	3.5	5.0	3.3	5.6	4.9	6.0	5.1	6.1	5.8
Maharashtra	1.6	2.6	1.5	2.6	1.5	2.4	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.7	3.3	1.6	3.3	2.0	3.3	1.2	2.6	2.0	2.7	2.4	2.6	1.7
Orissa	4.5	6.2	4.5	4.4	4.5	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2
Punjab	2.2	6.8	2.2	7.3	2.3	7.9	3.2	12.5	3.2	13.7	3.3	12.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Rajasthan	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.2	5.5	2.5	6.8	2.7	6.7	3.6	1.5	3.8	1.8	4.4	2.6	3.8	3.1	3.9	3.5	4.4	3.3
Tamil Nadu	1.2	5.3	2.2	5.8	2.4	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.9
Uttar Pradesh	5.6	10.4	5.5	11.8	5.7	12.2	8.9	21.8	9.0	24.0	9.2	23.0	2.8	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.0
West Bengal	6.0	11.9	5.8	12.8	5.9	13.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
All India	42.8	77.0	43.4	81.7	43.4	82.3	25.0	62.1	25.9	69.4	26.7	65.9	22.3	12.3	22.4	14.2	22.8	13.1	26.0	22.1	26.3	24.4	26.2	22.0

Drive against Insurgents

366. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India expressed concern over the use of Bhutan as a militant base by North-Eastern insurgent groups;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance given/proposed to Bhutan for drive against these insurgents?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The presence of North-Eastern militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concerns on this issue which was discussed at length in the National Assembly of Bhutan at its last session held in June-July 1998. The National Assembly recognised the danger posed by these militants to Bhutan itself, and sought to find the most appropriate ways and means to move them from their territory. India and Bhutan have remained in frequent touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard.

CTBT

367. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the MINISTER of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to take up final view on CTBT after diplomatic negotiations with the European Union and Russia?

(b) If so, whether the Indian Government had concrete discussion with these countries; and

(c) If so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) As part of Government's efforts to engage key interlocutors in key countries on a range of issues including the CTBT, discussions have also been held, inter-alia, with Russia and the European Union.

(c) Government's position on the CTBT has been placed before Parliament. On December 15, 1998, Prime Minister had stated that "India is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions. That remains our position. For the successful conclusion of the talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient."

[English]

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

A copy of the Economic Survey 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey, 1998-99'. (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2424/99]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, 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 Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1997-98.
 - (iv) A copy of the Comments of the Board (Hindi and English versions) on the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2425/99]

Notification under sub-sections (2) of section 3 of the All India Service Act, 1951

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, on behalf of Shri M.R. Kadambur Janarathanan, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) 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 All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Third Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 719 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1998.
 - (ii) The All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 1999.
 - (iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Seventh Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 1999.
 - (iv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Twenty Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 1999.

- (v) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 3 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2426/99]

12.01 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

First Report

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP) : Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.1½ hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Second Report and Minutes

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT) : Sir, I beg to present Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Rate of Dividend for 1998-99 and other ancillary matters' alongwith Minutes relating thereto.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thirteenth Report

SHRI MURLI DEORA (MUMBAI SOUTH) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Constitution (Eighty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 1998.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.
Shri Vaiko.

.....(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Sir, I had also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I am going by the list before me.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : My name must also be on the list.

12.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Sir, thank you very much for

permitting me to raise a very important issue during the 'Zero Hour'.

I would draw the attention of the Government to a very serious problem which has caused a grave concern in the minds of the farmers, agriculturists, particularly in the Southern States, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

According to the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, it has been proposed that out of 5,100 items, 1,000 items will be included for duty free market(Interruptions)

Sir, if rubber, tea, coffee, coir products, coconut and spices particularly cardamom, are imported duty free, it will totally destroy the farmers and the planters.

I understand that according to the agreement, 28th February is going to be the last date for finalisation of the negative list of items. Unless these items like tea, rubber, coffee, coir products, coconut spices, etc. are included in that negative list, it will totally ruin them and a devastating effect will be there.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a lot of noise in the House. Silence please.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The whose noise is coming from the Congress Party.(Interruptions).

SHRI VAIKO : It is a very serious issue. Thousands and thousands of families will be left on the streets, in a lurch. A lot of people depend on these items. For example, tea growers sell tea in the market at a price of Rs. 60 per kilo.

But when it is imported from Sri Lanka duty free, it will be sold at Rs. 35-40 and that will definitely close down all the prospects of exports.

In our country, particularly in the Southern States, we produce more than what we need for the domestic consumption. Therefore, we depend upon the exports and particularly in Tamil Nadu we are going in for large scale coconut plantations. And then if we import from Sri Lanka, as they have developed the modern technology, it will be very difficult to compete with them.

I do not understand that rationale that compelled the Government to go in for a Free Trade Agreement and including these items to be put in the duty free list, without taking into consideration how much damage will be caused to the farmers, the agriculturists, planters and also the employees who depend upon these tea, rubber, coconut and coffee plantations.

It is a painful paradox that in the 18th and the 19th Centuries thousands and thousands of labourers went to Sri Lanka. Through their sweat and labour they brought the rubber plantation and one fine morning with the stroke of a pen six lakh people were brought here as refugees. These very same people are dependant upon these plantations.

Therefore, the economy of the Southern States, particularly of the farmers in Kerala, Tamil Nadu—especially the

Nilgiris and the Kanyakumari districts—and Karnataka will be affected. It will totally ruin their future.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI VAIKO : Therefore, the Government should include these items in the negative list....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, yesterday also many hon. Members had given notices. What I am saying is that today also we have a long list. You briefly put your matter and then ask what you want the Government to do. You put your final question.

SHRI VAIKO : Now only three days are there for the 28th February, the last date for finalisation of the list of the negative items. These items should be included in the list of negative items.

Therefore, I request the Government to have a meeting on this vital issue, with the Members of Parliament of the Southern States cutting across party lines and discuss the matter with them. The Government should also make a statement on this very serious issue.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, the Government wants to react to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Some other hon. Members also have given notice.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (THIRUVANTHAPURAM) : The Prime Minister should make a statement on this issue.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the hon. Minister wanted to react; let him react.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Karunakaran also has given a notice on the same matter. I am asking him to speak.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : The farmers of Kerala are in real panic. Kerala is the one State where the economy will be very much adversely affected. The agricultural community in Kerala is very much worried due to this agreement. The items mentioned are coconut, rubber, cardamom, etc. These are produced both in Sri Lanka and in India. Kerala is producing the same products. Unfortunately, not only we are worried about the import from Sri Lanka, but also there is every possibility of other countries operating through Sri Lanka, and then, the products come to India. That will very much adversely affect the farmers of this country. My personal request is that the Prime Minister himself should intervene, sort out this and find out some solution.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : We all support .

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) : The hon. Members have raised important issue. I will convey the sentiments expressed by the Members to the Commerce Minister....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : The Commerce Minister should come and make a statement here....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, this is Zero Hour. You have raised the matter and the Government has reacted to it. Do not waste the time of the House. Otherwise, we will not be in a position to finish.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, you can direct the Minister to make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, he has already reacted.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, 28th February is the last date.

SHRI VAIKO : The Commerce Minister should come forward to make a statement here. He should make a statement here

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already reacted. What more you want?

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, 28th February is the last date.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In Zero Hour, whenever you take up a matter, the Government reacts. That means, the Government has taken note of it. Do not waste the time of the House.

SHRI VAIKO : The Commerce Minister should come forward to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Government through you that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled tribes and disinclined (Vimukti) castes (Pasi) who are well known for their industrious and self-respect qualities are being engaged as watchman for hundred years at police stations of north Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Initially they are being offered Rs. 20 as honorarium and at present this honorarium is Rs. 100/- per month, which is very less keeping in view the price rise ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I demand from the Government through you that their pay and status should be brought at par with the class III employees of union and state Governments so that they could meet the both end. With these words I thank you.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASUMUND) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chhattisgarh District of Madhya

Pradesh is under the grip of severe famine these days. Almost three lakh people have migrated from there due to this famine. In Khilluri assembly segment of my constituency Bhukhau tribals Binjwar has died due to hunger. and state administration did nothing so far in regard to relief providing to them. So many people are facing such a large scale famine, starvation and poverty problem, almost 55 Lakh rural population in entire Chhattisgarh region have been affected by this. Nothing is being done there due to want of sufficient Government fund.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the union Government to provide central assistance for this area immediately so as to solve this starvation problem...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, what about me? You have called me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be called. He has given notice on the same issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (CHURU) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India through you towards this. Rajasthan is the State which is ahead in every field...*(Interruptions)* Rajasthan produces brave soldiers, milk and so many minerals in India. Today Rajasthan is facing severe famine conditions and almost 2070 villages are have been badly affected and are under the grip of this famine. Due to famine, potable water and fodder for cattle are not at all available in Rajasthan. It is not a easy task to explain in words the condition of cattle there due to non availability of fodder. In spite of the limited resources of Rajasthan Government 3.25 lakh people have been engaged in providing relief work. Leading news of papers of Rajasthan have expressed concern over it. Govt. of India is not paying any attention towards Rajasthan. Being a congress Government in Rajasthan Govt. of India are adopting a dual policy in providing assistance. Only Rs. 95 crore are left in Rajasthan Natural Calamity Fund, but Govt. of India is not thinking seriously to provide assistance to Rajasthan. I, therefore, would like to draw attention of union Govt. towards these problems through you. Due to wrong economic policy of former BJP Government of Rajasthan, the exchequer of Rajasthan is empty. They have demanded Rs. 1500 crore from the Govt. of India but nothing has been paid. It is very serious issue. I would like to urge the union Govt. through you that it should make a statement in the Lok Sabha and send a central team to Rajasthan. The additional assistance as demanded by the Rajasthan Government should be provided to them so that Rajasthan Govt. could create more employment opportunities and provide potable water and subsidy for fodder.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to reports regarding strike by banking employees on 25th and 28th throughout the nation. Banking business is a day to day affair of our life

and the banking employees are going on strike. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House about the steps that the Government have taken to prevent the strike from taking place tomorrow and day after tomorrow because we will be put to great difficulties? The employees are on the war path. Not only the officers but even the employees are going on strike. The entire banking system, including money transactions, will be paralysed. The Finance Minister is going to present the Budget after two days. So, when the Budget is being presented, there is going to be a strike, and that too by the banking employees. So, I would urge the Finance Minister to make a statement in the House, prevent the strike and not to make it a reality because otherwise we will be put to great difficulties. I hope, he will rise to the occasion and give a reply to our satisfaction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, your name is there. You will get an opportunity.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : My notice is on the same subject, Sir. Sir, for two days the entire banking industry will be paralysed ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, the Finance Minister is here. Let him respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shri Basudeb Acharia has also given a notice on the same subject.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there have been a number of meetings between IBA and all the unions of the banking industry, but no solution has come out. The employees of the banking industry are demanding increase in their pay and wages. The revision of their pay and wages is due for the last one year but the Government has not taken any action in this regard, except a few meetings which were held between IBA and the unions of the banking industry.

Sir, after this strike for two days, they have again called for a strike for an indefinite period if this issue is not resolved. As the Finance Minister is here, I demand that he should give a statement that he would take urgent steps so that this strike by the banking employees is avoided and averted, their demand is met and the issue of wage revision is settled forthwith....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, do not get up every now and then.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, both the Ministers are here. The Finance Minister is here and he should assure the House that he will take steps to resolve this issue..... *(Interruptions)* Sir, when the Finance Minister is here, you can direct the Finance Minister to take steps to resolve this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How can I direct the Finance Minister? He is sitting here. If he wants to react, he can react. I cannot direct him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you can direct him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, I cannot direct him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the banking industry will be paralysed for two days, tomorrow and day after tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he should respond.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, the Finance Minister is here. He should respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Argal.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : It seems as if the Finance Minister has lost interest in the Indian economy. It is a major strike that is going to take place*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, what is this? This is a non-functioning government which we are having here....*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Finance Minister should respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is here. If he wants to react, he can react.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is here. You should direct him to react.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can I direct him to react.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is not responding even.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What can I do if he does not want to react?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The banking industry is going to be paralysed for two days and the Government is silent. Sir, the Minister should respond ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Both the Ministers are here....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not prepared to react. How can I direct him?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are having a non-functioning Government here. The Government is sleeping when the entire banking industry is going to be paralysed. The Government is not responding....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seats. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Argal.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (MURENA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Interstate Chambal Dahini canal which pass through Madhya Pradesh from Rajasthan. Earlier 3900 cusec water was given to Madhya Pradesh but at present only 2300 Cusec water is being released by Rajasthan Govt. Due to this, Shyampur Kalan, Murena and near by Bhind district which comes under my constituency are not getting water. The crops of the farmer of this area are getting damaged. State Government is not paying any attention towards this. I would like to urge upon the Government to release sufficient water from Rajasthan. Otherwise dacoit problem will erupt again and State Government and Union Government will be held responsible for it.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sugar industries in Uttar Pradesh are under going a recession period. A lot of difficulties are being faced due to non increase in the prices of sugar. Most of the industries are at the verge of closure as a result thereof. Sugar-cane growers are feeling insecure. I urge upon the Govt. that it should review the situation and take steps as early as possible, so that the sugar-cane growers could feel secure.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House and especially of hon. Kadambur Janarthanan to the poor plight of Tamilians appointed by the Staff Selection Commission. The Staff Selection Commission had selected 23 Tamilians on merit and posted them in the Office of the Accountant-General of Karnataka. Out of 23, 19 Tamilians have not been permitted to give their joining reports in the Office of the Accountant-General of Karnataka on the pretext that the appointees are not knowing Kannada, the local language. This is very much against the principles set out in Article 14 and Article 16 of the Constitution and also against the judgement that has been delivered during 1996 in the case of Mr. Radheyslam versus the Union of India.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, in his letter, has already requested the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter and see that the 19 appointees from Tamil Nadu are permitted to join the same Department.

Once again, I would like to request hon. Kadambur Janarthanan to kindly intervene in this matter and see that all the 19 Tamilians who have been selected on merit by the Staff Selection Commission are appointed in that particular Department, that is, Accountant General's Office, Karnataka,

without any further delay. This is an emotional matter for Tamilians. So, I request the Government, through you, Sir, that petty politics should not be allowed to interfere in this sort of an issue because it is against what has been enshrined in Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. Thank you.

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) : Sir, the Staff Selection Commission is a Body which provides employment in the Central Government. The total number of appointees is 23 and not 19. Out of 23, four have already been given employment and 15 more are getting employment in the Central Government in Bangalore itself. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : They should be appointed in that particular Department itself. Why should they be deprived of this opportunity of joining the Accountant General's Office?

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : The Staff Selection Commission is a Body which gives employment to the unemployed in the Central Government Departments, and they have been given employment in the Central Government Departments.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, they have been selected by the Staff Selection Commission. They should be appointed in that particular Department only.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Sir, as usual, the DMK has been misinformed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, you may disagree with the statement of the Minister, but he has explained the position.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : They should be permitted to join in the Accountant General's Office in Karnataka only and not elsewhere.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, he has already explained the position.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is very much against national integration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, he has already stated the stand of the Government. You may not agree with it, and we cannot help it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : When the persons have been appointed in Accountant General's Office, they should be absorbed in that Office only and not elsewhere. What is wrong in this?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He has got facts wrong, and the Parliament is being misled here.

SHRI T.R. BALLU : The political outfits have prevented these people from giving the joining reports.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, during the 'Zero Hour', you have mentioned it and the Minister has reacted to it. There are others who want to speak. So, let me call others.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Minister should issue orders permitting the Tamilian appointees to join in the Accountant General's Office.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, you have got ample opportunities. You can bring it up in some other form also. You have already mentioned it during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The selected candidates should be appointed in the Accountant General's Office only and not elsewhere.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : They are not able to find employment for Tamilians in Tamil Nadu, but he is worried about this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : There is a Supreme Court order saying that regional criteria should not interfere in the appointment of people. So, those people who have been appointed by the Staff Selection Commission should be absorbed in the Accountant General's Office only and not elsewhere....(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I gave a notice on Admiral Bhagwat's case.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever it may be, your notice was received after 10 o'clock.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I gave it before 10 O'clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But this is the information I have got.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, what about my notice?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your notice was received in time, but it has been disallowed by the hon. Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : I be permitted to speak. Sir, you have called my name...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamad, I have called the name of Shri Sunil Khan. I will call you next.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, I want to raise a very serious issue. Several sleepless nights were spent by the employees working in MAMC, Cycle Corporation of India, BOGL, RIC, National Instrumentation BPMEL, weighbard Ltd. Tannery and Footwear. A long march from Devipur to Asansol, a distance of 130 km, has already been launched from 9th February to 15th February, 1999, with the support of all political parties, to protest against the closure of certain public sector undertakings. You are aware that thousands and thou-

sands of people came on to the roads and supported the march in favour of the revival packages. The Ministry of Finance allocated about Rs. 517 crore for the VRS only. They are not allocating Rs. 375 crore for the revival package. I want to know whether the public sector undertakings are to be revived or not. I request that Rs. 4 crore should be allocated for BOGL and for certain amount for MAMC BOPL...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, I want to highlight the issue.

1231 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan came and sat on the floor near the Table).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, please go to your seat. Is this the way to behave in the House?

