hirteenth Series, Vol. V, No. 16

Wednesday, March 15, 2000
Phalguna 25, 1921 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. V contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 15, 2000/Phalguna 25, 1921 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Sarvashri M.P. Swamy and K. Mallanna, two of our former colleagues.

Shri M.P. Swamy was a Member of Third Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1967 representing Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

An advocate by profession, Shri Swamy was an active political and social worker.

Fond of reading, Shri Swamy took keen interest in the study of English and Tamil literature.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Swamy lost no effort in raising the matters concerning the economic problems of the rural populace on the floor of the House.

Shri M.P. Swamy passed away on 25th February, 2000 at Perumalpuram, District Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu at the age of 70.

Shri K. Mallanna was a Member of Fifth to Seventh Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1984 representing Mysore-Madhugiri and Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituencies of Karnataka. He was a sitting Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council.

An advocate and agriculturist by profession, Shri Mallanna took keen interest in organising the youth, *kisans* and workers' movements besides running educational institutions.

An active political and social worker, Shri Mallanna remained Municipal Councillor in Tumkur for over 15 years. He was also the Editor of *Socio-Economic Justice, Bangalore.*

An able parliamentarian, Shri Mallanna served as Member of various Parliamentary and Consultative Committees.

Shri K. Mallanna passed away on 1st March, 2000 at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi at the age of 74.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Inter-State Water Disputes

*281. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disputes over sharing of water pending between various States in the country; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the disputes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) two disputes over sharing of water between the basin States, namely, (i) Ravi and Beas Water Dispute, and (ii) Cauvery Water Disputes are pending Union Government has constituted (i) Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, and (ii) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal on 2.4.1986 and 2.6.1990 respectively under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 (ISWD Act, 1956) for adjudication of the disputes.

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask as to what are the Statewise main points of the disputes over sharing of water pending between various States in the country and whether the

Government have arranged for the mutual discussion between those State Governments who are a party to the disputes before referring them to the Tribunal. If so, what are the outcome of such discussions and the reasons for the failure of these discussions? My second supplementary is that.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask the second question later on.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: It is linked with first supplementary. The Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that Ravi-Vyas water dispute and Kaveri Water dispute are pending. Union Government have constituted tribunals for them on 2.4.1986 and 2.6.1990 respectively. So many years have passed and nothing has come out. How much more time will it take to settle these disputes. Is it not an injustice with the people of those States? This delay is not good, this problem should be solved at the earliest because 14 years have passed since the first tribunal was constituted and 10 years for the second.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as disputes are concerned, these matters are pending over the issue of water sharing. The dispute of Ravi-Vyas and Kaveri water dispute are pending over this issue. Interim order were passed in regard to the Kaveri dispute. After that Hon. Prime Minister arbitrated an accord between the States and a monitoring committee was also constituted and that process is still on. As far the Ravi-Vyas issue is concerned, there are several reasons for its delay due to which no solution could emerge. There are some political, social reasons such as the disturbance in Punjab which was the main factors behind it. If both States desire, they can reach an out of court settlement. The rest of the disputes ae sub-judice and it would not be proper to talk much on that subject.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: It takes a long time in the tribunal. Are the Government contemplating to formulate a National Policy about it? It is necessary to amend the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956. The Hon. Minister should state as to when the Government is going do that. A very big dispute over sharing of Krishna Water is going on between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I would like to know whether the Government will try to solve it or will it be settled through a court only or will it be solved through mutual discussion?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We want that the disputes may be settled at the earliest. In this context, Sarkaria Commission has recommended that there should be a definite time frame for these water dispute tribunals and their duration should be of three years. It is better if the dispute is solved during this duration but under special circumstances this duration can be increased for two more years. Inter-state Council has also accepted this recommendation and it is thinking in the direction of implementing it. A meeting under the chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister for framing a National Water Policy is scheduled to take place on coming 3rd of April and this issue will be considered in the meeting. As far as the Krishna Water dispute is concerned, it is a sub-judice matter. The hearing of the case is almost complete in the Supreme Court and the judgement is about to come. We will start the work in this direction once the judgement is delivered.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, part (b) of the question relates to steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the dispute. In the Minister's reply it is stated that the matter is *sub judice.* I only find a streak of complacence or indifference in this. Sir, this Ravi-Beas dispute was referred to the Tribunal 14 years back. Is it enough to just say that the matter is *sub judice*? We would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government are serious about solving the matter and if so, what steps have they taken to get the matter expedited or to bring the parties to the negotiating table and get the matter solved.

This lingering tension between the States and the people which often results from various statements by the leaders from time to time should, in fact, be put an end to.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: sir, actually the hon. Member is also aware of the facts about Ravi-Beas water dispute. Our two engineers were also killed there. Actually, we are writing for an opportune moment. We have initiated action on that and we want to solve this issue.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What is that opportune moment when you could intervene?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Let me complete. When we started action, the question of Haryana elections came. The Election Commission had said that though the matter is *sub judice,* the Government could take action in this matter after the elections. The elections are over now and we would again start the action. If the hon. Members from Punjab could sit together and help us, then we could do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is saying that it is pending for the last 14 years.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: That is there. It is pending for the the last 14 years. But we are trying to solve this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When you have not been able to constitute your Consultative Committee how will you solve other problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Al of you should help in this regard. It was constituted 10 years before...*(Interruptions)* All are aware as to what was the situation in Punjab. I do not want to say anything else about it in the House. Everybody is aware about it. Some delay has taken place in solving the problem but the Central Government do not want to delay the matter instead the Union Government desire that the dispute should be settled at the earliest.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government are not able to constitute the Consultative Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, regarding sharing of waters of Mullaperiyar dam, the Kerala's stand is that the Tamil Nadu Government is unauthorisedly constructing a dam and is even increasing its height. If it is completed, the end result would be that the city of Cochin will be under waters and some municipal towns would also be submerged. That is the fear. This is a long standing dispute. So, I want to know whether the government is aware of this fact.