1231 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan went back to his seat).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is a serious matter. The Government should respond...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, serious matters are always raised in the zero hour. If a Minister or anybody from the Treasury Benches wants to react, I can allow him. This is not the way the Members should behave in the House.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : Sir, they cannot insist on a reply from the Government.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government should give some assurance. They have decided to close down eight public sector undertakings....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you have had your chance and you have raised the matter. There are other hon. Members who have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Will you not allow even the Presiding Officer to speak?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Several hon. Members gave notices yesterday but nobody got a chance to raise their issues. I want to exhaust the entire list today.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are not displeased with you, why are you angry with us?

DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am angry because those people who have got chance, but even those who have not got the chance, are also sitting here. All of them should get a chance. How house will be conducted? It is not proper to sit here in 'Zero Hour'. All these members should maintain order in the House.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, 28th February is the deadline by which they will have to take a decision, What will happen to these public sector undertakings? We want to know this from the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This is not the way to behave in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are one of the senior Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he cannot very often disturb the House like this...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are not disturbing the House. We are raising a very serious issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If senior Members like Shri Acharia behave like this, what to talk of new Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM ((GULBARGA) : You should speak about Public Sector Undertakings ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why you are speaking now? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat now.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all hon. Members are aware of the fact that during the 'zero hour' many issues are raised in the House for which the Government does not receive prior notice. On issues where the Government has definite information, it tries to respond. On some other issue where there is a need to collect information, it is not proper on the part of any representative of the Government to respond off the cuff.

These issues are important, and there is a procedure which is laid down. A Member who raises an issue during Zero Hour will get a reply, that is also fixed. But saying that whoever is sitting here on behalf of the Government will be in a position to respond to all the issues which are being raised in this House....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : These are very important issues.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : They are important issues but I do not have notice. I did not notice that you were going to raise the issue of Bank Employees' Strike. I do not have notice that you are going to raise issue of eight public sector undertakings...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you do not want the hon. Finance Minister to react even. What is this? This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : So, I am not going to respond on the part of the Government off the cuff because I will respond with full facts.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : When ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Whenever I am directed by the hon. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, this is not the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is very unfortunate. They have fixed the deadline as 28th February about the voluntary separation schemes...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : How can he dictate terms in the House?...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, today is already 24th and it is very unfortunate that we do not have information about this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This cannot be converted into a Question Hour. You know that during 'Zero Hour', everybody raises serious matters of urgent public importance. The Government immediately cannot react there. If they have the facts and figures or the information available with them, they can respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But you do not want to hear even me. What is this? •

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a number of times we have mentioned about this issue. He knows that. He can tell us as to what the position is....(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am raising here a serious matter which is the concern of a very large population of this country. I also avail of this opportunity to express deep sense of resentment of the Muslims community of India on the Government decision to grant visa to a foreign national Salman Rushdie to visit this country.

Sir, Salman Rushdie, in the eyes of the Muslim community of the world over is blasphemous. He has committed a blasphemy by abusing the holy Prophet of Islam and his family. He has not regretted so far, and it has wounded the sentiments of Muslims all over the country and all over the world. He has really hurt the feelings and sentiments of a very large section of the people in this country. Such a man should not be welcomed in the soil of this country. Freedom of expression does not mean freedom to wound other sentiments.

Sir, I would like to say that, Muslims we have taken a principled stand on this matter. The feelings of the Muslims towards the Prophet cannot be expressed as it is quite inexplicable. On such an occasion, Mr. Salman Rushdie by abusing the holy Prophet and his family has become a man of blasphemy. He has committed a blasphemy. He has not regretted his action. Such a man cannot be allowed to visit India. It is the duty of the Government to respect the sentiments of the people of this country. It is not the duty of the Government to bring anybody to wound the sentiments of the people of this country. It is a question of sentiments of millions and millions of the people of this country. But our Government feels that it is not a concern for them. Grant of visa to Rushdie is unwise and provocative. Therefore, I would request that the Government should reconsider it and cancel the decision of granting him the visa.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also put this question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your matter will be taken up later on.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has raised such a matter which is connected with the sentiments of crores of people and we support it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The notice you have given, in regard to this matter is like this.

[English]

"Organised attacks on Christian religious place in Gujarat."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, the subject I would like to raise, is given in my notice and this is the same subject which has been raised by Shri E. Ahamed. Please try to see my notice, this has been given in it....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The subject of Shri Ahamed is in regard to not issuing visa to Shri Salman Rushdie.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my subject is also the same. I also want to speak on it. I have also mentioned about it in my notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : O.K., I am giving you time to speak.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully agree to the subject, raised by Shri Ahamed. I would like to say that Govt. of India has a plan, according to which the Government wants to divide the whole society on communal lines and the Government has issued visa to Salman Rushdie under that scheme. Consequently many such incidents are taking place in the country with the sinister alliance of the Government and the Government are trying to create communal riots in the country so as to gain political advantage. I oppose this intention of the Govt. and appeal the Govt. of India through you that the reason on which Salman Rushdie was issued visa is totally wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Salman Rushdie had not only made comment on prophet Mohammad, that the several objectionable comments made on Hindu God. Goddess by him also affect our Hindu society. Therefore it is not only a question of muslim society but Rushdie's ideology about Hindu society also affects the sentiments of Hindu Society. Therefore efforts are being made by the Government of India to thrust India in to the fire of communal riots by inviting such person as a guest. I condemn it and appeal that his visa should be cancelled immediately.(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about which scheme he is talking whatever hon'ble members are saying, is totally wrong ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the subject which has been raised by Shri E. Ahamed is very important and we support him....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But you have not given notice. You cannot speak. Please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government wants to thrust the whole country into the fire of riots it is not a question only of muslim society but also of Hindu society.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh Ji, you cannot speak in a such way without notice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you will not hear, us who will? Whether they will

listen us. They are not only anti Hindu but are also anti muslim...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh Ji, how you can speak, without notice. How it will go on.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Salman Rushdie's book has been banned and a conspiracy is being hatched to create riots by allowing him to come here...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government has issued visa to Salman Rushdie for insulting the muslim community...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Laluj please sit down..

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You, please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the visa issued to Salman Rushdie for coming India should be cancelled...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the Government through you that it should reconsider its decision in regard to issuing visa to Salman Rushdie as his ideology is against all the religious groups of the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully sympathise with you. If even the leaders stand up in this way, then it's impossible to conduct the House. This does not behave of parliamentarians. The people outside do not like this kind of behaviour on the part of hon. Members of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, how can you conduct this House?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I am sorry, if the House is like this, it is impossible for anybody to conduct the proceedings. I fully sympathise with you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will be impossible for anybody to control this House.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This does not be-

* Not Recorded

have of us because when we go outside, we find that people are extremely disgusted with us.

The point I wanted to raise is a point which deals with the question of the national sovereignty of India. A so-called 'fact finding mission', comprising of three customs officials of the United States of America have arrived in India for ascertaining whether the produce of India's carpet industry is qualified for export. Swami Agnivesh, Chairperson of Bonded Labour Liberation Front sent a protest letter against this to Shrimati Vasundhara Raja, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs but he did not receive any reply.

This is the first time that such a visit has been allowed by the Government of India. Obviously, this visit is connected with the social clause of the WTO. This means, they want to blockade our carpet export by saying that we are employing child labour. It is our business and we shall try our best to save child labor. Whether any violation of human rights has taken place in child labour is the concern of the International Labour Organisation and not of the WTO. This kind of a visit tantamounts to violation of the sovereignty of our country and I demand that the Government should consider it from that point of view and stop any such so-called 'fact finding' by the US officials.

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been raising a problem for the last one year that Husensagar Express bound to Mumbai from Sikandrabad Chiptapur railway station...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : I want to say something on the same point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But your name is not on the list.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : My name is at No. 25.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry. Your name is there.

[English]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a minor girl has been raped in Kaloi village. I would like to draw your attention towards this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : His name is there. Please allow him to him speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Today, this US team is visiting Mirzapur. We have repeatedly expressed our concern about the imposition or pushing through of the social clause in violation of the multilateral arrangement as per the WTO guidelines. Our export of carpets is going to be severely affected

as a result of this. Child labour is an issue about which this House is very much concerned....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : She has already explained it in depth. You have only to say, 'I endorse'. That is all.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I join her. The Government should make a statement on this very serious issue. Today, this US team has violated all the guidelines and is trying to push through the social clause....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. BIJAY SONKAR SHASTRI (SAIDPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given a notice to speak on this, but you have not given notice.

MR. BIJAY SONKAR SHASTRI : You do belong to our area....(Interruptions) This is a very important question ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you would have given notice, I could have allowed you in the same manner.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (GULBARGA) : Honourable Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, A demand to stop the Hussainsagar train (Mumbai to Hyderabad) at Chittapur Rly. Station in Gulbarga District has been lying pending for the last three years. Due to this, there was a police case and as a result thereof many people had to go to jail and now they are coming to court every month. That train halts at a town which is having population of three thousand but it does not halt at station having a population of five thousand. We are constantly demanding from the Govt. that it is justified to stop the train at that place. I therefore, would like to request from the honourable Minister of Railways through you that you should take immediate step to stop the Hussainsagar train at Chittapur Rly Stn. Along with this, all the court cases may be withdrawn against all concerned persons.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA) : Honourable Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Govt. through you towards a very important issue. Whatever a price rise in essential items has taken place have created concern among the common men and the poor class has suffered a great loss due to it. Some how, the prices of some items have been reduced but it is not enough. I feel that the farmer class has also suffered a lot by the rise in cost of urea. The dryness and stagnation have been noticed in the field of agriculture per acre, yield has been reduced. Last time, the crops were damaged by

* Not Recorded

rain but no compensation was paid by the Govt. The farmers are already committing suicide, now due to rise in urea price, agriculture will suffer a lot, by which the States like Punjab and Haryana will suffer in particular. The rise in the price of Urea announced by the Finance Minister last time has been withdrawn. He has agreed to our demand as well as the demand the House. I would like to request the Govt. through you that what ever price rise have been made in the cost of Urea and other items, should be taken back.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA (RAJNAND GAON) : Honourable Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the doctors of All India Institute of Medical Science are on strike for the last fifteen days. Almost five hundred operations take place everyday but the Central Govt. have not paid any attention towards this. The High Court of Delhi had also given orders that the strike must be called off within 24 hours but the central Govt. did not pay any heed to it. The Govt. have constituted the Bakshi Committee for this. Almost eighth months have been passed since we have received the Bakshi Committee report and after these eight months the central Govt. have not paid any attention towards the doctor's strike which is going on for fifteen days. Whatever patients come there from every corner of the Country, they are facing great difficulties now a days. I would like to request the honourable Minister of Health, at present who is not available here, through you that he should comply the orders of the High Court of Delhi. It seems that this Govt. is fully determined to disobey the orders of High Court of Delhi.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue. I fully endorse the views expressed by Shri Vora. My point of distinction here is that the main responsibility for the prevailing situation in AIIMS is on the part of the Government. It is a very sorry state of affairs that the senior faculty members of AIIMS have to come to the streets; it is shameful. It is against the interests of the people and I do not endorse that. But the main responsibility for the prevailing situation is with the Government alone. Therefore, immediately the Government should become active to fizzle out the strike in the greater interest of the suffering people. The Government should not sit idle and it should immediately come out with a statement on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR) : Honourable Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, just now Shri Moti Lal Vora has drawn the attention of the Govt. of India towards the issue; I would also like to mention a few words in that regard. The ignorance of the Govt. of India has been noticed that sixteen days of strike of All India Institute of Medical Sciences have been passed but so far the Govt. of India have not taken any effective step. It is absolutely true and everyone knows about it that the majority of poor patients of North India come of that institute. Today, thousands of patients are on street and there is no one to look after them. Despite of the directives of the High Court, so far, no effective step has been

taken by the Govt. of India due to which the people are much disappointed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Govt. of India through you that talks should be held with doctors in this regard and some solution may be sought out, in any way.

[English]

DR. RAVI MALLU (NAGAR KURNOOL) : Nobody from the Treasury benches is bothered to react...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is reacting.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

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 will apprise the Minister of state of Health and Family Welfare of the emotions expressed by the hon'ble Members regarding the problems being faced by the patients due to strike at AIIMS.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : When the strike is called off, inform the House also.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : With this information, your work is over.

[English]

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Industry regarding non-payment of statutory dues to the retired employees of the Cycle Corporation of India and other public sector undertakings for the last three or four years. Thousands of ex-workers are suffering due to this. Since they are not getting their dues, their families are starving. If they are not given their dues within fifteen days, then they have to sit in a *Dharna* before the Industry Ministry. It is a very serious matter. The dues should be paid immediately to the retired employees..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth, may please speak now

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : A girl was raped?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth Says.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, in the past there used to be a train service between India and Bangladesh.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Joginder Kawade, your name is not in the list.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : This is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The notice of serious matter should be given before 10 O'clock.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : It has just been given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As it has just been given, it will be taken up tomorrow and not today. Your case will be taken up after completion of this issue.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, in the past there used to be a train service between India and Bangladesh. But this train service was suspended. The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal had already demanded that this train service should be revived. This would improve the cultural and trade relations between India and Bangladesh. The gas from Tripura can also be brought through Bangladesh. We should develop diplomatic relations with Bangladesh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance who is present here. It is regarding the agricultural produce of Kerala, mainly rubber and coconut. The farmers are facing great stress because of the decrease in the prices of rubber and coconut. The rubber price has gone down from Rs. 65 to Rs. 22 and the price of coconut has gone down from Rs. 6 to Rs. 3 and even below Rs. 3.

My submission to the hon. Minister is that the duty on polyurethane which is used as the substitute for rubber which has come from 80 per cent to 30 per cent, should be hiked with immediate effect so that rubber growers are benefited. The import of rubber should be stopped completely.

13.00 hrs.

Recently, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sompal has declared the floor price. It is much below the reasonable price which a farmer should get. I would like to urge upon the Minister to review it and declares a new reasonable price for coconut.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Bilha railway station is the leading business centre of Bilaspur district of the State of Madhya Pradesh from where the Railways earn revenue of around rupees five

crores every year. I would like to request you in connection with the stoppage of Sarnath and Ahmedabad Express there. At Bilha Railway station, the people face a lot of difficulties due to non-stoppage the above trains. As Sarnath Express and the Bilaspur-Visakhapatnam bound train does not stop there, the Ahmedabad Express, too, does not halt there. That is why there is no facility available for journey towards Orissa. Sarnath Express is the only train to go towards Banaras-Allahabad. All types of works relating to joy and sorrow are performed at Prayagraj Allahabad on this line. My submission is that there should be a two minute stoppage of Sarnath Express and Ahmedabad Express at Bilha Station.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Kaloi a village of the district of Rohtak in Haryana, some persons abducted a 14 year old minor girl, a daughter of a Valmiki widow and gang-raped her for two days. The people who have been arrested, are threatening the aggrieved family that they would demolish their house. However, the police have not taken any action on it. The boys belonging to the forward caste who lured that Dalit girl and took her to the house of the landlord of that village, have not been arrested so far. I would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs as to what action has been taken by him in this regard

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : This is a very serious matter and action should be taken on it.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not waste time like this.

.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I gave you the chance. Let him also have the chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BAGUSARAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Water Resources had constituted a national commission on 13.9.96 for water resources development scheme. The subjects under consideration of the National Commission include inter alia suggestions regarding transference of surplus water of the basin which has shortage of water by connecting the rivers with a view to preparing an integrated water scheme for development of water resources for drinking, irrigation, industrial, flood control and other purposes. This commission has not submitted its report. This is not in the interest of the State as well as the country. I request the Government to obtain the suggestions of this Commission at the earliest and take action in this regard.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to stop telecast "Shaktiman" and other such serials/advertisements adversely affecting the minds of children.**

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the painful death of a six year old boy of Lucknow while imitating the advertisement of the cold drink shown on television, the suicide of a nine year old girl belonging to Seelampur, Delhi after seeing the suicidal act of an actress in a T.V. film and the increasing number of children dying due to the heroic scenes shown in "Shaktiman" serial have brought to light increasing ill-effects of television.

The psychologists say that the scenes shown on television go deep into the subconscious minds of the children and these may have their effect at any time. According to the psychologists, mostly the children are badly affected by the television as they think that the message and scenes of the television are real and they start imitating them without any rationale.

According to the researchers of Australia, the specific rays, radiating from the television stop the functioning of the brain. The brain of the children is unable to sustain the T.V. radiation and once the brain gets stuck, the eyes are fixed on the T.V. screen and in a way, the child is hypnotized and the brain of the child is badly affected.

The news of death of around half a dozen children have come to light so far due to adverse effects of the "Shaktiman" serial. These incidents are enough to prove as to how the children are being affected by the television.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to impose a ban with immediate effect on such serials and advertisements including "Shaktiman" which are badly affecting the children to the country.

[English]

- (ii) **Need to send a Central team to assess damages caused to various crops due to unseasonal hailstorm in several parts of Maharashtra and release adequate funds to compensate the farmers.**

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL (ERANDOL) : Sir, rabi crops in several parts of Maharashtra have been damaged due to hailstorm and unseasonal heavy rains during the last two days. Grapes, oranges, tomato, wheat and jowar crops in these parts are nearly ruined according to reports reaching here from Vidarbha, North and South Maharashtra and the Marathwada region.

Recently, rain and hailstorm lashed Nashik, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts paralysing normal life in these pockets.

Several villages in the Vidarbha and Khandesh regions reported breakdown in communication as telephone polls were uprooted and power lines tripped due to the storm. Uprooted trees blocked vehicular traffic on highway and other roads in the region. The sudden downpour damaged the cotton piled up in monopoly purchase centres in the Vidarbha, Marathwada and Khandesh region.

Under these circumstances, I appeal to the Central Government to send a team to assess the losses and damage caused to various crops by unseasonal hailstorm and compensate the losses to the farmers.

(iii) Need to ensure that Indian Airlines flights are not cancelled at last minute.

SHRI K. S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the difficulties faced by passengers due to last minute cancellation of flights by the Indian Airlines.

Visakhapatnam has now become the largest port in the country and it is a major centre for investment by both Indian and multinational companies. Korean and other multinational companies have expanded their business at Visakhapatnam. A large number of foreign dignitaries have to face embarrassing situation due to cancellation of flights by Indian Airlines from Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad and as a result thereof they had to return back without attending their important functions. Besides this, on earlier occasions also, the Indian Airlines suddenly cancelled its flight to visit Visakhapatnam when a team of Korean investment companies was scheduled to visit Visakhapatnam to explore the possibilities of setting up a Korean Industrial Park and ultimately the team had to return to Korea without visiting Visakhapatnam.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government to direct Indian Airlines not to resort to last minute cancellation of flights and also to provide good quality of air service to passengers.

(iv) Need for special economic package for backward areas of Western Rajasthan

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you that Western Rajasthan reels under severe drought conditions for an average of eight years out of every ten years since there is scanty rain in that region.

Irrigation facilities are not available in most of the area. At some places where underground water or shallow wells are available, the water level is shrinking rapidly. As a result, crores of rupees spent on water supply schemes are going waste as most of such schemes have become defunct.

As per the national record, about 34 per cent Indian population is below poverty line. Compared to it, in drought

prone districts of Western Rajasthan, 55 per cent are below poverty line. I would like to bring out that Government is doing everything for hilly areas and North-Eastern region by giving special concessions but adequate attention is not given to backward/desert areas of Western Rajasthan.

It is further mentioned that in response to one of my supplementary questions on the floor of this august House of Parliament on 3rd June, 1998, the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said:

"The question raised by the Member pertains to the area which is most neglected and is a kingdom of Thar Desert. I agree that concessions are given to hilly areas and North-Eastern region and similar concessions are not given to desert areas of Western Rajasthan. The Member's suggestion is very good. We will definitely consider it and do the needful."

Though a period of eight months has lapsed, no consideration for package for backward/desert areas of Western Rajasthan has been given. I request the Government through you to give the time by which this package will be announced.

(v) Need to increase quota of foodgrains to Rajasthan through P.D.S.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (SALUMBER) : Sir, in Rajasthan specially in Scheduled Tribe area, the tribal people depend on ration being made available in fair price shops. They have neither adequate land for their subsistence nor do they have facility for irrigation. The cattle do not have fodder and water due to shortage of drinking water here.

In 1980, 10 to 15 kilograms of wheat per person was provided at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per k.g. at the fair price shops and the fodder for the cattle was available free of cost. But, the supply of foodgrains is almost nil for quite a long time. During 1991 to 1996 the Union Govt. supplied wheat at the rate 10 kg per person to the State but there is no supply of wheat to the State for the last 3-4 years. As a result, the people of the State are now on the verge of starvation.

I would like to request the Government of India that the enhanced quota of foodgrains e.g. oil, sugar, wheat, rice etc. and 15 k.g. of wheat per person should be given to the people of that area through the fair price shops. If no improvement is made in supply of essential commodities of the customers in time, it is feared that plague and starvation might spread there on state level. It is the moral responsibility of the Government of India to ensure that no such condition prevails in the State and that the supply of essential commodities is improved by taking proper steps in time.

[English]

(vi) Need to withdraw move for joint venture on Capitive Power Plants of Steel Plants of Durgapur, Bhilai and Rourkela.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : Sir, Captive Power Plants of Durgapur Steel Plant, Bhilai Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant are going in for a joint venture. I strongly oppose the move.

The bitter past experience of the Steel workers is that almost all the integrated steel plants including IISCO were forced to install Captive Power Plant precisely because power generated by outside agencies was never distributed to steel plants on priority basis. A major share of Durgapur Steel Plant's accumulated loss can be traced back to Damodar Valley Corporation's inability to give Durgapur Steel Plant any priority.

For the full-fledged running of Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant together, the maximum demand is 160 MW. Durgapur Steel Plant's demand is around 120 MW of which the average captive generation is 60-120 MW. Durgapur Steel Plant can draw a maximum of 80 MW from Damodar Valley Corporation. There is intermittent outflow of power due to load fluctuation of 1 MW on an average. Only for such intermittent export, it is not possible to get outside customer.

According to the statement of the Chairman, SAIL, they are going to sell per MW only at the rate of Rs. 60 lakhs to Enron whereas per MW installation charge is rupees four crore. Not only the Captive Power Plant generation cost is only 0.90 paise per unit but should the production is full-fledged and if Enron takes over, the tariff will be Rs. 3.90 per unit. Then the cost of production will be higher. As a result, the entire steel industry of SAIL will be facing a disaster. In the case of Durgapur, the additional burden will be Rs. 110 crore per year as per the D.V.C. rate.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Government to desist from taking such a suicidal step.

- (vii) Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of Pucca bridge at Pipraghat on Rapti river at Utrola-Tulsipur highway in Balrampur Parliamentary constituency**

[Translation]

SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN (BALRAMPUR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a temporary bridge namely "Pipraghat" on Rapti river at Utrola-Tulsipur highway in my constituency. As it is a temporary bridge, the people of this area have to cover the distance of 16 K.M. by travelling a long distance of 55 K.M. This bridge remains closed for about 8 months in a year as a result of it about 10 lakhs people of this area have to face a lot of difficulties. Consequently, the labourers and the workers of this area who are daily passengers, are mostly affected. In addition, the green revolution and the development of this area is not possible due to this raw and temporary bridge.

The Union Government is, therefore, requested that the steps should be taken to convert this temporary "Pipraghat

bridge" into permanent and pucca bridge on Rapti river at Utrola-Tulsipur highway in Balrampur Parliamentary Constituency so as to ensure that about 10 lac people of my area do not get affected, green revolution takes place in this area and rapid growth of the area is registered. There is a need to make necessary amount available to the State Government for the same.

- (viii) Need to declare Cuddalore Port as a major port in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN (CUDDALORE) : Sir, Cuddalore Port in Tamil Nadu is very ancient. It was an international trading centre for many centuries. But in recent years it has lost its old glory.

Yet, steamers have been using this port for various purposes including fishing. A few thousand families living near the coastal lines of Cuddalore depend on fishing for their livelihood. They go for fishing in steamers using the port at Cuddalore.

But during the last few months these fishermen are unable to use this port due to silting at the harbour. Since harbour has become shallow due to silting of sand, the fishermen are unable to take out the steamers into the sea for fishing. This has resulted in extreme hardship to the fishermen. They are in danger of starvation. Unless the harbour is desilted immediately, thousands of fishermen will have to starve.

Since the State Government is unable to provide funds for such works, I appeal to the Centre to declare Cuddalore Port as major port and save our fishermen. If desilting is done, fishermen will be able to go for fishing as usual. The will also help us to export seafoods like fish and prawn that fetch precious foreign exchange

If it is developed into a major port, it will be useful in industrialising the districts of Cuddalore, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Trichy, Salem and Chengalpattu, because movement of coal and other raw material for the Thermal Power Plants in Neyveli and an upcoming 2000 Mega Watt Thermal Power Plant at Cuddalore would be easy and cost efficient. Another industrial complex at Cuddalore, SIPCOT will also be benefited. The seafoods could be exported directly from the port. Therefore, I appeal to the Centre to declare Cuddalore Port in Tamil Nadu as a major port and save the lives of fishermen.

- (ix) Need to set up a Peasant's Welfare Fund to render assistance to farmers affected by natural calamities**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are the backbone to the rural economy. The agriculture is not only a profession of most of the population but also a pattern of life here. There is a significant contribution of agriculture in our national income. So, there is a need to pay special attention to it. During the

last days, the farmers have suffered from great losses due to heavy rains as well as the drought in different parts of the country. In Bihar alone, there has been a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees. The sum of losses of the whole country can be measured in hundreds of billions. The relief work carried out by the Union and the State Governments can be termed as nil and not inadequate. At present, the following schemes have been made to provide relief to the farmers :-

1. to convert short term loans into mid-term loans;
2. agriculture insurance;
3. relief under agriculture credit guarantee and,
4. relief fund.

The conversion of short term loans into mid-term loans does not provide permanent relief to the farmers. The advantage of agriculture insurance is limited to only one crop and the agriculture credit scheme does not provide benefit to the peasants at the time of loss of crops.

Under the above circumstances, I request that the Union Government should invest Rs. 10,000 crores from the very beginning and set up a Peasants's Welfare Fund so that proper relief work can be carried out for welfare of the farmers of the States affected by natural calamities.

- (x) **Need to take stern action against the persons responsible for destroying certain precious items at the office of Cricket Control Board in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union and the State Governments have made the lives of lakhs of people living in slums miserable. These slums are located on the lands of the Railways and the Dept. of Forest in Mumbai, Maharashtra(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, you have to read the approved text only. You should not read out other matters.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Reading from other material is not a good practice. You have to read from the approved text.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, you have given a notice for raising a matter regarding need to take stern action against the persons responsible for destroying certain precious items at the Office of Cricket Control Board in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am always telling you to follow the procedure

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker Sir, the sports and games promote mutual understanding and the sense of brotherhood among different nations. Recently, the cricket team from Pakistan came to play cricket in India. Then, a particular party threatened this team not to play in the country. The persons belonging to this party dug the pitch of Ferozshah Kotla ground in Delhi and caused a great loss by destroying certain prizes and other items at the office of Indian Cricket Control Board in Mumbai. It has badly affected the prestige of the nation in the world. There was no action taken against the culprits.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Home Affairs that strong punishment should be given to the culprits soon and such an arrangement should be made that no such incidents take place on future.

[English]

- (xi) **Need to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi**

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI) : Delhi is continuously on the march towards development and progress. Yet, it has not reached the required level of development because many of the problems connected with its development have remained unsolved.

In the order of priority for development is the question of regularisation of unauthorised colonies which are thousands in number and scattered all over the city. The Delhi assembly had passed a resolution some five years back recommending the Central Government to approve these unauthorised colonies. But the issue has not been clinched so far. People of these colonies are living in inhuman condition in the absence of basic amenities. I feel there is urgent need for coordination between DDA, MCD and Delhi Government to speed up the process of development work in these colonies. Government, should also take necessary steps to get the Court Stay vacated in this respect.

- (xii) **Need to open a C.G.H.S. Dispensary at Ghaziabad, U.P.**

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (HAPUR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards a serious problem of thousands of present and former employees of the Central Government living in my Parliamentary Constituency. Ghaziabad is situated near the National Capital Territory of Delhi and there are a large number of central Government employees residing here who go to Delhi everyday. There are former employees who live in very large numbers. However, there is no proper arrangement of the C.G.H.S. dispensary for these people as a result of which they have to go to the private doctors for treatment.

So, I would like to request the Union Government to make an arrangement for opening the C.G.H.S. dispensary in view of the serious problems of the employees.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL
OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN
RELATION TO THE STATE OF GOA

14.32 hrs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the following:

"that this House approves the proclamation issued by the President on 10th February, 1999 under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time I stand in the House taking such a proposal under Article 356. In the beginning our Government's stand was that the provision of that chapter of Constitution, which is called emergency provision, should never be misused for the political reasons. Dr. Ambedkar himself had accepted in the Constituent Assembly that its possibility would remain. He had said that he expected that it would never be misused but in the manner it has been used during the previous years, the Sarkaria Commission was set up which went into the deep and analysed as to how many times it was used and how many times it was applied for the genuine reasons. Then they submitted their recommendations. It was pointed out that we should be careful in this regard. I would like to submit very briefly that the Sarkaria Commission, making a ruling on the breakdown of Constitutional machinery, has stated at page-171:

[English]

"A failure of constitutional machinery may occur in a number of ways. Factors which contribute to such a situation are diverse and imponderable. Even so, some instances of what does and what does not constitute a constitutional failure within the contemplation of this article may be grouped and discussed under the following heads:..."

[Translation]

I read out their headings :

[English]

- i) political crisis;
- ii) internal subversion;
- iii) physical breakdown; and
- iv) non-compliance with constitutional directions of the Union Executive."

[Translation]

When I shall put forth similar proposal in regard to Bihar, then perhaps, I will have to mention the Internal

subversion and physical breakdown. Today, so far as Goa is concerned, I believe that perhaps during the history of last fifty years, there has not been any other instance in which the ruling party as well as the opposition parties together have made such a recommendation as they have made in relation to Goa. Generally, I agree that every Member of Lok Sabha as well as every Member of Legislative Assembly always desires that his five year term should be completed. He never wishes that his tenure be cut short in between the duration and here such a situation has arisen where 36 Members, out of the 40 Members, have recommended to end up their tenure. Although there was time in it and eight-ten months were left, but they asked to end it up and to conduct elections after imposing President Rule. I, therefore, believe that.

[English]

This is a Classic case. It is a kind of textbook case of the President's Rule, which is not even a matter of controversy.

[Translation]

There is no matter of controversy.

The House might be aware that the elections of the Goa Legislative Assembly were held in 1994. No party could get clear majority. But the Congress party was the largest party and so the hon'ble Governor invited the leader of the Congress party Shri Pratap Singh Rane, he constituted his cabinet. He was asked to prove his majority within one month. It happened in the month of December and one development took place in the month of January that the four M.L.As of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, a leading opposition party, formed a new party after separating themselves from their party and said that they would support the Congress party. Therefore, when voting took place in the House on 16 Jan. 1995, Shri Pratap Singh Rane got majority and Mr. Rane was able to prove his majority formally as a Chief Minister. This Government continued for three and a half years. There is no context and even no reason to go into that governance but in the month of July of 1998 ten M.L.As of the Congress party said that they separate themselves from the Congress party and form a new party named Goa State Congress party. My Wilfred De'Souza was elected their leader and he approached the hon. Governor and told him that the Government of Shri Rane had lost its majority and so you form our Government. The hon. Governor, as he was expected to do, asked him to prove in the House and the test was carried out in the House in which the Government of Shri Rane lost and thereafter the Government of Dr. Wilfred De'Souza was formed. It is the case of July 1998. After July that Government continued for August, September, and October. In the month of November four M.L.As, after separating themselves from the Goa State Congress Party, said they were joining the opposition Congress Party. Their majority has ended and then the Congress party claimed that their party was in majority and so should be asked to form their Government. Then Mr. Pratap Singh Rane didn't turn up, but again a new Government was formed under the leadership

of Mr. Loziano Falleiro. This Government was formed on 26 November. When two months of December and January passed, then in the beginning of February two Ministers of the Felleiro Cabinet approached the hon. Governor and told him that they were separating themselves from that party and again intended to support Dr. Wilfred De'Souza.

This scene continued for 4-6 months and as a result of that the hon. Governor went on thinking whether he should be asked to prove the majority or not. On 8 February Shri Fellerio, who was Chief Minister of that time, went to him and resigned and after resignation he said that he was not only resigning but the Congress Legislative Party, passing a resolution, has requested to dissolve the House and to hold the elections at the earliest. They have submitted this proposal in black and white. The hon. Governor did what he was expected to do and all that I will read out before you as to what the political crisis is called. He has stated in the second para that the political crisis is that which can also be called as Constitutional breakdown.

[English]

"If a Ministry resigns or is dismissed on loss of its majority support in the Assembly and no alternative Government Commanding the Confidence of the Assembly can be formed."

[Translation]

This is Sarkaria Commission report. The hon. Governor invited all the parties one by one. He invited the Maharashtra wade Gomantak Party, invited the BJP and also invited the Goa Rajeev Congress which had formed the Government earlier. All of them met one by one and all of them were unanimous and despite a few differences and according to the report sent by the hon. Governor, out of the 40 Members, 36 Members have confirmed that now no Government can be formed. Nobody will hold the majority now. It will be better to constitute a new Legislative Assembly and the state should be kept under the President's Rule. After that the Governor sent us a report and recommended that the President's Rule may be imposed on the State. A meeting of the Union Cabinet was held and all these points were discussed therein. The matter of controversy on which we had to discuss was that in the meantime Bommai judgement has come in which one thing was stated that the President has no right to dissolve any of the House unless it is accepted by the Parliament. It has some its own implications and I would like that legal implications may be sorted out and it would be better if sorted out by the Court. But we are acting in accordance with that, we have discussed and reached the conclusion that this is a new case in which all the Members of Legislative Assembly have asked, with near unanimity to dissolve. We had expressed concern about it that at present if, legally interpreting the Bommai Case, we ask to dissolve and keep it under Suspension Animation then it is likely, that horse trading would take place. Such complaints have already been noticed. But keeping in mind all these cases, the recommendation made by the Cabinet to the President is before you and under present circumstances,

it will be fair to dissolve the Legislative Assembly and the President's Rule be imposed and arrangement be made for the elections at the earliest. When the hon. Governor came here recently he talked to the Election Commission and after the President confirmed it, then the Proclamation was issued and today I have come here taking this Proclamation for the approval of the House and I will take it to the Rajya Sabha also. I would like the House to express its views on it. It is a classic case where the situation has arisen to impose the President's Rule which can definitely be called a

[English]

political crisis which amounts to a break down of the constitutional machinery.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the Constitutional guidelines, a copy of the Proclamation has been laid on the table of the House and as per the prevailing tradition the report of the Governor is also kept, so the same has also been laid. I recommend to the House to approve this motion unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 10th February, 1999 under articles 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa."