Sir, it is reported that the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri E.K. Nayanar had invited Dr. Karunanidhi for bilateral talks to solve this dispute. It is also reported that they have agreed to meet during next month to have discussions about sharing of waters of Mullaperiyar dam. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is aware of this fact and whether they propose to help the States. This matter is not *sub judice* and it has never been referred to any tribunal. The matter will have to be settled by the two States bilaterally. But I would like to ask the Central Government whether it is prepared to solve the problem. Let Shri Baalu answer that, I have no objection. I would like to know whether the Central Government is aware of this fact and what stand they have taken in this regard.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually, both the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are coming here on 3rd April, 2000 and we would be requesting them to solve this problem amicably.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Then you do not want to do anyting.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, there was a press statement from the Ministry of Water Resources saying that the river waters, which is a State subject, is going to be taken into the Concurrent List. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to amend the Constitution by taking it into the Concurrent List?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually we are thinking of it and we are going to discuss this matter in the meeting scheduled to be held on 3rd April in which all the Chief Ministers are coming. It is because their concurrence is very much needed and two-thirds of States have to agree for that.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: This will be a dangerous step. It will lead to more rebellion in the State. I wish you would not touch this thing.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: It will be very much required in the interest of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the S.Y.L. Canal issue which is lying pending for the last 14 years. Haryana Government has spent thousands of crores of rupees on the construction of SYL Canal, but till now, not a single drop of water has been made available for Haryana. The Congress ruled over the country for several years but even it could not settle this dispute through you. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to whether the N.D.A. Government would try to solve the issue of S.Y.L. which pertains to the water dispute between Punjab and Haryana, on the same line as was done in setting the Kaveri Water dispute?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The Government will try to solve it. The efforts of the Governments are on in this regard.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while drawing the attention of Hon. Minister through you I would like to state and you will be surpirsed to know that the Bundelkhand is the poorest and the most backward region of the country. A report was prepared on it and the leaders of Congress Party might remember that a scheme was brought for the development of Bundelkhand in which this area was deemed as the most backward, exploited and deprived region of the country. Half of the Bundelkhand region is in Uttar Pradesh and half in Madhya Pradesh. The issue the grand Ken Project, to be built on the river Ken which is flowing from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, was raised some years back. Some districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were expected to be benefitted through this

project. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is being contemplated by the Union Government regarding that grand Ken Project and if not, will it immediately take it into consideration in view of the prevailing poverty and backwardness of Bundelkhand?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Rajghat project is almost complete.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: I am not talking about Rajghat. I am talking about grand Ken Project.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: As far as Ken Project is concerned the Union Government wants that a drought affected region of Bundelkhand should progress and the efforts are going on to achieve it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is also related to it. I associate myself with the statement given by Uma Bharatiji just now and also with the Question asked by her. The grand Ken Project of Bundelkhand or the Ken multipurpose project...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: This Ken Project was started when he was the Minister and he had himself started it. The proposal for the project was sent by him.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: There are various rivers in Bundelkhand region and Madhya Pradesh which originate from Madhya Pradesh and flow through Uttar Pradesh. These are the inter-state rivers. Quite often the disputes between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh arise over the issue of sharing of water of these rivers. How many matters of disputes are there between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh over the issue of sharing of river water, and whether the Ken multipurpose project has been lying pending since 1983? Is it a fact that it is lying pending for want of Environment clearance? Is it also one of the reasons for not granting clearance to it that no formula could be evolved for sharing of water between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: It is not related to this question. Information will be given if a separate notice is given.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: It was a question related to the sharing of water. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it is aware about it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already said that the Government is calling a meeting on 3rd April to solve this issue.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The Minister has not come prepared. Sir, you must use your good offices to protect the Members of Parliament who ask questions. If the Minister comes ill-prepared, you can ask him to answer the questions tomorrow.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I will reply the question which is related to it. ...*(Interruptions)* The issue of Ken is lying pending for long as has been mentioned by Hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)* we will provide the information if a separate Notice is given but this question is not related to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, why should there be a separate notice for this question? If the Minister is not well prepared to reply, then you may ask him to answer next time. ...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry to say that this supplementary comes within the ambit of the main question...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: sir, the question is about sharing of water between two States and not regarding a particular project.

[Translation]

Sharing of water dispute is between two States.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, all disputes come under it and the sharing matter also comes under it. When we were Ministers, the Speaker used to haul us up. You must haul him up, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: A meeting is being called for it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: In the last session the Hon. Minister had assured the House that it would be cleared at the earliest. ...*(Interruptions)* I am asking Question on the sharing of water, still you are evading the reply.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: There is nothing like evading the issue. ...*(Interruptions)* All the projects are being considered. But this is not a question related to the main subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I must read out the question to you. It says "the number of disputes over sharing of water".

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, are you going to put a supplementary?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The question is about sharing of water. I want to suggest that it comes entirely under the purview of the question. You must haul him up. You cannot allow him to get away with that. It comes under the purview of this question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I would request you to please carefully go through the record whether the Minister of Water Resources has not seriously misled this House in stating that there is a settlement of the Cauvery dispute made by the Prime Minister. The dispute is still pending, as his answer says, before the Tribunal. My question to him, subject to his continuation as a Minister after having misled the House, is this. After the Supreme Court directed the Government of India to ensure the implementation of the Interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal, is it not a fact that—if the Minister were to look at the week-by-week flow of the Cauvery from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu—the Interim Award has not been fulfilled in any week at at all between August 1998 and March, 2000? I want him to confirm that.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, after the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, it was agreed upon that there will be a Monitoring Committee and that Committee is monitoring the release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. There was some hue and cry for some time but followed by a good rainfall, Tamil Nadu and others agreed to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 282, Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he has not answered my question. I seek your protection, Sir. I asked him on a point of fact. ...*(Interruptions)* We cannot allow him to go on like this. I asked him only on a point of fact.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sukdeo Paswan. Please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, he has not answered my question. Why should I sit down?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Monitoring is going on regarding the dispute and the Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources meets the Secretaries of the concerned States and monitoring is going on...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, he has the same attitude over all questions...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, he should say 'yes' or 'no' to his question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I asked him whether it is a matter of fact or not. But he has not answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: My question on the Cauvery dispute has not been answered. The reply has not been put down. The Minister is deliberately avoiding an answer to my question. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you have permitted me to put my supplementary under the lottery system.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But why has my question not answered?

Why can I not have the protection from the Chair? We will get back to him. We are not going to allow this to go on...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister has the responsibility to answer to this House, But he is failing to answer to this House. My question was admitted under the lottery and it is not put down because the Minister is trying to avoid answering me. Sir, you have to protect me.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am protecting you. Please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have the right to get the information that I want. Sir, at least you can direct him to give it to me later on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have already gone to the second Question. Please understand it. What is this? In the Question Hour, you are doing like this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have asked a question of fact. But he does not have the answer. I am ready to wait till he sends it to me. Please direct him to give me the information...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You can direct him to give the information to me. I have only asked a question of fact. I am just asking that if the week by week flow has been adhered to or not. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that he has already replied to it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You can always direct him to give the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you again that he has already replied to it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have asked a question about the week by week flow of water. He has not replied to it. So, you cannot go on to the next Question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. What is this?

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. What is this? The hon. Minister has already replied to it. If you want further information, you can ask for it. I can allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. Please understand it. This is not the proper way to do it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to my submission. You have to take the decision. Hon. Minister has not replied the question properly, we are being denied of our rights so we seek your protection. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: The Hon. Minister has not replied the Question asked from him and he has misled the House. We seek your protection. You, please direct the Hon. Minister for replying the Question asked from him.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am on a point of order.

---

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? What is this? The hon. Minister has already replied to it. If you want, you can have a Half-an-Hour Discussion. Please do not disturb the Question Hour.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Minister is there. If he does not have the information, he can pass it on later. It is a very simple thing *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: We come here and ask Questions but the Hon. Minister instead of replying it, try to dodge us. We want your protection.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: When some Question or issue related to Madhya Pradesh is asked from her, instead of replying it properly he tries to avoid it. Today even Mr. Prime Minister is present...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: If you do not have the replies of our Question, then you assure us to send their replies later on.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is the tradition of the House that if an hon. Member asks a question and if the hon. Minister does not have the information, he always says that he will inform the Member later. There is no harm doing it. That can be done. But you cannot say that you have gone to the next Question. He can pass on the information later on.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: If he does not have the information, let him convey it later on...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: A question was asked by the hon. Member regarding the monitoring of the Cauvery water dispute...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. There is no confusion at present. There is no conflict between the two States...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is not my question.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, week by week monitoring is going on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are obstructing the Minister. Is this the proper way? What is this? Let him complete it. Then only you can speak.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Monitoring is going on. There is no dispute at present. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered. It is very difficult for the Chair also to run the House like this. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that the replies from the Government have failed to satisfy our friends from the opposition. If they want more information, then all the information will be sent to the Opposition or the Hon. Member later on.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Many, Many Thanks.

[English]

That is all we want from you.

[Translation]

Technology Mission on Oilseeds

*282. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a technology mission has been constituted to increase the production of oilseeds in the country;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated to increase the production of oilseeds during the year 1999-2000;

(c) the total allocation made for implementation of these schemes along with the expenditure incurred so far out of the sanctioned amount; and

(d) the impact of the mission on the oilseed production?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Technology Mission on Oilseeds was constituted in May, 1986. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programmee (OPP) is being implemented under the Technology Mission. During the year 1999-2000, the scheme is being implemented in 25 States covering 395 selected districts and is being funded on 75:25 share basis between Central Government and the State Governments. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmer through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

(c) The total allocation for the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 109.10 crores as Central Share. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 77.19 crores has been released to various States so far.

(d) There is a significant increase in the production of oilseeds from a level of 10.83 million tonnes during 1985-86 when the Mission was set up, to the level of 25.21 million tonnes during 1998-99.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: I have not received any satisfactory reply of my question. It is far away from the facts. Has the Technology Mission been constituted to increase the production of oilseeds in the country; if so, the scheme formulated to increase the production of oilseeds during 1999-2000?

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: The launching of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was done in May, 1986. The objectives set for the Technology Mission are: to produce 16.5 million tonnes of oilseeds in 1989-90; to cut down import of oils by half in five years; to produce 26 million tonnes of oilseeds. It includes eight million tonnes of edible oils.

The next one is the Integrated Policy. The Technology Mission on Oilseeds consists of four mini-missions. One mini-mission deals with Crop Production Technology. The second mini-mission deals with Post Harvest Technology. The third mini-mission deals with input support services and the fourth mini-mission deals with market support.

Now, I come to the achievements of Technology Mission. Production increased from 10.83 to 25.21 million tonnes. The area has increased from 19.02 million

hecatres to 26.71 million hectares and productivity increased from 570 kgs. to 944 kgs. per hectare from 1985-86 to 1998-99.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received proper reply of my Question. Minikits demonstration is carried in each district keeping in view that present production of oilseeds. After the end of sowing season of oilseeds, minikits demonstration are held in districts. What provisions have been made by the Union and State Governments in this regard? What steps have been taken for conducting demonstrations in the districts before their sowing season?

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: It may be some stray case. Any how, I will inquire into the matter and report later.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was constituted in 1986. According to the reply given by Hon. Minister 75 percent of its expenditure is born by the Centre and 25 per cent by the State Government. Besides, for increasing the oil seed production, the production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seeds minikits, spinkler sets, improved farm implements, Gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzobium and agricultural tools are also made available. As per my information this mission was started especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in 1986 and crores of rupees are being spent on it but the sowing of oilseeds takes place in the month of October while all the materials actually reach to the farmers by the month of December-Januafy.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary? You ask your supplementary.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask and state that the Technology Mission on oilseeds can only become successful when its utilisational checking is done at the right time and its monitoring is done properly. The money spent since 1986 till date, regarding that...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you giving suggestions or asking Supplementary?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I would like to know whether the Government intend to set up an Investigation Commission for utilisational checking and to look into the various irregularities which have taken place in the past and simultaneously to punish the guilty so that the distribution may take place properly in the future and the Technology Mission may be successful in realising its aim.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have to ask supplementary how will it do, you are giving a speech.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the question as to whether or not any utilisational checking has taken place for the expenditure incurred on minikits etc.?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will disallow your supplementary. This is not the way to ask the supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked it because since 1986 the scheme has not yielded any results in Bihar. Sir, through you, I want to ask whether the Government would ensure the utilisation checking of this mission.

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down, please.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Technology Mission on Oilseeds was constituted in 1996. The oilseeds production has also gone up sizeably from 10.8 million tonnes to 25.2 million tonnes. As far as this matter is concerned, there is no dispute.