The time allotted is two hours.

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM) : Sir, I heard the hon. Home Minister taking trouble in explaining how genuine it was to invoke the article 356 for imposing the President's rule in Goa.

I was present physically hearing this hon. Home Minister Shri Advani as an Opposition leader during the tenure of the Congress Government in the Centre. The tone is different, the argument is different and the postures are different now. In those days, as an Opposition leader or as a leader of the BJP, the moment article 356 was used by the Congress Government in any State, the vigour, the vehemence, the anger and the argument used were totally different in finding fault with them. Not only that. Even on several aspects, on the moral aspect, on the legal aspect, on the constitutional aspect and on the matter of breakdown, even when there was a genuine reason for the Government to impose of the President's rule using article 356, they used to make political capital out of it.

The Congress Government was always of the opinion that using article 356 for genuine reasons was correct. Today, simply because we are sitting in the Opposition, we do not want to speak in the same way as Shri Advani used to speak as a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

But as he explained, though every Member of Parliament or a Legislative Assembly would like to continue his

[Shri K.S. Rao]

five year term, in this particular case almost all the Members of the Legislature had expressed their desire for the dissolution of the Assembly. We agree.

The point here is why is this happening? Keeping this in mind, the Anti-Defection Bill was contemplated by Shri Rajiv Gandhi as the Prime Minister in those days. It was only at the behest of Shri Rajiv Gandhi that it was introduced. We had discussed the Anti-Defection Bill in detail. We did find some lacunae in the Anti-Defection Bill in these days also. But we thought that by applying the Anti-Defection Bill over a period we would identify the lacunae and review the Anti-Defection Bill to avoid such incidents of changing of parties and changing of governments on personal considerations and personal benefits and party benefits leaving the national benefit and the benefit of the people going haywire.

While my party is not against utilising this article 356 in Goa, I do not find any reason why the same thing is applied in Bihar. He explained that the Rane Government and also the Faleiro Government were given enough opportunity to prove their majority by asking for a Special Session to be conducted, but the same thing is not applied in Bihar for convening a Special Session of the Assembly to prove the majority of the Chief Minister there.

The Chief Minister has got the courage to accept this, convene the Assembly and prove his majority also in the Assembly in spite of the best efforts of the Opposition parties to defeat him. In a democratic set-up, they may be elected in whatever manner but with the same rules and regulations formed by all of us. The Election Commission is watching the performance of different parties in the elections. With the Election Commission not finding any fault in the elections, when the legitimate legislators who are elected and who once again are found fault at the behest of the Central Government by way of the Governor, proved the majority, there was no justification for the hon. Home Minister to use his standards in a different way in different States as he himself said, 'there cannot be one rule in one State and another rule in another State'. It cannot be applied because a particular party wants or does not want it in a particular State. There should not be two standards. Shri Advani, till before the BJP Government came to power at the Centre in Delhi, there was some opinion among the people throughout the country that you might be a different lot. But your behaviour in U.P., your attitude and the application of the same article, same Constitution, same guidelines and everything including the guidelines of Sarkaria Commission was totally different, and, it is already understood by the people of this country.

As a Member of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, I know very well the basic facts of the BJP which is almost non-existent in Andhra Pradesh. But some people who are supporting Telugu Desam and some others who are supporting Congress are not happy with both the Congress and TDP as well. They have felt that why do we not try this time BJP though the BJP by itself has no base to win a maximum or even a considerable number of seats in Andhra Pradesh. So far, it has won four seats out of 42. It is because

of your sermons, of your speech on the moral values, ethics, Constitution guidelines and all that, all these years, the same people thought that, may be, you would do something else other than what Congress has done all these years. (Interruptions) What else to speak? Shall I speak as you want?

They have put some words to you in Andhra Pradesh. But, today in Andhra Pradesh, the same youngsters who have felt that you are a different lot are not with the BJP. Not even one per cent is with the BJP. They realise BJP is no party in ruling which can fit into the administration. They might be good at sitting as the Opposition party but certainly not good in administration and in ruling. That is the reason, why today in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP has gone back to... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONWLA) : You speak on your issue... (Interruptions) Why are you wasting the time of the House?... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, you ask him to speak on the issue ... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : Let me complete. Let me formulate. They have already understood. (Interruptions) It has no use at all. In regard to Goa, the Congress Government is also of the opinion that the situation is very ripe where Article 356 has to be used, and it is used there. We are not against it. It is not that we are opposing that. But you should not apply the same thing for your political ends. The same thing what you have said was said by Shri Ambedkar. He said that it should not be misused for political ends. You are doing the same thing. What you are doing is different from what you have spoken. It is totally different then and now also, except that the tone is different, the argument is different.

What you are speaking today is totally different from what you have been speaking earlier. Not in this case but what you did in regard to Bihar is unconstitutional and unethical. It was not proper for you to think in the same way. Earlier, in similar situations when the Congress did the same thing, you just did not allow the House to proceed. You did the same thing. So, you should not find fault with the Congress party simply because it is now in the Opposition and you are the ruling party. Same yardstick, same values, same morals must apply irrespective of whether you are in the Opposition or you are ruling... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJ GANJ) : How long do you know Bihar? (Interruptions)

That is why eliminated from Bihar ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Does Advaniji say that article 356 must be applied everywhere, wherever there is an incident by some hooligans, not at the behest of the Government

there but for various reasons? ...*(Interruptions)*. There are umpteen number of incidents of massacre taking place in other States also. In Andhra Pradesh, even today people are getting killed mercilessly....*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER : You speak on Goa.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I am speaking on Goa only. I am just telling you about the way in which the party in Government is speaking now. In Andhra Pradesh, there are several incidents where people have been killed in broad day light ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rao, we are discussing Goa and Bihar separately. Please keep that in view.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I am talking on the same subject, Sir, I am not talking about different things....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : You are providing benefit and we are getting that, what is the objection therein.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : The hon. Speaker got upset when I raised the Andhra Pradesh issue. In Andhra Pradesh also people are getting killed mercilessly in the name of some organisation. In the name of same incident, but you are not thinking in the same terms of applying article 356 in Andhra Pradesh and pulling down the Government. Are you ready to do that?... *(Interruptions)*. The same is the case with Maharashtra. So my humble request to the hon. Home Minister is that it is not in this particular case of Goa that we are opposing you, but you must apply the same standard everywhere. You must apply the same yardstick, same values, same ethics....*(Interruptions)*. You will explain the same thing in respect of Bihar, I shall explain the same thing in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Are you prepared to apply article 356 in every States? What shall we do? For the same situation, the Central Government did not do even this much. What are we to do about the Central Government responsibility? Has the Central Government got a moral right to continue with the same incidents happening everywhere in other States? Is it only a particular State to be victimised? And for what reason? Is it not for political gain? Is it not at the instance of some of your allies insisting that this Government should be demolished right from the beginning? I am talking about Bihar.

AN HON. MEMBER : You speak on Goa.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : He does not have anything to speak.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : When you speak on Goa, do you speak

only the term 'Goa' and no other term? Are you prepared to speak only Goa, Goa, Gao, and nothing else?

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Shri Rao, your party insisted that we should discuss Goa and Bihar separately. Now you are combining the two.

SHRI K.S. RAO : When I speak of application of articles 356 in Goa, let me also tell you how it is applied elsewhere. Let me tell you about what you have done in the past, about what you have expressed in the past, about what slogans you used earlier. At least for your awakening I must do that. I must remind you about what you have spoken in the past. It is not just what the Minister spoke today. Yes, he spoke in a very humble way, in a very pleasant manner, in a very reasonable manner....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Shri Rao, should I remind you about what you did to Shri Rama Rao? He was also a Chief Minister. Shall I remind you about how you ousted him?...*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

SHRI K.S. RAO : All that I wish today is that the hon. Home Minister....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I can also remind him of what they did against Shri Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh. They also did the same thing in Andhra Pradesh....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, please do not disturb him.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I remember the eloquence with which Advaniji spoke in those days. But the same reason, same values, same ethics, same Constitution and the words of same Dr. Ambedkar must be applied in genuine way, with the same yardstick. I am of the firm opinion that they are not applying them in every State in the same way while we support and have no objection to their applying Article 356 and imposing President's Rule in Goa. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Proclamation made by the President for which the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has moved a motion seeking approval of the House.

The hon. Advaniji while moving this motion, has explained all the events briefly in relation to the political developments in Goa. During the last three-four years, the Congress party in Goa, which was not given clear majority by the people, tried to run the Government by making manipulations from here and there but they didn't succeed to do so. They sometime broke M.L.A.s from one side and sometime from the other, but ultimately the situation has come to such a point that out of the 40 Members, 36 Members themselves asked the hon. Governor that this Legislative Assembly could not be run and the Legislative

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

15.02 hrs.

(SHRI P. C. CHACKO in the Chair)

Assembly should be dissolved. The hon. Governor has elaborated all the developments in his report which he has sent to the Centre.

I am happy that Rao Sahab, who has just concluded his speech on behalf of the Congress party, is agree with his Members of Legislative Assembly and with the unit of his party because these days nobody can say with confidence about the Congress party that if their State unit support to dissolve its Legislative Assembly or support to dissolve the Government, the same would also be supported from here. Bihar is an example before us. When he started speaking I was listening his speech eagerly that he might change his attitude like Bihar. As you have decided, ignoring your Bihar unit, to oppose in relation to Bihar perhaps your decision in relation to Goa would have been a different one. But I am happy that at least you are with your Goa unit.

You have raised very good points. I am glad. Rao Sahab, that you spoke and reminded Advaniji that when he used to sit there, his language happened to be something else. It would have been better, had you read out his statements carefully. Since the coming of this Government, as hon. Advaniji has said in the beginning of his speech, perhaps this is our first motion under Article 356, this has come from the state where out of the 40 M.L.A's, 36 M.L.A's have given in writing that now this Legislative Assembly has no meaning at all and it should be dissolved.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : This is the first time that they have come in the Government. So, it cannot be other than using this Article for the first time....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Please listen carefully and liesurely.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bhartiya Janta Party Government has neither misused the Article 356 till date nor it is doing so and would not do so in future. If we had wished to use Article 356 for the political mileage, then long back we could have escaped from several of our political problems and difficulties. This is the convention of the Bhartiya Janta Party, conviction of the Atal Bihari Bajpal Government, and conviction of L.K. Advani. We have not misused the Article 356 and today you want to tell us about the misuse of the Article 356. Do you want to tell us? If the member of any other party, member of any new party had pointed out, I could understand it. Your Government has misused the 356 nearly 90 times.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : We are not against using Article 356, but when we were using it, they were preaching sermons. Now, they themselves are using Article 356...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No Cross-talk. Order please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb Shri Jain.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Shri Somnath Chatterjee was reminding them of our language. I would like to remind my Communist brothers that first of all your Namboodripad Government in Kerala was fell prey to this Article 356 in 1956 and at that time you had spoken against it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : He need not advise us. He should advise his Government.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Today you are talking in a different manner while supporting the same forces in Bihar who had misused article 356. You want to strengthen the same forces. This is what I want to remind you, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, these are the same forces which you want to support. BJP has never misused it and Rao Sahab want to talk with us on the same issue. That incident happened on Dec. 6th 1992 in U.P. Nothing had happened in Himachal Pradesh and the same is the case of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. But you had dismissed the State Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh just within one hour by asking the Governor's of these States to submit Reports in this regard. You are mentioning the same incident in which 'Dalits' were killed in Bihar and you are also saying that article 356 has been imposed. So we would like to oppose it. Mr. Barnala is present here when he was the Chief-Minister of Punjab, at that time some people had been killed after being taken out from a bus. Your Government had dismissed Shri Barnala's Government and imposed President's rule there. Today we all want to tell you that it is not correct to declare President's Rule in Bihar. Do not look into them in separate contexts.

I would like to submit two things in regard to Goa. There defection cases have come up before the Speaker two times. One another case is also linked with Goa and that is a case of Anti Defection Act. We have studied the report submitted by the Governor there. The manner in which the Speaker of that State had been disqualified some M.L.A.s without giving any notice, without conducting any trial that is not a question of a single party today Speaker may belong to this party or that party and the disqualified M.L.As may belong to some other party. Tomorrow Speaker may be from some other party. This is the basic question before us whether the Speaker of any assembly or the Speaker of Lok Sabha while taking decision under anti-defection law should take a decision on the party lines or should take a decision in accordance to law.

[English]

with regard to split in original political party.

[Translation]

Nothing clear has been said about it. I would like to submit that all the people should ponder over it and should see as to how it can be amended. There are several clauses of this act which needs to be amended. I want that we should also consider the matter which has come up after the Goa. Here when MLA's have been disqualified, he sent two reports. In his first report he has stated that the Government fall out by such and such votes and in his second report he said that the Government won by such and such votes. So many MLAs had been disqualified, they went to Court and the Court had set aside the order. So far as Goa is concerned the Anti-defection case associated with Goa, should also be considered. Rao Sahab had mentioned about Ambedkar Ji. He said that Anti-Defection law should not be misused for meeting the political ends. I would like to make clear about the Goa case. Whereas in other States BJP Government has tried to enforce article 356, where there was no report other than this, there only it has been used. You should not misunderstand that this article can be imposed even where the Chief Minister does not have majority.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Sir, hon. Member has said that the BJP will not use Article 356 unnecessarily. Will he kindly spell out what are the criteria used for applying Article 356 in Goa as well as in Bihar? Can he distinguish both the cases?

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : We will discuss Bihar tomorrow, but in both the States, it had become difficult to run the Government according to the provisions of the Constitution of India. That is the similarity in both the cases. For them, there may be some difference because with regard to Bihar, they want to get some political mileage which they cannot get in the case of Goa. That is their political compulsion, but so far as we are concerned, the situations in both the States were same and it was difficult to run the Governments as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. They should not remain under any misunderstanding that this cannot be done if the Chief Minister is having majority. Shri Rao was talking that there was a majority with a particular Chief Minister but still we wanted to invoke Article 356. If I give him examples of Article 356 applied by them, he will find that in almost all the cases, the Chief Ministers were having majority. In Gujarat, they dismissed our Suresh Mehta Government when he was having absolute majority. They dismissed it, the United Front Government dismissed it. Therefore, he should not talk of political misuse and all that. It does not look good in his mouth to say that. We are clear about our conceptions. We have not misused Article 356 and we will not misuse Article 356 in future also.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Chairman Sir,

the untenable argument, on which the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has presented his proposal for invoking article 356 for declaring President's Rule in Goa clearly illustrates that in how much dilemma he is. A person who has, throughout his life worked for propagation of misuse of article 356 inside or outside the House among the Common people, when he half-heartily advocates the declaration of President's rule under the same article, it illustrates that in how much dilemma he is. While it is true that it became the necessity under the present circumstances, there was no other way out but the question is why this situation arose? It was alleged that Government is misusing the dignified post of Governor intentionally to affect the state's political situation. I think this wrong precedence has been set up inside the House. The Chairman, of the Goa Assembly misused his powers. That is why it was natural that such a situation has arisen? I think Congress forgot the principles of National struggle in fifty years but you forgot the political commitments in just one year.

I am anguished that it was being mentioned that after the Babri Masjid's demolition, Presidents' Rule was imposed in three states intentionally. Later on when elections were held in these three states BJP was defeated. It proves that Centre had taken decision according to the feelings of the masses. In Uttar-Pradesh the way you have formed your Government by creating defection, this was not an end of this chapter. It started from Rajasthan where you formed your Government by getting support from independent candidates. With their help you got majority and the post of Chief Minister. Wrong political precedence have started from Rajasthan and it reached its peak in U.P. Its reflection was also seen in Central Governments. You managed to run the Government by various tricks. The Minister of Home Affairs had made a reference to Dr. Ambedkar's speech but he forgot that Dr. Ambedkar also said that article 356 became a part of Constitution due to some unavoidable compulsions / circumstances but it would be like a dead letter. Governments should enforce it rarely under special circumstances. He expected the Governments to follow his instruction. In his last address in the Constituent Assembly he had submitted that many such articles are good and some have been framed through manipulation but constitution will not depend upon it in regard to its terminology and for the intention behind it. The applications of laws of constitution will depend on its enforcement managers, the type of people in power and the manner in which they enforce it.

I am sorry to state that article 356 is that part of constitution on which several discussions were held in the past and many proposals have been passed regarding this in the last 50 years. In Parliament for forty years, the person who expressed his views on article 356 is today the Prime Minister of India but when discussions starts on its utilisation and misuse and when its application is the Prime Minister changes his stand and says that it is a matter for Public debate. In my views it is not a matter of any political use. A Prime Minister having forty years of Parliamentary life and even a book has been published on him it tells that it is a matter for public debate. I have heard Mr. Advani when he was quoting Sarkaria Commission and presented his views against the misuse of this article.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

Sarkaria Commission is not the only one and the last to comment upon this article 356. In 1967 the then Government of Tamil Nadu set up Rajbhandar Commission and from then onwards the matter came to Supreme Court, High Court and then one after another several commissions were appointed and they all have given their interpretations. One more addition has been made. After the imposition of anti-defection law Speaker would use or misuse it. Till now the allegation was this that only the Government of India uses it through the dignified post of Governor. After the passing of anti-defection law in 1984 article 356 was being used or misused by the Speaker. So a new section was added in this law that the decision of the Speaker would be final, but once this law was misused by the presiding officer under the provision even when the number of Members supporting him rose to maximum. Then Supreme Court struck off the article 356 and said that Supreme Court would have the right and power to scrutinise the law. In spite of this Government came to power through defection and till date no bench of Supreme Court has been set to take a decision in this regard.