As far as the functions of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds are concerned, it is also looking after the sustainability of oil farm plantation. I do not know whether it is confining itself to the extent of motivation and production. In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by providing huge subsidies oil farm plantation has been encouraged. Plantation was taken up on as much as 28 lakh hectares. The policy of the Government of India is to provide huge subsidies for import of palmolein oil. The domestic oil farm industry is facing stiff competition. Due to this, in most of these areas farmers are now going in for uprooting the gardens. Is this Mission looking after its sustainability? Is there any comprehensive policy for protecting these gardens so that the interests of the farmers also are protected? The amount that has been spent in the shape of subsidy and also in the shape of providing all other infrastructure should not go waste and the oil farm gardens sustain and yield results in the long run.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: We are aware of this matter. We have purchased oilseeds from the farmers and we are maintaining the minimum prices. We are also procuring them. Recently, we have given certain amount to the State Governments for making some adjustments. The Central Government and the State Government have also come to an agreement. Sir, we have almost satisfied the farmers.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the Minister's answer it is visible that out of Rs. 109.10 crore, only Rs. 77 crore has, so far, been released and today is 15th of March. I would like to know as to what is the reason for not releasing the amount to the States so far. Then, what is the allocation for the State of Rajasthan? If it is not allocated so far, what are the reasons for it?

Sir, this is one sector where agro-based industries can be helped. Is the Government planning to coordinate with the Ministry of Industry or the Ministry of Small Scale Industries to set up agro-based units, especially based on mustard, in those States where oil production is high. Is the Government planning to encourage agro-based industries in the small scale sector, in villages and blocks?

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, if any proposal comes from the State Government we will certainly look into it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is not a proper answer. Out of Rs. 109.10 crore, only Rs. 77 crore has been released so far. What are the reasons for not releasing the amount to the State Governments? I must know the reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: If any proposal comes from the State Government he will consider it.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, the State Governments are taking the money, but they are not distributing it properly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: MR. Speaker, Sir, a glimpse at the question and its reply will reveal that the hon. Minister has given a inexplicit reply of the Question which was asked. The question was very clear. As Shri Rajesh Pilotji has said that hon. Minister has inexplicitly mentioned about the allotments. Hon. Minister has stated that there are 25 States and 395 districts in India where this programme has been implemented. Would you please state the names of those 25 States and the districts alongwith the details of districtwise allotment where the programme has been implemented.

[English]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Sir, it is a big list in which 25 States are there.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have the statistics with you, you can give. Otherwise, you can send the statistics to the hon. Member.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Yes; I will send the statistics later.

Elimination of Child Labour

*283. + SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal):

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ILO Chief's visit to focus on child labour" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated February 16, 2000;

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

(c) the child labour projects visited by the ILO chief in India recently and the details of the MoU signed during his visit extending India's participation in the International programme on elimination of child labour?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (b) Government has noted the contents of the news item published in "The Hindu" dated February, 16, 2000 captioned "ILO Chief's visit to focus on child labour". The news item stated, inter-alia, that Mr. Juan Somavia, DG, ILO is visiting India from February, 17 to 21. The thrust of his visit is to promote "decent work in global economy". He will also hold a series of meetings with labour economists, parliamentarians and representatives of major trade unions and employers organisations and witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, extending India's participation in ILO's International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The ILO Chief is also expected to visit child labour projects.

(c) As per the information received from ILO, DG. ILO visited a child labour project in East Delhi, being implemented by an NGO, Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre, where non-formal education is being provided to rag picking children. The extension of the MoU between the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India and the ILO expired on 31.12.99. Further extension of MoU was signed on 17.02.2000, in the presence of the DG, ILO, extending the life of the Project for two years uptil 31st December, 2001 in the first instance and thereafter for one year, ending 31st December, 2002, by mutual agreement.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to 1991 Census, the child labour in our country is 11.28 millions and as per International Labour Organisation Reports, India has got the largest number of child labour population in the world. Recently, the Director-General of International Labour Organisation paid a visit to India and he visited certain places. The Ministry of Labour and International Labour Organisation have singed an agreement in the presence of the Director-General of ILO. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what are the highlights of the MoU, which was signed.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, IPEC Agreement was signed in presence of Director General, ILO, and it has been decided that project will be extended for two more years. Major features of the MoU which has been signed, will be based on the cooperation between the Government of India and International Labour Organisation, particularly the objectives and principles described in Convention related to child labour of International Labour Organisation. Now Convention 1999 related to preverted form of child labour has been included in it. Workshops will be organised through the co-ordination of work agenda and programme of national policy. No programme or project will be implemented without prior permission of National Steering Committee. In order to get approval of IPEC, Geneva for the release of funds, immediate action will be taken on all the projects cleared by national Steering Committee. First, IPEC will fully consult the National Government regarding the policy of this national programme Management. Thus, this agreement has been signed, taking into account all major issues.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has spoken about National Child Labour Project. Sir, apart from that, work for rehabilitation of children are going on in different States of the country and about 100 projects are running. But various kind of complaints, irregularities have been received regarding these projects. Last year too, some NGOs had complained regarding this. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any enquiry would be conducted about these projects and will the Government arrange for the monitoring of those projects about which complaints have been received.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, infact, this question is related to IPEC but hon'ble Member is asking for information about national child labour. 91 projects are working in the country and Rs. 66 lakh are spent on each project, and there are 1.12 crore child labourer in the country. The expected expenditure on the implementation of these projects are certainly very high. These projects are monitored by the State Governments and Central Government and a system has been evolved to take care of various issues regarding these projects and action is taken accordingly.

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the Minister of Labour whether Government has received complaints regarding the misuse of programmes of labour organisations and International Labour Organisations by the NGOs. If so, then what action will be taken by the Government against such organisations?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly there is no such complaint with me and if any such complaint is received we will take action accordingly.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit to the hon'ble Minister that a large number of child labourers are working in bangle factories in Ferozabad, U.P. and carpet factories specially in Uttar Pradesh. This question is frequently raised in the Parliament also and it was suggested that since their parents do not get full time employment in agriculture sector, particularly those belonging to scheduled castes and minorities, they send their children to bangle factories and carpet factories. It was also decided that schools would be opened near these carpet and bangle factories and these children would be taught there. All this is happening in the State from where our Prime Minister has been elected and he represents that State. It is a matter of concern for him also. Therefore, I would like the Government to tell us in detail about the new system that has been implemented for last two years to impart education to these children.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern of hon'ble Member and I am also concerned about the rehabilitation of child labour. The hon'ble member has asked about the measures taken to rehabilitate them and steps taken to remove children employed in dangerous and hazardous work.

Child labour projects are implemented to impart education to children and provide them with nutritious food and health check-up projects. The district Committees, constituted under the district collector, not only rescues the children employed in dangerous and hazardous work, but they also identify those places where children have been employed and owners of those factories and workshops are fined. Besides, endeavours are made to rehabilitate them. The State Governments also assist in those projects and make contribution towards it. Thus, with a view to rehabilitate the children, we have started the project, as eradication of child labour is a national issue. So far as eradication of child labour is concerned, we have identified a number of dangerous process and occupations. Last year it used to be 25 but now, it has been increased to 64 as 51 process and 13 hazardous occupations have been included. We have proposed that, by increasing nine hour, we will take fresh steps towards the eradication of child labour.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that most of the M.Ps. belong to villages. Landless poor families do not have any employment. They are forced to send their children to work who earn for them and get some food for the family. We emphasize again and again that children should not be forced to work. It is harsh fact. If children do not work where from would these poor families get their food. The Government should categorically respond to this as to how their meal is going to be arranged.

The hon. Minister has said that children will not be employed in dangerous and hazardous work. I would like to know whether many of these dangerous and hazardous work where children should not be employed have been identified and which are the areas where small children may work.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We know that it is certainly not in our national interest to employ children. That is why in section 24 of the Constitution of India, a provision has been made that children will not be employed in dangerous work. I have just now stated that the number of dangerous occupations where children are employed are 64. There are 51 processes like bangle making and fire works etc. which have been included. 13 hazardous occupations have also been included and altogether there are 64 such works, where child labour should not be employed. Children living in villages and their families are living below poverty line. They are very poor and they are forced to send their children to work because of their poverty. If the employment programme will be effectively implemented in rural areas and their parents will get higher wages, then they will send their children to school. There are many educational projects which are required to be implemented. If we create favourable atmosphere for educating children then child labour will be eliminated to a great extent.

Mediation on Kashmir Issue

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*284. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the U.S. President Bill Clinton's desire to catalyze the resumption of a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto; and

(c) the role, if any, of third countries or international organisations in regard to issues between India and Pakistan, especially issues related to Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. It has, however, been made clear by the US that this is possible only in a bilateral mode. The U.S. President is reported to have said on 16th February that India and Pakistan will "have to work out this business of Kashmir between themselves, unless we are asked by both parties to help, we can't get involved".

(b) and (c) It has been Government's consistent view that all issues between India and Pakistan have to be resolved through bilateral dialogue between the two countries, in accordacne with Simla Agreement of 1972, and the Lahore Declaration of 1999, also that there is no role for any Third Party in the resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan. The international community is also well informed that a serious dialogue is only possible if conditions are appropriate. Incitement to violence, hostile propaganda and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan are not conducive to dialogue.

SHRI CHANDREASH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether a dialogue will be held or an agreement will be reached with American President, Shri Bill Clinton to check terrorism?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As far as terrorism is concerned, as known to the hon'ble Members recently

an agreement had been signed by United States of America and India, due to which a Joint Working Group on Terrorism has been set up. The first meeting of it has already been held and many more meetings will be held in coming months. At present, it is not easy to say on which issues discussions will be held with American President, Shri Clinton at the time of his visit to India.

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan has illegally occupied Azad Kashmir. Would you hold any dialogue or submit a claim for handing over Azad Kashmir to India.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as question of Pak occupied Kashmir is concerned, as known to the hon'ble Members, the House has unanimously passed the proposal in this regard. In addition to it the hon'ble Prime Minister had already expressed his views in this regard and the United States of America had been fully apprised of India's view point.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prevention of third party mediation and the continuation of the principle of bilaterialism necessitate a dialogue between the two parties concerned. We all know that there is a military rule in Pakistan and there is a major controversy whether the Chief Executive comes under the purview or under the umbrella of their Constitution. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in addition to Pakistan's sponsored cross-border terrorism, whether the Government of India considers this also to be a hurdle in the way of the continuation of a bilateral dialogue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is the initiator of the dialogue process. We remain committed and wedded to a dialogue, reconciliation of all differences and resolution of issues. For a suitable dialogue, however, to be conducted, it has been the consistent stand of the Government, not necessarily as a pre-condition but as an essential ingredient that a suitable climate be created.. We have repeatedly time and again stated that abjuring of violence, cessation of encouragement by agencies of the State or the State itself to cross-border terrorism, and complete stoppage of hostile propaganda are essential to prepare the ground work so that a dialogue can take place in a suitable climate.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir. The Minister has not understood my question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I do not think you have.

I have said that in addition to the issue of Pakistan's sponsored cross-border terrorism, it is a fact that there is a military rule in Pakistan and there is a controversy as to whether the Chief Executive comes under the purview of their Constitution. Is that also proving to be a hurdle in the continuation of this bilateral dialogue What is the view of the Government of India on that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So far as the Constitutional provisions of Pakistan are concerned, that is for the Supreme Court of Pakistan to decide. We have not placed any conditions about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You have made some statement on that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We have not made any conditions about the Chief Executive position. There is a difference between the stated position and the reality of the situation. We have said that what obtained today in Pakistan tantamounts to martial law. It is called by yet another name. Now, these are decisions, these are aspects that Pakistan has to resolve within itself so that a suitable climate is created.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the American President is coming to India. It has been published in newspapers and magazines, and has been vastly publicised. Even the common man is feeling Shri Clinton will pressurise India to sign CTBT and as far deadlock on the issue of World Trade Organisation in Seattle is concerned, the agreement has already been reached, it is likely to be signed in the near future. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, whether the reports published in newspapers are true or are baseless? The role of Supreme Court in Pakistan is a separate issue. It comes under different prespective. But India has struggled more than any other

12.00 hrs.

country in the world for democracy. Today there is no democracy in Pakistan. India cannot shed its responsibility by calling it an internal matter of Pakistan. Whether the Government of India are taking steps to reinstate democracy over there, if it is not doing so by saying that it is their internal matter, India cannot say this because it is not the policy of the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three different aspects of three questions asked by the hon'ble Member. I had already clarified that it is regrettable that military rule is prevailing in Pakistan.