Sir, while we support the imposition of President's rule in Goa, at the same time we would like to condemn the Government. We would like to condemn such actions and submit that the instability has been created by the Government itself. Such a situation was created that all parties had to accept this very fact that President's Rule should be imposed.

Although we support the declaration of President's Rule, but we condemn the political instability caused by the Government. With those words I support this motion.

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR (JALNA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit my views in regard to Goa because if I start on Bihar I don't think that debate would end by seven. For the last three years Bihar has continuously become a object of debate. A friend of mine just now stated that BJP had created instability, I do not agree with this view. None of us agree to the statement that any party can cause instability in other state. Unfortunately political instability causes numerical changes and we require majority in the numbers. The stability of the Government depend upon the majority, not on principles. During the last fifty years i.e. till 1990 misuse of article 356 has been done in all states. Till then main issue was not the majority in numbers. Today the examples which are quoted because we are holding different positions. Nobody is expressing his views as to how the situation should be handled.

Sir, at present 36 out of 40 people have said that the situation is crystal clear. But I am unable to understand if we would not apply article 356 in states in future, why? I would like to submit that there are many loopholes in the laws. If we could make an amendment in the existing laws, then this problem could not have arisen. These days work is got done with money and power. I would like to know whether it is a good sign for Democracy.

Which type of democracy is required here? Even after fifty years of independence we are discussing article 356 of

the constitution. In fifty years we could not provide drinking water and education to all the citizens. When we make comments on the working of the Government, what comments can be made for a Government which had worked for just ten months. A Government which ruled for fifty years—just see their performance. ... (Interruptions) a period of ten months is too less a period to be commented upon when we marry our children we wait for at least a year to become grandparents. If some one wants it in four months, I don't think it is correct. (Interruptions) We support the imposition of President's rule in Goa, but in Bihar other proofs are available (Interruptions) We would discuss the issue of Bihar tomorrow. Thirty six out of a total of forty has given their comments and the one who abstained from making comments is Speaker. (Interruptions) The situation of Goa has been made worse by the Congress. Shri Mulayam Singh Ji, you know the policy of Congress is to start destruction and where stability is seen. In 1978 Sharad Pawar Government was running the administration smoothly but it also fell prey to this policy. Many Governments fell prey to this policy. Every state has been a victim of it. It is matter of time. Today it is our tune. While we do not deserve to be commented upon but still we are being commented upon. I would like to submit that comments should be given only when it is required.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : Sir, Article 356 of the Constitution is one of the most misused Articles. Time and again, this Articles has been used by the Central Government to dismiss the State Governments that they do not like. From 1959 onwards, this Article has been continuously misused.

Sir, none of the State Governments which belonged to the ruling party at the Centre was dismissed all these years, using this Article. Even, Government which was dismissed was belonging to parties which were against the ruling party at the Centre. So, that itself shows the partisan manner in which this Article is being used.

The political drama in Goa shows some serious lacunae in the Anti-Defection Law. While the Anti-Defection Law was passed in this House, we were having all sorts of expectations; we thought that it would finally, put an end to defection, etc. The Speaker of an Assembly was given the authority to judge as to whether a Member has crossed floor or not. The Speaker was expected to act in an impartial way. But we have seen so many cases where the Speaker has acted in a partisan manner. We have seen it in UP and also in Goa during the last six months. The Anti-Defection Law and its provisions were misinterpreted by the Presiding Officers.

Shri Advani was presenting the situation in Goa which led to the proclamation of the President's Rule. In a way, he was narrating that he was going by all sorts of democratic norms.

But this is the same Central Government which used this article against the majority Government in Bihar two weeks ago. This particular situation in Goa might justify the

use of this article, but this article is misused in a partisan manner by every Government which ruled at the Centre. I am not going into the merit of the situation in Goa. My request is that fresh election should be held for the State Assembly in Goa as soon as possible and people's mandate should prevail. Every political party is responsible for the situation that is existing in Goa today. Floor-crossing has become routine matter. So, the people are fed up with these parties and leaders of the Assembly.

In principle, I am opposed to the imposition of President's rule and the use of article 356. Whatever reasons the Central Government may put forward, this article is going to be misused again and again by the party which is in power at the Centre which is against all sorts of federal principle.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Rule in Goa has been imposed under the Article 356 of the Constitution. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs Shri L.K. Advaniji has moved a motion before the House for approval of the House. I stand up to support the same.

Our country consists of several States and is under the control of the Union Government. The Provision of Articles is made in the Constitution to maintain this control. So, the existence of Article 356 is necessary but it should not be misused many ways. Such a demand has been raised every time. The Goa, Sh. Advaniji has just referred to the political problems arose in Goa due to which Article 356 has been imposed there. 10 M.L.A.s have come out of the Congress. Government headed by Raneji and formed their party. In this way the Rane Government have come into minority. The 10 M.L.A.s, who formed the Rajeev Congress, have formed their Government. Under the leadership of Wilfred De'Souza. After a few months the four M.L.A's, who belonged to the Rajeev Congress, have withdrawn their support from the Wilfred De'Souza Government. Again the Wilfred De'souza Government has come into minority. It is not necessary to discuss as to who were the people between whom this fight was fought. All of them were Congressmen. The people who defeated the Rane Government were Congressmen, makers of the Wilfred De'Souza Govt. were the Congressmen and then those who defeated the Wilfred De'Souza Government were also the Congressmen. After that the Congress Government under the leadership of Mr. Feleireo came to power. The 10 Ministers of his Government who have resigned were also the Congressmen. Those who defeated the Feleireo Government were also the Congressmen. There was no other party which has brought their party into minority. Later on 36 M.L.A.s out of the 40 M.L.A.s demanded to dissolve the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing about the use of Article 356 of Constitution in Goa. I had thought that Shri Sharad Pawar, the leader of the Congress Parliamen-

tary Party would speak on behalf of the Congress, but no leader of the Congress, spoke on behalf of the Congress. Their one Vidhayak (M.L.A.) named Sh. K.S. Rao spoke.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Be it Sansad or Vidhayak, the question is of attitude towards the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : All right, an hon. Member was speaking. Shri K.S. Rao is not any leader. These Congressmen, in their period have properly used or misused the Article 356 as much as 90 times. It was properly used when the Congress was in power and when we used it then....

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Had you born at that time?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Do not disturb like this. Shri, Geete, you may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Today you have come to know as to when you born, but the end of the Congress is imminent and perhaps we are born for that.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what to do with interruptions.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair. Will you please take your seat? There should be no disturbance.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am addressing you. The Congress has misused the Article 356 as much as 90 times(Interruptions) No State was left where this Article was not misused. Today the discussion is going on in this House on the use of Article 356 in Goa and thereafter in Bihar. Goa is placed at item No. 9 and Bihar is placed at item No. 10 of the Agenda on date. Both these issues are before the House today. Friends from the Congress have supported the imposition of the President's Rule in Goa but their role in the case of Bihar is different.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was the Member of the 11th Lok Sabha and now I am elected and came as a Member of the 12th Lok Sabha. The 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved within one and half years. When 11th Lok Sabha came into exist-

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

ence, Shri Deve Gawda was made the Prime Minister with the support of the Congress, but the same Congress has removed Shri Deve Gawda from the post of Prime Minister. After that Shri Gujral became Prime Minister with the support of the Congress, but this Congress has removed Shri Gujral also from the Prime Minister post and it means that the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved only because of this Congress. Thus, thousands of crores of Rupees had to be spent on elections and the public of the Country had to bear this financial burden. Here we discuss about the farmers. When India is a poor country then why public was forced to bear the burden by spending thousands of crores of Rupees on elections? The 12th Lok Sabha came into existence only because of these Congressmen and the alliance Government led by BJP was formed at the Centre. Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister of the country. Now the colleague in Congress want to topple Shri Vajpayee from the post of Prime Minister. They are not interested in Bihar. The Congress is not concerned about the massacre of Dalits which took place in Bihar. They are interested in removing Shri Vajpayee from the post of Prime Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb like this. Take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (SAIDPUR) : Dalits have been massacred and they want votes....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : We should also be given a chance to make our points.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to remind the hon. Members that they can speak only when the Speaker is yielding, otherwise, you cannot speak like this. I am not allowing you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : When he will make an allegation how can we remain silent?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Geete, you please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am addressing

only you . Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't see at that side and I am just looking at you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking here on the double role of the Congress. On the hand they support the imposition of Article 356 in Goa and on the other hand and at the same time are opposing to impose Article 356 in other State. What type of role they are playing here? When Article 356 was misused as much as 90 times in this country then Congress was in power. Dalits have been unabatted massacred. When the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of India first time recommended to the President for imposition of Article 356 in Bihar, the President has returned the proposal and refused to do so.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him speak. it is his time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. President has not accepted the recommendations of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet have agreed to the decision of the President. Later on, when Dalits have been massacred the hon. President was compelled to impose Article 356(Interruptions) I would not speak about Bihar but I want to criticise the double role of the Congress because they need Dalits to capture the power, they need Dalits to win the elections, but they don't feel sorry when Dalits are massacred rather they want to play politics with that. Today, the Article 356 has been imposed in Goa only because of the present political crisis and all the Members sitting here are supporting it. I also support that but while supporting it I would, of course, like to mention that our country is made of various States and Article 356 is necessary to keep the country as one unit, but at the same time we believe that it should also not be misused. Law and order is discussed here today. When something happens in the Maharashtra then the slogans of Law and order are shouted here and demand to dismiss the Maharashtra Government is made. Who demands to dismiss the Maharashtra Government?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : We do.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You do and the Congressmen do. Many a time such a demand has been made....(Interruptions)

When the incident of Ramabai Nagar occurred then the dismissal of the Maharashtra Government was demanded from this very side. Under which section you have been making such demand? Whenever something has happened in Maharashtra the demand to dismiss the Government of Maharashtra is made for gaining political mileage. When the structure of the Babri Mosque was broken, the Governments of the four states were dismissed. The law and order has been deteriorated only in Uttar Pradesh, but the Governments

of the four states have been dismissed. When they feel about their benefits and political mileage then they urge that the Article 356 is right and when you don't get political mileage and when you face political crisis then you feel that the use of Article 356 is justified. That is why, I want to oppose the double standard and anti Dalit role of the Congress. It is the duty of the Nation as well as the Government to impose the Article 356 where it is essential to maintain law and order and this Government is doing its duty. So, I support the same. Thanks.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Geete, you made a good speech. Please keep quite. No cross talking please. Let us have an effective discussion Mr. Ajay Chakraborty.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, in principle and ethically, we are against the imposition of President's rule under Article 356 in Bihar or Goa or any other State. Since Independence, we have witnessed the ruling party at the Centre, that is, the Congress Party imposing President's rule under Article 356 on Kerala, West Bengal and other States with some ulterior motive and with political motivation. West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other States have been the victims of the misuse of Article 356. I would recall the memory of the hon. Home Minister, the strong man of the BJP, that both inside and outside the House, he had strongly pleaded against using Article 356 times without number. I also recall the memory of the hon. Home Minister about the stand taken by his party before Sarkaria Commission. His representative before the Sarkaria Commission strongly pleaded against misuse of Article 356.

Sir, during the days of the United Front Government, the then hon. Home Minister convened the meeting of Inter-State Council after the lapse of a long period and in that particular meeting, the leader of the Akali Dal, the hon. Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal strongly advocated and raised a demand for the total abolition of Article 356. Some Chief Ministers raised some safeguards as regards the imposition of President's rule under Article 356. What are those safeguards which have not yet been settled? I am rather astonished and sorry to say that in spite of the stand taken by the hon. Chief Minister of Punjab, his party Akali Dal is supporting the Government on imposition of Article 356 in Bihar. I request them to change their stand and not to shift from their earlier stand on principle. Different States in our federal country are raising objections regarding the use of Article 356 and our party and the Left Parties, in principle, are against misuse of Article 356.

At present, the political situation in Goa is very much grave. We condemn the floor-crossing. We are against horse-trading. We are not supporting the floor-crossing because it is unethical, it is unprincipled and unconstitutional also. It is against the verdict of the people. We also condemn the political drama which took place and which was performed by the legislature.

The BJP and its allies strongly advocated the imposi-

tion of President's Rule in Bihar. If that be so, why not the same measure be applied in Maharashtra and Gujarat? I think there are sufficient opportunities and scope before the Governor of Goa to ascertain the matter to thrash out the matter within the floor of the Goa Assembly. But the Governor of Goa had not taken that opportunity. He did not avail of that opportunity. But, in principle, on ethical grounds, we cannot support imposition of the President's Rule in any state using Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, at the very outset, I would like to state that only one hon. Member has opposed the imposition of President's Rule in Goa under Article 356. But excepting him, all other Members have supported this move even though they had just raised so many matters.

Shri Mohan Singh raised a question about the impropriety committed by the Governor. Shri K.S. Rao also raised so many points against the present Government ... (Interruptions) I, just like most of the Members of the House, do support the imposition of President's Rule in Goa under Article 356 of the Constitution. My first point is that the hon. Home Minister has already explained the situation in which Article 356 has been invoked in respect of Goa. Out of the 40 Members in the House, 36 Members had gone to the hon. Governor and told him that the House should be dissolved and there should be another election. Just my friend from the Left Front said that he did not support imposition of Article 356 under any circumstances. He was saying like that. I am asking him that in this particular situation what else could have been done.... (Interruptions) 36 Members had already told that it should be imposed and only four Members did not go. Hon. Members Shri Somnath Chatterjee, a senior Member is sitting here... (Interruptions)

Sir, I seek your protection. I am only looking at you and addressing the Chair. I am not arguing with anybody. If you like me to speak, then I will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is good. Please carry on.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The senior Members of the CPM, hon. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was raising from his seat to advise me something. But just before some time, when somebody was making some allegation, he was asking me not to advise them. He is the only person who can advise us... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Have I said anything to him?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He does not want to listen to any advice from anybody. He is the only Member who can advise because he is a senior Member. He is not prepared to listen to anybody. But he was just going to advise me. Now he has also stood up to advise me... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not the presumptuousness to teach anybody in this House (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am not yielding to him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not spoken to him. Anything and everything cannot be said on the floor of the House. I have not talked to him. I do not wish to speak to him.

He is referring to some imaginary things. I do not know what is happening ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, please listen. I have something to say. Please listen to me. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was not a speaker in this debate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, a little while earlier he was going to advise me. He told me certain things. That is why, I referred to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is not there in the list and he did not speak. He is not a speaker in this debate. The only point is that you can refer to another speaker, but not refer to some comments made by anybody by sitting or anything like that. Shri Somnath Chatterjee did not participate in this debate. So, please do not use names like that.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He rose and talked to me. That is why I mentioned it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is spoken to you personally is a different matter. But he is not a speaker in this debate. There is nothing no record from him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : All right. But kindly ask him not to advise me.

Sir, I was saying that in this particular situation in Goa, there was no other option but to impose President's Rule under article 356 of the Constitution. That is why, after a long deliberation in the Constituent Assembly, article 356 was provided in the Constitution.

Sir, Shri A.C. Jos was asking as to under what conditions article 356 of the Constitution should be imposed in a State. As a student of political science, I know that there are four specific conditions in which article 356 of the Constitution can be imposed in any State. The first is breakdown of the constitutional machinery just like it has happened in Goa; the second is internal disturbances as had happened in Bihar; the third is armed rebellion which might happen in any State as it sometimes happens in Punjab, North Eastern State and Jammu and Kashmir; and the fourth is insurgency. Generally, these are the four circumstances in which article 356 of the Constitution is imposed in any State. In Goa, one of these conditions, that is, breakdown of the constitutional machinery, prevailed where 36 Members of the Assembly had gone to the Governor and said that they did not want any further Government and that they want an election. That is why, there was no other option and the only option left was to impose article 356 which was rightly done.

Secondly, the Governor has been indicted in an indirect way by the hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh by saying that he did not utilise his powers. I would like to give a brief overview of the important political events which have taken

place in Goa, in a chronological order. The role of the hon. Speaker of Goa Assembly was also referred to by one of the hon. Members. On 27.7.1998, Dr. Wilfred D'Souza, Deputy Chief Minister, along with nine other members of the Congress Party split and formed the Goa Rajiv Congress Party. With the support of eight MGP MLAs and four BJP MLAs he staked his claim to form a Ministry.

On 28.7.1998, the Speaker, Shri Tomazinho Lamberto Cardozo, on two disqualification petitions filed before him, passed an interim order restricting 10 MLAs of the GRCP from participating in the proceedings of the Assembly. It is a very strange thing. The Speaker said that those people who had formed another party cannot even participate in the proceedings of the Assembly. Then, the Governor sent a message to the Speaker under article 175 (2) of the Constitution to conduct the business of the House, as directed by him, including the Vote of Confidence on the Ministry headed by Shri Rane. Then, the Chief Minister reported to the Governor a victory in the Vote of Confidence by a voice vote, with a margin of 16-0.