The second question asked by the hon'ble Member is about W.T.O. India's stand is very clear in this regard. India has clarified that we do not agree with new millenium round.

The third question is about C.T.B.T. I would like to clarify that India's stand on C.T.B.T. is very clear. Our stand is same as expressed by the Prime Minister. The American President Shri Clinton can express his views at the time of his visit, but our decisions are taken in Delhi not in Washington.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: What is the Government's reaction on Mr. Clinton's statement that LoC is the most dangerous place in the world? How the Government is reacting to that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have reacted to that. That is the perception of the United States of America. The Government of India does not share that perception.

12.01 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[Translation]

Hike in Price of DMS Milk

1. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a hike in the price of the DMS milk recently;

(b) if so, the extent to which the price has been hiked in terms of percetange;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the dharnas being staged at various places in Delhi demanding reduction or rolling back the prices of milk and the crates of milk being returned undistributed from the DMS dairy from the DMS depots as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to roll back or reduce the hike in its price?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of India had raised the sale price of DMS toned and double toned milk in September, 1992 to Rs. 7 and Rs. 6 per litre respectively. There was no further increase till 1.3.2000, when the price was revised to Rs. 14 and Rs. 11 per litre for toned and double toned milk respectively. The rise works out to 100% and 83.3% respectively.

(c) and (d) Reports of some protests have been received. The increase in price had led to some decrease in the demand of DMS milk. However, the daily production of milk has reduced to match the reduced demand.

(e) There is no proposal to reduce or roll back the sale price of DMS milk.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us take up Short Notice Question. Shri Ramdhas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are taking Short Notice Question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Seven people were burnt alive in Karnataka. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, you can speak later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Question Hour is going on, you can speak later.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi Milk Scheme is an undertaking of Centre Government, which make milk available to the citizens of Delhi. Two weeks ago the price of DMS milk was Rs. 7 per litre, which has been increased. So much increase is unjustified. I would like to ask the Union Minister that 100% increase in the price of milk is unjustified.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Order Shri Chennithala, order please. Hon. Members, please take your seats. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Government, the hon'ble Prime Minister, earlier the price of milk was Rs. 7 per litre, now it has been raised to Rs. 14 per litre, the decision of the Government in regard to increase in its price by 100% is unjustified. What are you going to give to the farmer, or the poor. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government the price of milk which has been raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 14, whether any decision is being taken by the Government in reducing the price of milk or not?

MR. SPEAKER: First, let him answer, you can ask later on.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices have been raised to remove anomalies which were prevailing for a long time. The Delhi Milk Scheme is fulfilling only 12 per cent of the total milk demand of Delhi city. The rest of 88 percent is being fulfilled by Mother Dairy and private daries. ...*(Interruptions)* The Delhi Milk Scheme has not raised the price of its milk since year 1990-1991. But during this period Mother Diary and other Dairies have raised the price of their milk upto Rs. 14. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this running commentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Daily, 4 lakh litres of milk is being made available by Delhi Milk Scheme. Due to increase in its price the demand of DMS milk has reduced among the consumers. The demand of DMS milk has reduced from 4 lakh litres to 2.5 lakh litres per day. It clearly indicates the rest of milk is being misused, and real consumers were not using it. ...*(Interruptions)* At least listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rajo Singh, please sit down. Let the hon'ble Minister complete his reply.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: You have raised its price from 7 to Rs. 14 per litre, but whether you are going to give anything to the farmers or not.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: If it is said that the injustice has been done by raising the price of milk, it is not the clear analysis of actual position.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was raised yesterday also, at that time the Minister of Agriculture was not present. Today, the hon'ble Prime Minister is also present. I would like to present a few facts. A few months ago, the bus fares were increased by 100% in Delhi, 'Tahbazari' was increased by four times, it was done by the Congress Government. ...*(Interruptions)* It may have been done by anybody. I am coming to the issue of milk...*(Interruptions)* The Delhi Milk Scheme has raised the price of its milk by 100 percent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Madan Lal Khurana. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, please take your seat. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Madan Lal Khurana says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The milk supplied through DMS was consumed by poor people who belonged to low income group. In Delhi milk is suplied through three agencies–Mother Dairy, private dairies and Delhi Milk Scheme. Poor people used to stand in long queues early in the morning at 4 O'clock for getting DMS milk. You have stated just now that poor people did not buy DMS milk and at this rate they can buy milk from anywhere. Now they have stopped taking milk. I would like to cite an example. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rudy, please take your seat. Khuranaji, please come to your question.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Hon'ble Prime Minister knows people of Delhi very well and that is why I would

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* Not recorded.

like to tell here about their sufferings. Swatantra Bharat Mill is situated in my constituency which is lying closed at present. Spouses of the employees of that mill approached me and told that their husbands have been rendered jobless due to closure of the mill and through hawking they could earn Rs. 2000 or 2500 per month. Now increase in prices of milk will burden a family by Rs. 225 which consumes one kg. Milk per day. It will disturb their domestic budget.

I would like to say that DMS milk is consumed by poor people. It is tond milk and now its prices have been increased to Rs. 14 from Rs. 7. I agree with you that prices of milk have not been increased for last nine years and there is a deficit of Rs. 550 crore. It is also correct that DMS has suffered a loss of Rs. 80 crore last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you are not allowing your Member also to ask the supplementary. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to say that DMS has suffered this loss due to mismanagement and corruption. This loss should be curtailed and issue of price rise should be reconsidered. I agree with you that price of milk should be increased as it has not been hiked for the last nine years. But it should not be increased by hundred per cent at a time. Gradual increase in price of milk would not have burdened the poor people. I would like to say that increase in price of milk from Rs. 7 to Rs. 14 is not acceptable to Delhi people...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Prices should be same everywhere...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, it is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Margaret Alva.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, everyone is concerned about the rise in prices...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have called Shrimati Margaret Alva.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, please take your seat. I have called Shrimati Margaret Alva.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: People of Delhi are not VIPs. All are equal in this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You can speak later on and not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, everyone is concerned about the rise in prices and very soon this will reach a stage where this Government is going to say that imported milk is going to be cheaper than the domestic milk and probably allow milk also to be imported. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you are disturbing the entire House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, besides the price of milk, there are reports that there are all sorts of dangerous items being mixed with the present milk supply, including chalk, urea and many other hazardous items, which the Government itself has admitted to have been found. I would like to ask the Minister that instead of just raising the prices, whether he is also doing something to ensure that our children and the people are not poisoned through the supply of milk which the Government is selling through the cooperative dairies. The report has shown that there are all these items being mixed.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue regarding price of milk...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We produce milk and they consume milk. Will you not listen to our point...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what the hon. Member, Shri Topdar says.