While the Speaker first said that it was 17-13, and subsequently he said that it was 16-13. Then, the Chief Minister said that he won by 16-0. So, firstly, the Speaker said that it was 17-13, and later on he changed it and said that it was 16-13.

So, there are three figures, namely 17-13, 16-13 and 16-0. Is it not a break down of the Constitutional machinery? This is one of the points which I just wanted to refer. Nobody can contradict this statement given by the Governor himself. The Opposition claimed that the proceedings were conducted in a sound manner.

Then, the Governor prorogued the House. Ten MLAs of the GRCP challenged the *ad interim* order of the Speaker before the High Court. The High Court quashed the Speaker's Interim Order. On 18.8.98, the High Court dismissed Shri Rane's petition against his dismissal, and on 7.9.98, the High Court finally dismissed the Speaker's orders of disqualification of GRCP MLAs. What I mean to say is that whatever was done by the Governor was as per the provisions of the Constitution. He had not done anything wrong. His decision was upheld even by the High Court. So, there is no question of Governor committing any impropriety.

Now, Sir, I do not want to discuss about Bihar. It is because, Bihar will be discussed later on. But some of the hon. Members have raised points about Bihar. Even hon. Shri Mohan Singh also said about Bihar. He also said.

[Translation]

As per the wishes of the public dismissed in Madhya Pradesh, dismissed in Uttar Pradesh, dismissed in Himachal Pradesh, and dismissed in Rajasthan.

[English]

"But, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the Constitution does not provide.

[Translation]

that it would ever be done as per the wishes of the public and Article 356 would be imposed. Here is the Indian Constitution, does it mention anywhere in Article 356 that it would be done as per the sentiments of the public?

[English]

Sir, even in my own State, Orissa, out of 21 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP and the BJD have won 16 seats in the last elections. Do they mean to say that the Government of India or the hon. Home Minister should dismiss the Congress Government in Orissa? Now, the people are also not with them. It was the Congress Party who had themselves dismissed their own Chief Minister Shri J.B. Patnaik. They are talking about moral responsibility. I do not know what sort of moral responsibility they had imposed on him.* Where was that moral responsibility with regard to those Congress people? They are now talking about moral responsibility because a false allegation was made by some people that there was atrocity on Christians. I do not want to go into the details of it now, but I will go into the details of it later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you have completed your speech on Goa.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will just speak one sentence, then I will conclude. Yesterday, I did not tell anything deliberately on the question of atrocity on Christians, when the hon. Home Minister was speaking. I am having so many evidences with me, on which I will come later on. Yesterday, I did not deliberately say anything. But on the basis of false allegations, they dismissed their own Government. Now, they are saying that it is Immoral to impose article 356 in Bihar. I will come to it later on. But, Sir, finally I do not know why all these things are happening. There was a question about the role of the Speaker. There was a question about the non-implementation of the Anti-Defection Act.

Finally, I will conclude with one request to the hon. Minister that he should go with his proposal of the review of the Constitution. Sir, all these things are happening because it relates to the process of election of the Prime Minister. How should the Prime Minister of the country be elected? Should he be elected by the House? Should he be elected by the Party as it is being done now? This is one of the fundamental questions.

There is another fundamental question regarding the fixation of tenure of the Legislature. That is also another point of view.

16.00 hrs.

This anti-defection thing is happening because of these two things. I would request the hon. Home Minister that he should go with his proposal of starting a national debate on the changes in the Constitution and change in the provisions of article 356. I would request that he should go for all these things. I support the Statutory Resolution for imposition of article 356 in Goa.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : Thank you Mr. Chairman Sir. At the outset I also oppose the use of article 356 imposing President's rule in the States.

Article 356 of our Constitution is a controversial article throughout the last 49 years and it has been used so as to wreck the vengeance against those States which are acting against the political interests of the Centre. It is a political weapon in the hands of the Centre to teach a lesson to the State Governments.

In the history of India, during the last 49 years, in the year 1959 the first Communist Government which had come into power through ballot in Kerala was dismissed without any reason because of the law and order situation. Till now, it is going on. In Bihar also, we have seen the same thing. I am not going to discuss the facts regarding the Bihar issue and also the Goa issue. The pertinent point to be discussed is when article 356 can be invoked and whether it is highly essential or its sustenance is essential. That is to be discussed first.

As far as I am concerned, the retention of article 356 without any safeguards is dangerous in our political situation. So far, it has been used 101 times. On a perusal, it may be seen that it has always been misused and it has not been used. Use of article 356 is entirely different from misuse of article 356.

In the case of Bommai versus the Union of India, the scope and ambit of article 356 has been elaborately discussed. It is very specifically said that it is an extraordinary power which is conferred upon the President and this article can be invoked only in extraordinary situation. But we can see that in Bihar as well as in Goa, it is a peculiar situation. There is no controversy regarding Goa. But it can be seen that it is being used in ordinary situations. It is not being used in extraordinary situations.

Regarding this aspect also, the matter has been referred to the Sarkaria Commission. Regarding the Centre-State relationship and regarding the federal structure of our Constitution, the Sarkaria Commission has made certain recommendations. The first and the foremost recommendation, as far as this power is concerned, is that the Governor who is appointed to a particular State should be a non-political man. He should act beyond political biases. What is happening in our country? The discussion will come today after this and tomorrow when Bihar issue is going to be discussed. The dispute regarding the Governor's appointment will come later on.

I would like to say that so far as the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and as far as this matter are concerned, it has so far not been incorporated in the Constitution. Another point which I would like to cite is that an elected Government is dismissing another elected Government. Sir, for example, In Kerala in 1959, the Government was dismissed. The Government was elected by the people of Kerala and the Bihar Government, the Rabri Devi Government was also elected by the people of Bihar. That Govern-

[Shri N. K. Premchandran]

ment was dismissed as per the advice or as per the recommendations of the Cabinet to the President. That was also elected by the same people. What is the veracity of article 356? What is the legitimacy of article 356? What are the principles of democracy involved in it?

An elected Government, which is elected by the same people who have elected another Government is not supreme. The State Legislature as well as the Parliament are autonomous in their own spheres. One is not supreme than the other. So, the Parliament is also elected by the people as well as the State Legislative is also elected by the people. That is the will of the people. How can the Centre arbitrarily dismiss a Government or dissolve an Assembly without taking into account the people's confidence? That is going on.

Therefore, I would like to submit that there has to be a national debate on article 356. For the last so many decades, it is being discussed but so far no fruitful decision has come up. So, that has to be discussed in detail.

With these few words, I would like to oppose the use of article 356 in Goa. In regard to Goa also, some other provision has to be found out.

As far as Goa is concerned, we know that the constitutional machinery is collapsed; there is no other alternative and the chance of an alternate Government is not there. When such a Report has come, some order mechanism has to be evolved so as to meet the situation; such a modification is required.

With these words, I once again oppose the use of article 356 in Goa.

SHRI C. GOPAL (ARAKKONAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of All India Anna D.M.K. I welcome the imposition of the President's Rule promulgated under article 356 in the State of Goa.

Sir, nowadays article 356 is very shocking to some of the eminent leaders and some of the leaders are also giving suggestions against the use of this article.

As far as this article 356 of the Constitution is concerned, now a question has arisen in the minds of the eminent politicians at present whether it should be in the Constitution or it should be removed. I will come to that point again.

As far as the imposition of the President's Rule in Goa is concerned, after thorough preparations, the Central Government has come to the conclusion in a proper way that there is no option except the imposition of the President's Rule in the said State. That is why, the Union Government has recommended for the imposition of the President's Rule under article 356 in the State of Goa.

When you see the history of the State, the first Chief Minister Luizhino Faleiro had got 21 Members out of 40 Members in the Assembly. On that basis, he formed the Government. But it was unfortunate that within 19 days, the 19-day Congress Government headed by Mr. Faleiro paved the

way for the Chief Minister to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly within a short time. Even the AICC had deputed Mr. Govindarao Adhik as its observer to Goa also. But the Chief Minister, Mr. Faleiro had declared even at a Press conference that he had recommended dissolution of the Assembly to the Governor. Not only that, even opportunities were given to the Opposition side also; even the Opposition people were not in a position to form a Government in Goa. The public were seeing the situation in Goa. The journalists have also commented about it and they favoured immediate dissolution of the House and imposition of the President's Rule in the State. What is going on at present in Goa is absolutely a crisis. Even the public have come to the conclusion in their mind that politics has become a joke in Goa.

Under these circumstances, when no political party is ready to form a stable government, the Central Government, after a meeting late in the evening, has advised the hon. President to dissolve Goa's State Assembly and invoke Article 356 till fresh elections were held.

Sir, as I already told the House, there are eminent leaders. They do not have any constant ideas with regard to Article 356. Sometimes, they say that they welcome it and, under certain circumstances, they say that it should not be used. For example, in the year 1980, our eminent leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar was heading the Government. Then, without giving any reason, Article 356 was used at that time and the President's Rule was imposed in the year 1980. Being an eminent leader, having constant touch with the public and having support of the public, he did not accuse anybody. The Government headed by Dr. M.G.R. was removed in the year 1980. He did not even accuse the Central Government. He was a very magnanimous man. He said in the public that he would face them again. He faced the public. He got the victory and again he was heading the Government. However, when this article was used against them, there were certain leaders in Tamil Nadu, who were jumping like anything and talking like anything. Even they were using words which were very abusive. Such leaders are there in Tamil Nadu. In the year 1980, they allowed the use of Article 356. Now, they do not want that Article.

As far as Goa is concerned, the Central Government has taken a right decision.

On behalf of the AIADMK Party, I welcome it. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (SAIDPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Rule has been imposed in Goa and I am stood up to speak in support of its justification. A detailed discussion is going regarding the conditions under which the President's Rule has been imposed. There was a problem to operate and control the prevailing situation in Goa. This problem was not only limited to Goa but also the whole country was affected with it and all were concerned about it. The administrative activities due to which public was suffering over there, the situation there and the political in-

stability there were some of the major factors due to which the President's Rule has been imposed under Article 356 and there was no other way out. So far as the condition of Bihar is concerned, it was just being mentioned here that whatever happened in Bihar was right and there was no justification of the President's Rule there.

I agree that it's not Bihar but it's also not Bihar it's Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)* I know that the subject is Goa. But it is not so that the situation in Goa and Bihar are very much different...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You address the Chair.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, it is a fact that today the situation in Goa needs a thinking and not concern. As my colleagues are also listening I just want to say that Goa is Goa and Goa cannot become a Bihar. But Bihar like situation is developing in Goa. Considering it as to what was happening in Goa and Bihar; had the President's Rule not imposed in these States, the situation would have been different. So, the people of Bihar must thank.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shastriji, you speak about Goa.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman Sir, if you keep them silent, then I can start speaking. If they are willing to listen to me like this, I would like to speak in this way.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shastriji will speak on Goa.

AN HON. MEMBER : Shastri should speak on Goa.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : You please do not advise me.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA) : Sir, I will also speak on Goa. Our meeting is over and I have come back.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Laluji, you may speak on Goa or on Bihar. You may speak on anything for which you have been permitted but let me please speak.

As regards the political situation in this context, I would like to speak about the position of Congress also. In Goa, there was certainly a situation of political uncertainty. Every day, there were new developments; leaders of one party were turning to another Party. While the people belonging to our particular party were joining some another party. Someone was talking in terms of proving majority while some other person was maintaining that the Government was in minority. Keeping in view all these developments, the step taken by the Union Government, is commendable. Likewise, whatever type of rule has been there in Bihar, the situation remained the same there also... *(Interruptions)* Our area is just adjacent to Bihar. So, I have to speak on it too. We are comparing Bihar with Goa in regard to the situation prevailing in Goa...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Sir, they have compound Bihar with Goa...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, I belong to Banaras and Bihar is adjacent to it. Whenever there is any tension in Varanasi, the people move towards Bihar border and take refuge there. This was a reality. Today, this is not happening. There is a great change during the last few days. Whatever happened in Bihar, is not unknown to anyone, now. The assassins of all the murders that took places in the Eastern parts (Purvanchal), took refuge in Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please speak about Goa.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : We were badly affected by the way the Dalits were being assassinated in the border areas of Bihar as all our friends, relatives lived in Bihar. Whenever they were tormented, they came to us. They were being killed. The Dalits were being murdered every now and then. You may see the newspaper of that period; there was not a single day which passed without the murder of the Dalits...*(Interruptions)* Sir, these are the circumstances when the President's rule is imposed in a State. There is no fixed parameter for imposition of the President's rule that in certain circumstances, it will be imposed... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow him to speak

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : You please tell what is such parameter in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*. Last days, when the Union Government had forwarded their recommendation to the President for imposition of the President's rule in Bihar, it was sent back for reconsideration. Then at many places in Varanasi, there were talks about the fate of Bihar and its people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great shame that such situations are created by the administration and the Government of that State...*(Interruptions)* All accidents take place in Bihar. If the train had run in Goa, the accident would have taken place there also. I had got an opportunity to go to Goa with a committee. I saw that all these activities were in peak that time. I got an opportunity to stay there for three-four days. I had talks with some of the leaders of that State and the various facts have come up which were being observed by all the people of Hindustan. In such a situation, if the President's rule is imposed there under Article 356 and as it is being criticized, then the imposition of the President's rule in Bihar, will also be criticized...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not listen to them Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri, you please address the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they went to listen to matters regarding Bihar. They want to see the plight of the people of Bihar. The people who are sup-

[Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri]

porting the case of Bihar, will be held responsible for all that takes place in Bihar. All that had happened in Goa and the President's rule which has been imposed in Goa in anyway, is justified and I am in support of the same.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will keep myself confined to Goa only in regard to the motion that has come up for approval for imposition of the President's rule in Goa. I will speak about Bihar when I get an opportunity to do so...*(Interruptions)* I will give you table regarding Bihar, you can read the same. When the Bihar issue will come up for discussion, then I will reveal you, the House, the nation and the world, all the facts regarding it. Now, I will discuss only about Goa. Whatever is being repeatedly stated by him, makes it clear that in his mind, what was going on how much jealousy, he was and to what extent he had tried to prepare and hatch conspiracy. He sees Bihar even in dream.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : He is saying about me. It is true that we always talked about Bihar as we had to face the music regarding Bihar. We were not far away from what was happening in Bihar.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : His Excellency, the Governor misled the President by sending details regarding each and every matter here. The nation as well as the House was told about it. I will answer to the allegations made by him. ...*(Interruptions)* How can Advaniji remain unaware about it? He is procreator of it. Advaniji wanted to become Sardar Patel. Chaubeji Chale the Chhabbe banane aur dubey ban kar rah gaye. An ass went to ask for horns but lost his ears...*(Interruptions)* They will have to be informed about the policies of Advaniji. ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman Sir, if he says like this, it cannot be tolerated. He cannot use unparliamentary words. I had not used any abusive language. I could also have used the abusive words....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interfere.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shastriji, will you please take your seat ? You have already made your point...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shastriji, I am requesting you to please take your seat. Please understand that each Member has got his or her time. Please do not disturb others. Anything unparliamentary will be removed from the record. Please take your seat now. Why do you disturb like that? Referring to an hon. Member in parliamentary language cannot be deleted. So, please listen to other Members also. So for nothing has been mentioned here which is unparliamentary and which has to be removed from the record. So, please understand that and please avoid such disturbances.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I do not use unparliamentary language and I will not do so in future too. I want to keep myself confined to Goa only. In regard to Article 356, it was alleged that when the Congress Party was in power, it also imposed this article.

Shri Devegowda, imposed the same and you are following his foot steps. Hon'ble Prime Minister had assured the nation about Article 356 that a discussion would be held with all political parties regarding the justification of Article 356. In this regard, the opinion of every State was sought. In order to ensure that no elected Government is pulled down on the political grounds, jealousy or hatred or retaliation, a Committee was constituted. When the meeting of the Committee was held, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs might have attended that meeting and it was the general opinion. The Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Jyoti Basu is the member of that Committee. He as well as other persons must have had much pains so far as the Article 356 is concerned. Whatever political compulsion had been there, it has been done. We want to unite the nation. Now, there is the question of Goa...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lal Prasad, please take your seat. We started this discussion at 2.31 p.m. Originally, the time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee for this discussion was two hours. There are six more speakers who want to participate in the discussion. So, if the House agrees, we can extend the time for discussion by one hour.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (KARNAL) : Sir, we may extend it by half-an-hour.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Sir, we may extend it by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the consensus of the House?

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : We should extend it by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are just extending the time and that is all.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : We may extend the time by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, the sense of the House is to extend the time for discussion by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for discussion is extended up to 5.31 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman Sir, with regard to Article 356, the signs are not favourable, be it any political party in power. Today, these people are in power. Some of

my colleagues were talking about parliamentary and unparliamentary language. Everybody knows that a human child is born in nine months but even after ten months of this Government in power, no result has come out. The Government of these people is creating disturbances. Now, the abortion is to take place. When His Excellency the President was addressing, there were clear sings of it at that time ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Laluji had promised that he would strictly speak on Goa. Now, why is he going via Bihar?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When once it has been decided that whatever is unparliamentary, will be expunged from the record, then there is no need to raise this matter.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in the case of Article 356, the beginning has been made from Goa. When there was B.J.P. rule in the State, the same was welcomed with great pleasure. Then, it was a change of the Government. Why has the situation taken such a turn? What is happening in the north-eastern States? It is happening in H.P.

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : It never took place there.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : In Himachal Pradesh, Pandit Sukh Ram is being paid high respect. Lal is sentenced to jail and Pt. Sukh Ram is worshipped? Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to tell you that they are distributing alms by dividing the country into new and small States. They want to disintegrate the nation. So far as the situation of Goa is concerned, there are limited Assembly seats. Home is the situation in the north-eastern States and, then, by talking about Uttaranchal, Vananchal, you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Mr. Chairman Sir, I object to this. This is not relevant.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, Utranchal and Vananchal has nothing to do with Goa. I do not agree with your statement that we are forming small States.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot object to a person referring to that. There is nothing objectionable in that.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, it is an irrelevant issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your speakers can reply to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anybody speaking from your side can reply to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. There is nothing objectionable in that.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Imposition of President's Rule in Goa has nothing to do with Uttaranchal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree but we cannot give any direction on how a Member should speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : How Uttaranchal and Goa are related ? Bihar and Vananchal can be related ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Please understand the context. You have been in military service and we have been in such a political career, during which we have seen the upheavals of life. You will have to be made to understand separately. I am referring to the context.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : So far as Nation's safety and security is concerned Hon'ble Laluji is well versed with the politics of defection but about the defence of the country please do not talk ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When you will get time, you may speak ...*(Interruptions)*

Once he had been imprisoned with me during emergency. That is also a document and history. All those people who are in favour of Dalits and are shedding crocodile's tears, had come out of jails only after requesting several times for pardon. They came out of jails by paying respect to Smt. Indiraji and her 20 point programme, greeting her and betraying the principles of J.P. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is requested to answer to this. The 'Janeoo' (sacred thread) which is placed on the ears at the time of going to the toilet...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : It can not be understood whether Laluji is speaking on Goa or on Bihar or on toilet ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? He is not yielding. Please understand that you cannot intervene, if the Member does not yield. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : He has talked against the Hindu culture...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (REWA) : He has talked about Janeoo (the sacred thread) it will not be acceptable...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can you stand up and speak like this? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record other than Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my point of order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat. Under what rule are you raising this? I want to know if it is a point of order. This is not allowed. If you want to raise a point of order, I will allow you; otherwise, I will not.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : The point of order is that how he can abuse the 'janeoo'. Whether he wears the janeoo or not, how can he abuse the janeoo?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : He cannot assault our Hindu culture and system...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You please give your ruling whether he is speaking on Goa or on toilet? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot ask any question now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman Sir, he can make a speech but he cannot abuse the janeoo ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Who is abusing?...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : You are abusing ;
...(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have an opportunity to reply to what others are speaking. Do not go on speaking like this. The job of the Chair is not to discipline each of the Members. Please understand it. You are senior Members. Do not behave like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : ...*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ...*

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : ...*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shastriji, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ...

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : The House cannot run like this...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ...*

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : How will he quote the janeoo? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the point in talking like this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ...*

Will he abuse me? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : If we wear janeoo, how can he abuse us?...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : ...*

...(Interruptions)

I would like to tell you that I am not abusing the janeoo. J.P. had said to the people and the children of the upper caste that this is our total revolution, a complete revolution.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this?

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record other than what Shri Lalu Prasad says.

...(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Can he not speak on Goa?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not direct like this. It is the will of the Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Khanduri, you are the Whip of the party. While making his speech Dr. Shastri did not utter a word about Goa but we were allowing him. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not saying that he can speak anything. On the issue of Goa, if Members want to utilise their time effectively, let them use it. The whole country is watching this. This is my request. So, please do not direct other Members like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I am not abusing any person's 'janeoo'. J.P. had said – "break all castes, classes, society". His Party, his Sangh family stated that J.P. demolished our thoughts, our fundamentalism. The people of upper castes sent the broken 'janeos' (the sacred threats) in tons, there were no upper caste and lower caste and no Dalits. I am not saying all this, now you listen to all this. As you encroached upon, and you and your people left Goa and proceeded to Bihar. I am reminding you of the Sangh family and the fundamentalism...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Why are you dragging the Sangh family towards this issue...(Interruptions)

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Chairman Sir, you have given a number of rulings. As you are giving the rulings, he is violating the same. Is he speaking about the Sangh family or about Goa? (Interruptions) If you want to speak on Sangh family, we are ready for the same also. If he continues to speak like this, we will not tolerate the same*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I will tell you about its demonstration tomorrow....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : The discussion is going on Goa. He should speak on Goa but he is speaking on some other topic...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you are saying is not finding a place on the record. Please take your seats.

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : These people who are disintegrating the nation...(Interruptions) I was telling about the President's rule in Goa, I wanted to suggest ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (REWA) : Lalu Yadav ji..*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I will repeat the same matter i.e. what are your scams...*

16.42 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon'ble Members came and stood near the table of the House.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

16.43 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav (Jhanjharpur) and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats).

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : This is constitution, this is fundamentalism, this is...(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to state that the fundamentalists who demolished the mosque and those who have created turmoil in the country, are teaching us...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :...*

SHRI LALU PRASAD :...*

...(Interruptions)

16.44 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon'ble members came and stood near the table of the House.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of you please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not Recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I once again appeal to all the hon. Members to please resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members are requested to resume their seats please.

...(Interruptions)

16.47 hrs.

(Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon'ble Members then went back to their seats.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lalu Prasad, please take your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lalu Prasad, will you please, take your seat?

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has used abusive language. The whole House was listening that he was speaking abusive language, so, he should seek apology from the House.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Why do you not ask to apologise? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How long are you going to do this? Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the language which is being used in the House, is not proper. I do not think it proper for the dignity of the House to call any person nonsense or thief. Therefore, whatever is being done in the House, it should be stopped. I am ashamed of this thing that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs himself is interrupting. The treasury Bench is responsible for running the house properly. If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will interrupt, I do not think the House will run properly. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please sit down.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I did not say anything.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this should be stopped. I urge upon the Minister of Home Affairs that he ask his colleagues to maintain dignity of the House. I take the responsibility of my colleagues...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow you after this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow you after this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs? Why are you disturbing like this when your own leader is on his legs? Please allow the hon. Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the views of hon. leader of opposition that such type of language should not be used because it decreases the dignity of the House, but I think that whatever has been said by the leader of opposition about the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I did not hear such thing.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shailendra Kumar, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have seen him saying such thing more than once during the last one hour.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the view of Shri Sharad Pawar that such type of language should not be used in any way. Whatever has happened either that side or our side, that should not be done. I would like to request that unparliamentary language or such types of words which are insulting ones, should be expunged from proceedings.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Will such type of interruptions continue?...(Interruptions) When Lalaji is speaking ...(Interruptions) I would like to ask from the Minister of Home Affairs that when any...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, This is enough. You may take your seats. The Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Home Minister have made very clear the mood and the sense of the House. I am not allowing any more Members to make any reference to this.

I have been telling the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, when he was interfering on a particular issue, that even if there are provocations from the Opposition, it is the parliamentary practice that the Treasury Benches would show more tolerance. That is why, I once tried to prevail on the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

Unparliamentary and derogatory languages are being used by both the sides; and they will be removed from the records of the House. I once again request the hon. Members not to use even provocative languages. We are discussing an issue. I would say that provocative languages can be used in a parliamentary debate, but for the smooth functioning of the House, kindly see that even provocative expressions and language are not used in the House.

I have a special request to Shri Lalu Prasad also that whenever he is making a point – he was making very good points, but at the same time, he was provoking – let him kindly avoid provoking the other side.

In spite of my repeated requests, a very senior Member from the ruling party was not at all listening to the Chair. Kindly do not do that. It is not that some individual person is sitting in the Chair. One has to abide the Chair.

Whatever happened in the last five or ten minutes in the House is very unfortunate and unbecoming of the House. Let us forget it and let us have a more constructive discussion. Whatever derogatory languages are used here will be looked into and they will be removed from the records.

Shri Lalu Prasad may continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the ruling given by you and I comply with that. But it cannot be put off by calling both sides matter. We can say any thing in anger, it is correct, but abuses have not been made from our side earlier...(Interruptions) If you will use abusive language for us, in return. We will use more abusive language ...(Interruptions) Why you do you talk of both sides?...(Interruptions) I agree with your ruling, but abuses have been made three times from their side(Interruptions). It is correct that we became angry on fourth time. Will we hear their abuses? Have we come to hear their obscence language ...(Interruptions) what do you think of Laluj? ...(Interruptions) What are you saying. We comply with your ruling...(Interruptions) They are diso-

beying your ruling...(Interruptions) He used absurd language three times due to which our members reacted sharply. You did not stop him.

Advaniji, as a dignified personality, you should not talk of both sides. I would like to say that you should scold, and we will control ourselves....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have said it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a Member is speaking and dozen of persons decide not to allow to speak him....(Interruptions) Advaniji was smiling ...(Interruptions) He should see to it ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take up the business please. Shri Lalu Prasad may continue. Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the article 356 was initiated from Goa. I admit that all the parties were unanimous in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee that political situation has worsened there and hence there is no remedy except putting the State under President's Rule. We admitted this, but what is about Bihar, it will be discussed later. I was saying that all the legislators want to become Minister and Deputy Chief Minister in the small States of 40-80 members. It will be repeated in the country again and again. Is there any way out by which we can increase seats of the assembly. There are States like Himachal etc. where even 2-3 votes can cause the fall of the Governments. It is the people which suffer most. I would like to say that to disintegrate the country and to establish own supremacy law become the culture of this country.

16.55 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Tendencies of ill-will malice and hatred are taking deep roots in our country, today it was told about dalits. I am telling that fundamentalists snatched away our father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi from us, our equality based society and "proof of actual freedom, our village be strong" it was the message of Bapu, today he is not alive. Our Dalit brothers, people of minorities and Christians, why are you talking of castes. When Bihar issue will be discussed tomorrow, then we will reply. I too have experience of the chief ministership of that state. I will reply towards, in which manner elite class is coming on T.V. and addressing Rabri Devi of Bihar and in which way social justice will come.

I come back on my point. You have moved the proposal about Goa because a critical situation was prevailing there. The people of the country have understood your fu-

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

ture strategy, your fundamentalism and policy. Now, the time has changed. The people were in illusion about you. Now, they are disillusioned and you want to put the stamp. Sir, you might have watched the T.V. programme of the Minister of Home Affairs. He is the Minister. The Minister says that the Bihar Govt. is corrupt and anti-dalit. Many cases were filed against you. We never told you corrupt. We did not abuse you. We or any of our colleagues or the Member of Parliament may be prosecuted. As you sow, so you will reap. We pay regard to the judiciary but you are not doing so. A convicted person is the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh today. What message you are conveying to the people by flouting the directive of the courts, demolishing mosque (Interruptions) I repeat my determination that if you use abusive language, we will make more (Interruptions) why are you interrupting... (Interruptions) You have been using abusive language for thousands of years towards our fore-fathers. Our fore fathers have been victims of exploitations. I know about your plan, I also know what you want to do. I will tell to the nation about your document, Kameshwar Paswan of Bihar, and dalits. I have all the literature, you cannot deceive the nation and the President. You people have misled the President as well as this House (Interruptions) I am asking you. I am speaking on Goa. I know Goa is only an excuse. Goa is a beginning only. You are targetting Bihar and other States now. We will teach you when Bihar issue will be discussed tomorrow..... (Interruptions) Sir, you are interfering. We support the resolution on Goa and we warn that if you tried to rule by imposing Article 356, in the country, we will remove dictatorship and people have not allowed dictatorship in the foreign countries too. However, Vajpayee.

17.00 hrs.

may try to be moderate and travel by the bus, I said him that you are going, this is good, Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was saying something, your visit to Pakistan is purposeless. If hon. Advaniji is not with you. We are sitting here to spoil your show. The country is on the verge of disintegration. You should not do this. Do not divide the country but unite it. It will be a good thing, we will support it. Goa is facing such situation, we have our democratic front and we are supporting it. But Dube ji, Choube ji, Tripathi ji who used to teach us mantras and now will teach abusive language, then we have learnt all things and tantra-mantras.... (Interruptions) You are a lady, why are you standing up. Please you sit down.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (SURENDRA-NAGAR) : It is our right.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I am giving your right. If you have your right, why you get Rabri Devi's Government dismissed? If it is woman right, why Rabri Devi's Government has been dismissed, why don't you speak on it. It is her right?

Sir, I sit down by supporting it. She has right for her only, not for Rabri Devi, she has been dismissed.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH) : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, the motion for imposing President's Rule in Goa under Article 356 has been moved for approval and I strongly support it.

Laws are made for the benefit of the country and no law is hard. Its use or misuse depends upon the user. During the Congress regime, Article 356 was misused 90 times. There was constitutional crisis in Goa and the rule of law could not continue. The leaders of all parties and the almost 36 MLAs unanimously supported the view that in order to overcome the Constitutional crisis, President's Rule should be imposed there and as a result thereof the order to impose it has been issued.

Today, the motion has been moved in the Parliament, for its approval. I am putting details of use or misuse of law in 1975. Emergency was imposed on the country. Many leaders are sitting here, all the leaders of opposition except hon. Lalu Yadav, Mulayam Singh ji and people of congress party were sent to jails. The whole country was converted into a Jail. I am talking to you about misuse of law. In this way, Congress has murdered the democracy 90 times by misusing Article 356.

Whereas the Congress on the one hand supports the President's Rule in Goa, for Bihar they have other criteria. Even the Courts have described the situation in Bihar as "Jungle raj". There has been massacre in the state. Recently Rao Sahab was speaking and he said by quoting Ambedkar Ji that Article should not be misused. But I would like to ask him that should the Dalits be killed? An organisation of a particular caste is running village. Under such circumstances, there is no law and order situation in the Bihar due to these massacres. Sir, they are supporting the issue of Goa, but at the same time they are saying that there has been misuse of Article 356 in Bihar. There is a saying for such people—Singing all the days in the week and going to church on Sundays.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kusmaria ji, please do not talk here and there. Please continue your speech.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : If the democracy is in danger and the rule of law is not able to protect the life and property of the common masses, use of Article 356 is proper. By using this Article, Shri Advani has not only protected democracy, but also the constitution and people of Goa. A new era of democracy has been ushered in Goa. I congratulate the hon. Home Minister for this and support the Resolution.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, President's Rule has been imposed in Goa under article 356. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has put this proposal to seek approval in this regard. Much has been said in the House in this connection. It has been submitted that it is the responsibility of all the Members to maintain the dignity of the House. But when we talk about blemishing the dignity of democracy under article 356 and the people in power misuses it then they should also keep this in mind.

Many Hon'ble Members started discussing the Bihar

while discussing Goa. But they forgot to discuss about Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh alongwith that. But the situation in Goa was such that the M.L.As themselves have said that the Government should be dismissed and fresh elections should be held, and you also agreed to it. The Governor to Goa made a request in this regard and you imposed President's rule there. Now you came here to seek his approval for that purpose. I would not talk much about Bihar but many of my friends have studied the political situation there. In Bihar people of backward communities were killed mercilessly, which is a black spot for the whole humanity. I would like to know from the Government in power at Centre that although it is true that the people have been killed there but the Centre has also hatched a conspiracy by withdrawing reservation for downtrodden, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and the members belonging to ruling party do not want to comment on this. In Bihar the downtrodden people have been killed and by withdrawing reservation they have been deprived of their right. The ruling party is not talking even about that.

Today talking about all these things...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are leveling charges...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Rajveer Singh ji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, they are leveling charges. You are leveling charges on the ruling party. He should specifically state where reservation has been withdrawn...(Interruptions) Where the down trodden people have been shoot down? (Interruptions). If wrong charges are being levelled in the proceedings of the House it would create bad impression on the minds of people...(Interruptions) He should level specific charges and furnish details eventwise. (Interruptions) He should tell the names of the State....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade please confine yourself to the subject of Goa. All these problems are cropping up because of it.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Let me be specific now.

[Translation]

What about the OMDOPT released against the reservation of the downtrodden people. This is a matter concerned with the reservation of SC & ST's. What are they doing....(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : I am on a point of order. Under article 356, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : See Rule No. 356

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (DUMDUM) : Sir, he cannot raise this issue here. This is totally irrelevant to the subject under discussion...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Under what rule are you raising your point of order?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is under Rule 356.

[Translation]

He is making irrelevant remarks. Rule 356 illustrated that you can stop him from talking irrelevant things. These office memorandum had been issued during the rule of Shri Devgauda and Shri Gujral at that time during 1996-97 these were issued. The promotions in services were postponed and during that period SC & ST commission had given in writing to the Government of Shri Devgauda and Shri Gujral that these peromotions should be continued...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not concerning the point of order. There is no point of order. There may be no interruptions from now onwards.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : This has been incorporated in article 356 but this is not point of order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Chikhallaji, this is not a point of order.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : I would like to submit that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already gone through the rule. I am not giving you permission to quote it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already given you my ruling. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : I only want to submit this much. I do not want to make allegations on anybody, but I only want to continue the same matter which has been repeatedly discussed....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Express your views in regard to Goa.

(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Now, each and everything has already been said....(Interruptions) We

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Members expressed their views in favour of dismissal of Bihar Govt. due to killings of 'down trodden' people. (Interruptions) There also the same view had been expressed. (Interruptions) I want to submit that downtrodden people have been mercilessly killed but even the living are being devoid from the right to live. Nobody is paying attention to this aspect. This is what I want to submit.