...*(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI TARITBARAN TOPDAR: In view of the problem arose after increasing the price of milk, whether the Government propose to roll back the prices...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, price of milk is Rs. 14 per litre throughout the country and only in Delhi it is sold at a rate of Rs. 7 per litre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: What are you doing here?...*(Interruptions)* So many things are mixed in the milk. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAEKR: Shri Anil Basu? What is this? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, I would like to raise a serious matter. In view of the problems of Delhi Milk Scheme, I would like to know whether the Government propose to roll back the price of milk and formulate a national milk policy?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question from hon'ble Minister. It is really sad that issue of poor people is always raised whenever prices of products of farmers are increased....*(Interruptions)* Sir, whenever prices of products of farmers are increased the issue is linked with poor people. My question is whether the Government has formulated any scheme specifying income limit for availing the facility of DMS milk? Has any such formula been fixed? You have increased price of milk to Rs. 14 per litre but have you considered the fact as to how much amount out of it will reach to farmers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, unfortunately, every issue is politicized in this country. At present about one crore people live in Delhi and it is political responsibility of Members elected from Delhi to speak in favour of people of Delhi. I do not want to say anything against them. They have discharged their responsibility very well. I also buy milk in Delhi and in my village I have to pay Rs. 12 or Rs. 14 for buying milk there. The Government provides roads, electricity, hospitals and other facilities for Delhi and remaining 100 crore people are not getting anything. The Government should make arrangements for providing milk at the rate of Rs. 7 per litre throughout the country if the Government propose to provide milk at this rate in Delhi. The Government should not withdraw its decision. It is in the interest of farmers...*(Interruptions)* the whole country is against subsidy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I would like to raise an issue regarding Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will reply. No more supplementaries please. I have called the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I called the hon. Minister. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I would like to raise issue regarding Delhi. I would ask the supplementary in one minute only. As an MP from Delhi I request you to allow me for one minute. This matter pertains to Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Several members from Delhi have spoken so far. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, the question is not that prices of milk have been hiked but question is that price of milk has been doubled at once. Public would not have suffered that much had price of milk been increased gradually by Rs. 2 every year during last nine years. I

would like to tell Shri Rudy and other hon'ble Members that doubling the price of milk will affect the domestic budget of middle class and poor people. I request the hon'ble Minister to consider this issue and in place of steep hike in prices of milk, this increase should be gradual and with gap of sometime...*(Interruptions)* At present this increase can be Rs. 1 or Rs. 2.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Now, the Minister will speak.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. The Minister will reply now.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, Please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir our rights are being violated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have already called the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand the feelings of Shri Mulayam Singh and Rajesh Pilot ji. Hon'ble Pilotji has asked that at what rate DMS procure milk. DMS procures milk from milk producers at the rate of Rs. 14 per litre. Hon'ble Members, please listen to my point peacefully...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have already given details in this regard and not going to give it again. It is not so that we are not pro-poor. The consumption of milk was 6000 litres at DMS booth at Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe when rate of milk was Rs. 7 per litre...*(Interruptions)* the daily consumption of milk was 6000 litre here. And after increasing price to Rs. 14 per litre this consumption reduced to 300 litre per day. Margaretji has expressed her concern over it. It is really a matter of grave concern for all of us. I agree with the view expressed by Shri Khurana and Shri Goel but facts should be known in this regard. I admit the mistake of not raising the price of milk for the last 10 years but Government have always been functioning. No previous Government had increased the prices and we are owing that responsibility also. I do not shirk this responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we have rectified this anomaly. Procuring price of milk is Rs. 14 per litre. I would like to say hon'ble Mulayam Singhji and Pilot ji that interests of milk producers are not harmed. That facility was being misused and that is why that anomaly has been removed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Population of Child Labour

*285. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the largest population of child labour in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith population of child labour in neighburing countries and other developing/ developed countries of the World;

(c) the child labour employed in major cities in comparison to the rural areas in the country;

(d) whether there is large scale smuggling of children from rural areas to the major cities;

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to put a stop to it;

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* Not recorded.

(f) the projection of child labour in next five years in the country; and

(g) fresh initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor schemes of National Child Labour projects?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) According to the 1991 census data on child labour, the number of working children in India is 11.28 million. As per information received from the ILO, India has the largest number of child labour population in the world. The estimates and projections of Economically Active Population of children 10-14 years age as produced by the ILO Bureau of Statistics in 1996, gives the following figures for India and its neighbouring countries:

Country	Total Economically active population children 14 years of age (000's)
India	13,157
Bangladesh	4,846
Nepal	1,277
Pakistan	2,993
Sri Lanka	35

Information on other developing and developed countries is not readily available.

(c) More than 90% of child labour is engaged in rural areas, in agriculture and allied employments like cultivation, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry and fisheries. State-wise figures as per Census reports are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No such reports have been brought to the notice of Government.

(f) Authentic figures of child labour in the country are generated by the decennial census. According to 1991 census the number of working children in India is 11.28 millions.