Regarding Goa, our Minister of Home Affairs had sent a proposal for the dismissal of Bihar Govt. under article 356 and the President sent it back so there people got irritated and now they are demanding public debate on this issue. These people were of the opinion that article 356 should be eliminated from the Constitution, but now they are giving support to the same article in name of Baba Shaheb. Now I would like to know from Minister of Home Affairs that his demand that there is a need of public debate under Article 356 and he had expressed his views against the Article 356 previously. Expressing his anguish over the decision of the President the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has tried to dismiss the State Govt's of Goa and Bihar by the help of the same Article 356. On one hand he talks about the policy and on the other hand their intentions are not clear....(Interruptions) The M.L.As of the Goa assembly had demanded that the Goa Government should be dismissed because their should be no manipulation as such in Insuing Budget. They invited the problems and they did the same. But what happened in Bihar?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me control the House.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : You are making wrong statements then it's all right. But when I say some thing then would not go....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Kawade, please conclude.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : If a new order could be established under any other provisions and the Goa Government could have survived and Chief-Minister could have survived with all honour, then we would have thanked the centre Government. But this has not been done there. President's rule was imposed under Article 356. While supporting all that had happened in Goa I would like to submit that Article 356 should not be misused in future.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, President's rule has been imposed in Goa after the dismissal of Goa assembly and I support it.

Sir, the situation in Goa was so complicated that three Governments have changed there during the last 7 months and finally thirty six MLA's submitted a written statement that no Govt. can stay now, so fresh elections should be held and that is in the interest of the State. Thirty six M.L.A's out of the total of forty M.L.A's submitted this in writing. Shri Pratap Singh Rane, Welfred De'Souza and Leusera Feleireo these three Chief Ministers had been the chairman of the Boards. The Four M.L.As from BJP who could not get the benefits. There was the internal fighting in Congress i.e. Congress Sonia and Congress Rajiv. I would like to submit that this infighting in the Congress started in July and ended in January. The objectionable part during this fighting was that Speaker disqualified ten M.L.As who belonged to Congress. But the High Court gave opposite verdict. Then the situation again changed and this change occurred three times. The political scenerio of the state changed in such a way that some Newspaper's wrote that the politics in Goa is like a 'Tamasha'. During the first situation, it was a slender majority. Out of them, the number of M.L.A's in favour of the Govt. were 21 and the number of those who were opposing it was 19. Therefore due to one M.L.A. only the Govt. regained the majority. So I think situations become very complex in small assemblies where there is slender majority. The main difficulty is the advantageous position of such member in this situation and the horse-trading going on there. Thus situation are getting more complex and it require consideration. I know the time is ripe when people should try to think about this situation arising out of defection in such places where assemblies are small, as has happened in Goa. The way money is being exchanged, people are lured towards big posts and as the defection is a going on, there is need of serious consideration in this regard. As far as the Article 356 is concerned, BJP has been always against it right from start. But the situations in Goa took such a turn where there was no alternative except President's rule. Nothing can be done. When thirty six M.L.A's submit in writing and people make such a demand then President's Rule was the only option left.

With these words, I conclude my speech by supporting the imposition of President's rule in Goa.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, time is very short but I am expressing my views in brief. So far as the imposition of Article 356 in

Goa is concerned, the MLAs of Goa have themselves demanded that since we are not able to run the Government, the elections should be held after imposing President's Rule here.

Sir, I would like to request that Article 356 should not be misused but at the same time this Article is essential in the Constitution. The main problem today is that the petty political parties always make defections in their self interest so that they could snatch power. They are instrumental in the fall and rise of the Governments. If we want to have a healthy tradition in this respect, there should be a total change in the anti-defection law. There should be a stringent provision that whosoever member crosses the floor and defects to another party, his membership should be terminated. If this does not happen, these meladies would continue.

Sir, whatever is happening in the House, people are feeling a great concern over it. Today the situation of the House, what people are seeing is really painful, this House is functioning for the last several years but today what is its condition – "Saying and doing are two things". Our respected former Cabinet Ministers and former Prime Minister also, sitting in the opposition know only to preach others. Whatever they say, is it applicable to them also? I have a high regard for Laluji and Mulayam Singh ji. It is true that when Laluji starts his speech even those people, who do not want to stay any more in the House, stop and listen to him with great curiosity. Yesterday Laluji called himself 'Krishna'. I am requesting Laluji to have a study of Lord Krishna. Krishnaji used to serve saints and Guru while Kans used to kill saints, torture them. You find the difference between them and then see where are you going. You decide whether you are escorting saints like Krishna or killing them like Kans. So far as the Indian culture is concerned – it is not a job of great people to make insult of 'Janeu', 'Shikha' and some castes. We remember that day very much when he came to our region. At that time he was the Chief Minister and he was delivering a speech. It is said that he blowed conch-shells also, condemned the Brahmins and emphasised on elimination of "BhureBa". "Bhu" means "Bhumihaar", "Ra" means "Rajput", 'Ba' means 'Brahmins and 'La' means 'Lala' The issue of 'Eliminate BhureBa' was also brought in the House.

Is it true? I would like to request that if you really claim yourself as the origin of Krishna dynasty. You can take a oath of holy Geeta that you have not used these words.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Shri Mishra; I do respect you. Our opponents, Ranveer sena did propaganda that the Chief Minister Lal Prasad ji has said in Begusarai that "Bhura Ba" should be eliminated and such type of propaganda, was made in detail also. I filed a case and challenged them that I have never made this comment ...*(Interruptions)* Holy Geeta is a book, but I really say that I did not say this. But Shri Govindacharya ji of B.J.P. has said that a jungle rule of Lalurabtri should be removed—it was telecasted. Shri Kameshwar Paswan, Shri Tarachand ji, Shri Janardan Yadav and Shri Chaubey ji the M.L.As had objected on the comments made in it against the 'Bhumihar' caste of Bihar and asked to remove Govindacharya ji. But Govindacharyaji is still there.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Why

are you saying this about Shri Govindacharyaji, he is not present here to give you a reply.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Excuse me, you are an honourable member and worth to be here...*(Interruptions)* and was turned away from there. Shri Janardan Yadav and Shri Chaubey ji are your colleagues. They were issued show cause notices. I will tell you tomorrow by reading from a book about what I say and what do you say.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : For whom you are talking about, are not the members of this House and they can not give you a reply. You have quoted their names. Is it appropriate? All the names that have been quoted here by him, should be expunged from the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there will be any objectionable point, we will expunge it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a tradition should be made to protect everyone's dignity. May God bless with wisdom. It is true that the cases were filed against our Laluji prior to BJP Government in which he was sent to jail. The issue of fodders scam came into light prior to this Government. It was already going on. If you really respect the court, it is the court which has sent you to jail and not the BJP people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should address to me and not to them.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I am making a humble request. As some poet has said, "Boond aaghaat sahe giri kaise, khalke vachan sant sahe jaise." You are the symbol of our tradition. I would like to make a humble request to everybody not to create such circumstances atleast in the future.

Since I am on my legs to speak about the question of Goa, I would say that the President's Rule in Goa has not been forcibly imposed. I am not quoting Bihar. If our party will allow us tomorrow to speak on it, then we will definitely speak. The President's Rule was essential there. The Congress people have ruled the country for 40-45 years and still they are willing to rule. They are intellectual. There is a feeling in the country that either BJP or Congress should rule the country, there will be no third front. People have made up their mind. I would request the Congress Party to frame such laws so that when they come to power, they should not face such a situation. You always change your stand. Once you dismiss a Government by withdrawing the support and then say that you had committed a mistake. Therefore, I would urge them not to resort to such tactics. With these words, I support it.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA DWIVEDI (BANDA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the President's Rule imposed in Goa under Article 356. The Constitution makers, had added this Article 356 in the Constitution after deep deliberations. In this country Congress Governments had misused this Article 356 for the first time in Kerala and since then this Article 356 has been misused 90 times by them during the 50 years history of Democracy. We are against the misuse of Article 356. In Goa there was no Government worth the name and then was no chance of any party forming the Government. All the hon'ble Members of the State Assembly themselves

[Shri Ramesh Chandra Dwivedi]

made a demand to impose President's Rule in the State as the State machinery has failed there. I support the use of Article 356 there. As our colleague Shri Ram Nagina Mishra ji has said that a debate should be held on defection and if some Members crosses the floor and defects to another party, then his membership should be terminated. It is the only solution. I would also like to add my point in it. I share my feelings with him. The use of Article 356 against defection is the first requirement.

With these words, I strongly support the President's Rule imposed in Goa by using Article 356 by the Government.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am highly thankful to you giving me an opportunity to speak on Goa. Many hon'ble Members have just now expressed their views in detail regarding Article 356. It is true that people expect from the Government, to whom they have voted, to complete its tenure of 5 years. People believe that the elected Government will take care of their interests. There are many points for which this Article 356 had been made. Article 356 should be enforced in genuine cases. It is true that in Goa, all the political parties supported the move to impose President's Rule in the State. So far as the others States are concerned, Bihar was also one of them where the President's Rule was imposed by enforcing Article 356 there. There are several provisions under Article 356 which can be applied to other States. If this trend continues, Article 356 will always be misused.

While concluding my point, I share my views with all other hon'ble Members and support the permission sought by the Minister of Home Affairs for imposing President's Rule in Goa.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGADH) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the resolution for imposing President's Rule in Goa under Article 356 has been brought to this House by the Minister of Home Affairs. I support it. If majority of the members of a State Legislative Assembly admit that the State machinery can not function there, President's Rule should be imposed. In Goa 40 MLAs said that the State machinery can not function. So the resolution to impose Article 356 in Goa was brought on that ground.

Laluji mentioned about Gujarat. I would like to reply it here. This Article had been used or misused for 90 times during the last 50 years when the Congress was in power.

This Article was entirely misused in Gujarat because at that time BJP had a majority in the House. But by misusing Article 356 Congress got imposed President's Rule there. Therefore I would like to say that the BJP is not against Article 356, but it consider it to be a wrong practice. If it is misused. Therefore, on this ground one of our colleague had said that everyone either male or female, has a right to speak in this House. A Members can say anything. Whether Shrimati Rabri Devi is a female or not? In this context I would like to say that Indiraji ruled over this country but people removed her because when a female can not rule in a better

way, anybody can oppose her. The same thing has happened in Bihar. If a person, either male or female, can not rule properly, he/she has to quit. That is why, the use of Article 356 is essential. While supporting the resolution in regard to imposition of President's Rule in Goa, I conclude.

17.36 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ninth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

I think, it will also be relevant to inform the hon. Members that as decided in the BAC, we will have holidays on the 1st March and on the 3rd March in order that the hon. Members of Parliament can celebrate Holi....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : 3rd March also?... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : We are having a holiday on the 3rd March also because a number of Members have requested for it. I think, I should clarify it. It is for adoption. It is not final. It is a proposal from my side because a number of Members of Parliament have requested for it. The hon. Leader of the Opposition would recollect that the basic thinking was that we should have non-controversial business on the 3rd March....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA) : I could not come on 3rd, we do not celebrate Holi but Holi in Bihar.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is why, I am speaking in Hindi that this house will observe holidays on 1st and 3rd March. Please present on 4th.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (NABADWIP) : What about the Questions listed on those days? Will they be taken up on some other day? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : That is not the practice... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the hon. Home Minister will reply to the discussion on the Statutory Resolution.

17.38 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF
PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION
TO THE STATE OF GOA—*Cond.*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank to all the members, who have expressed their views on the resolution regarding Goa, which was moved by me. Naturally, whatever discussion is held, the initiator of discussions gives attention towards, the criticism, differences and on which point they are; I am constantly hearing all the discussion from the beginning to the end. I heard that all these differences or criticising were about our Govt. or section 356 or in reference to Bihar. What ever resolution I have moved, perhaps, in that regard no differences have been expressed. Almost all the members have accepted that the circumstances which were prevailing in Goa and there was no possibility of formation of a stable Govt, and out of 40 total MLAs, 38 members have themselves said that the state legislative assembly may be dissolved and by imposing the President rule, the provision of new election should be made. Normally, it does not happen anywhere and in this way, this is a fully undisputed proposal.

Indeed, there is no dispute on this. So I need not say any thing about that proposal except that Shri Mohan Singh had blamed the Govt. that whatever unsuitability has emerged there, that has been created by the central Govt. Normally, Shri Mohan Singh ji speaks to the point, puts his views logically, but why did he say so, I could not understand it. No where he has given its detail. Whereas the factual position is that if the Govt. have been destabilized three times, the internal dispute of the Congress Party was the reason for that. The Central Govt. has nothing to do with it. In addition to it there was more or less a reference about the Governor's role. If this reference may not be considered as direct or indirect comment on his; I would like to say that the manner in which I have seen his tenure, read all his reports, I think that in all this reference when there was so much unstability, the role of the Governor was quite impeccable. No one can find out any fault in that. It was according to the provisions of the constitution. Therefore what ever all the members asked him, he has taken the action accordingly. If some where unsuitability was found, he has always argued that it should be decided on the floor of the House. No matter you have given me signed letters, I will not take decision in the Raj Bhawan on the basis of signatures the decision will be taken on the floor of the House. Even when the Ministers have given their resignations, at that time too he asked the Chief Minister to prove the support of the majority but the C.M. himself has given his resignation. So, it is incorrect to blame the Central Govt. as was referred to at few places in the said discussion that has dissolved the Govt. of Goa, the Central Govt. has not dissolved any Govt. In this context, there was not Govt. whatever Govt. was there, has given its resignation and not only given to resignation but also had given unanimous decision of his party, the congress legislative party, the Chief Min-

ister has given a decision of his cabinet that the Central Govt. should dissolve the House and ask for fresh elections. Perhaps his Intention might be that the Governor should dissolve the House but the Governor thought that it would be better if the elections will be held under the President's rule and on that basis, this decision has been taken and you all have supported it, for this I am grateful to you.

I will certainly point out one thing because all the spokesmen have mentioned this in the same context that with the enforcement of the anti defection laws the role of the Speaker has become the subject of dispute at many places. Whether the decision of speaker is correct or not, is discussed and this time the decision of the speaker in Goa has been challenged and the High Court has turned down his decision as illegal. On that basis, some decision has been taken. I would like to remind that once the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri Shiv Raj Patil has made long discussion with all the parties on this point. He called a special meeting of the speakers to assess the utility of the anti-defection law; he was of the opinion that this law is originally very good in principle but during its implementation many shortcomings and faults have come to light, therefore there should be reconsideration on this. At one time we felt that a consensus has been arrived among the parties about the changes to be made in the law and the then Govt. was also agree that whatever views had been expressed here they would bring amendments in anti-defection law accordingly but we could not progress in this direction. Today, in the context of the circumstances of Gao a number of members have mentioned this thing. I would like that Mr. Speaker should take initiative in this regard.

Because all these laws are such, let it be any law of Constitution, I say, not only constitutional law but also a simple law, as can be passed in the present position of our parliament, when there will be a consensus and on this subject consensus is essential; because one of the members has said that the role of the speakers becomes disputed as a result of it.

[English]

Is he playing a partisan role?

[Translation]

that is why some times I think that the Speaker should not be made a Judge. As has been mentioned in the Constitution that if any where the question of disqualification of any Member of Parliament is raised, the President takes the decision with the advice of Election Commission; the President does not take the advice of the cabinet, he takes many decisions with the advice of election commission. Perhaps it would be appropriate to incorporate such type of a provision and to bring some amendments in anti defection law, but it is to be judged. In the same way the people comment on this—

[English]

Defection in the singular is an offence. But defection in the plural, provided it is an adequate plural, is not an offence.

[Shri L. K. Advani]

[Translation]

It means whether the provision of split in the law is correct or not, it needs a re-consideration, because it is in the mind of the general people that it is an offence in retail but not in whole sale. But split has its own rationale, I do not say that it is quite useless; but inspite of rational, all together it is a fact that whatever defection was taking place in the past the provision of split played a vital role. That is why, in my opinion, it would be better that the discussion which has already been held before, should further extended so that the issue may be considered in detail and the initiative in this regard should be taken by the Chairperson or Hon. Speaker. As far as this motion is concerned except giving thanks to all the members and the parties I do not want to say any thing, since you have given unanimous approval.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 10th February, 1999 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa".

The motion was adopted.

THE MINSITER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I request that in the light of the fact that I have spoken to most of the Members and the leaders of the parties as far as possible I could consult, they felt that we should really start the debate on the Resolution on Bihar tomorrow because many people waited for a very long time and were very tired?

So, since at the moment on the List of Business the Resolution about Bihar is the next item—it will be advisable as we have reached nearly six o'clock—with the consent of the House may I propose that we adjourn now to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the consent of the House that we adjourn now?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet on the 25th February, 1999 at 11 a.m.

17.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 25, 1999/Phalguna 6, 1920 (Saka)

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Wednesday, February 24, 1999/Phalguna 5, 1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(ii)/25	Shri Kharbela Swain	Shri Kharabela Swain
(i)/30	Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmara	Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria
29/8(from below)	338.56	338.36
65 & 66/8	167.486	16.486
105/15	362.15	362.16
135 & 136/9(from below)	142.29	142.59
158/3(from below)	38835	388355
158/2(from below)	10	104
158/Last	1236	12366
186/Last	Miniter	Minister
193 & 194/3(from below)	10.58	10.48
193 & 194/2(from below)	10.48	10.58
261/32	MAJOR GENERAL BUVAN CHADNRA KHANDURI, AVSM	MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM

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