(g) Through the Scheme of National Child Labour Project and Grant-in-Aid attempts are being made to rehabilitate children withdrawn from work. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 23.01.99 approved continuance of the Scheme of National Child Labour Project during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The CCEA also approved increase in number of projects to 100. At present there are 91 child labour projects. The performance of NCLPs is being monitored through receipt of periodic reports of project activities and inspections undertaken at the Central, State and District level. A Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Secretary has also been set up for the overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the NCLPs.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Working Children According to 1991 Census

1991

	State/Union Territories	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers
1		2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,537, 293	124,647	1,661,940
2.	Assam	259,953	67,645	327,598
3.	Bihar	795,444	1,46,801	942,245
4.	Gujarat	373,027	150,558	523,585
5.	Haryana	89,030	20,661	109.691
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30,771	25,667	56,438
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	**	**	**

1		2	3	4
8.	Karnataka	818,159	158,088	976,247
9.	Kerala	28,590	6,210	34,800
10.	Madhya Pradesh	997,940	354,623	1,352,563
11.	Maharashtra	805,847	262,571	1,068,418
12.	Manipur	13,478	3,015	16,493
13.	Meghalaya	30,730	3,903	34,633
14.	Nagaland	16,106	370	16,476
15.	Orissa	325,250	127,144	452,394
16.	Punjab	132,414	10,454	142,868
17.	Rajasthan	490,522	283,677	774,199
18.	Sikkim	5,254	344	5,598
19.	Tamil Nadu	523,125	55,764	578,889
20.	Tripura	13,506	2,972	16,478
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,145,087	264,999	1,410,086
22.	West Bengal	593,387	118,304	711,691
23.	Andaman & Nikobar Island	758	507	1,265
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	11,632	763	12,395
25.	Chandigarh	1,839	31	1,870
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,677	1,739	4,416
27.	Delhi	26,670	681	27,351
28.	Daman and Diu	741	200	941
29.	Goa	3,938	718	4,656
30.	Lakshadweep	17	17	34
31.	Mizoram	6,391	10,020	16,411
32.	Pondicherry	2,565	115	2,680
	Total	9,082,141	2,203,208	11,285,349

** Census could not be conducted.
NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

[English]

Non Alignment

*286. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

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 "NAM no longer a mantra: Brajesh" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 9, 2000;

(b) if so, whether doctrines of non-violence and non-alignment are no longer acceptable; and

(c) if so, the facts with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Principal Secretary to PM and National Security Advisor Shri Brajesh Mishra made a presentation to the 36th Munich Conference on Security Policy on February 6, 2000. The statement affirms that non-violence and non-alignment, as concepts, were rooted in strict rationality and real-politick. These powerful vehicles, grounded in rationality for advancing national interest, subsequently became mere slogans. There is no basis, therefore, for the conclusion that the Government has rejected the doctrines of non-violence and non-alignment.

Eradication of Beggary

*287. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme for eradication of social evil of begging in public in our country; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to make use of Non-Government Organisations and private sector funding to ensure rehabilitation of the beggars and for launching massive public education programme against this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The rehabilitation of beggars is the responsibility of State Governments. They have beggary prevention legislations and also implement schemes for rehabilitation etc. of beggars. The Government of India has no specific scheme for eradication of beggary.

(b) Does not arise.

Web Terrorists

*288. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of IT has taken note of 'Web Terrorists' freezing more than 500 India related Web sites illegally;

(b) if so, facts and details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it is going tc affect the Indian Business and Indian industries;

(d) the precautions likely to be taken by the Government to control web terrorists and hackers activities;

(e) whether the hackers' claims have been discussed in Indian Science Congress 2000;

(f) if so, facts thereof;

(g) whether senior officials of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have confirmed such an attack; and

(h) if so, the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (h) Certain India related web sites in the country and abroad have been affected by the hacker activities. The exact number can not be ascertained as it is difficult to pinpoint the geographical locations of the Internet sites. Moreover, in the absence of any formal mechanism, affected organisations have also not been reporting about the hacking of their web site. The identity of the hackers often can not be ascertained as the hackers generally operate under some fictitious names or from other dormant sites.

The internet hacking/security attack on web sites disrupts the services provided by such sites. In some cases, the data is blocked, deleted or is over-written by some other information thereby blocking the access to genuine information. This affects the business operations.

Internet is a conglomeration of networks having presence in over two hundred countries. It is difficult for any single Government agency to exercise control over it. Solution lies mainly with content/service providers in deploying firewall or security audit system. IT Bill will act as a deterrent to the activities of the hackers.

A report had appeared in 'The Hindu' dated 30.12.1999 stating that the Pakistani Hackers Club have claimed that the web site of Indian Science Congress 2000 was hacked. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have not confirmed the newspaper report.

Water Management

*289. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has conducted Artificial Recharge Experiments in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the new areas identified by the CGWA for further experiments, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to make it mandatory for all Government, private buildings, commercial complexes and multi-storeyed apartments to instal rain water harvesting system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the concrete measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board has conducted artificial recharge experiments in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Union Territory of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi. The new areas for artificial recharge experiments have been identified in eleven States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and NCT Delhi. The State-wise list of new areas identified for artificial recharge experiments in various States is indicated in the statement attached.

With a view to promoting the roof-top rain water harvesting, the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to the Ministry of Urban Development and the local bodies like Delhi Development Authority and Municipal Corporation of Delhi to consider making suitable regulations for roof-top rain water harvesting for Delhi and other cities by the organisations/agencies concerned.

Statement

List of new areas identified for Artificial Recharge experiments in various States

Sl.No.	Name of States	Location/Village/District	
1	2	3	
1.	Himachal Pradesh	1.	Kathog (Kunli) Village, District Kangra
		2.	Palanpur town, District Kangra
		3.	Naker Khad District Kangra
2.	J&K	1.	Sangwal, District Jammu,
		2.	Jammu
		3.	Dewal, Tehsil Bilawar, District Kathua
3.	Punjab	1.	Amritsar
		2.	Dhuri block, District Sangrur
		3.	Village Issru, Block Khanna, District Ludhiana
		4.	Nurmahal Area, District Jallandhar and
		5.	Dhaneta, Block Samana, District Patiala
4.	Haryana	1.	Ambala District
		2.	Kurukshetra District
		3.	Faridabad
		4.	Manesar, District Gurgaon

1	2	3	
5.	NCT Delhi	1.	NCT Delhi
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1.	Sikheri Village, District Mandsaur,
		2.	Musakhedi, District Indore
		3.	Tumar Watershed, District Mandsaur
7.	Maharashtra	1.	Watershed TE-11, District Jalgaon
8.	Tamil Nadu	1.	Nallampillai Petral Village, District Villupuram
9.	Kerala	1.	Ayilam Village, District Trivandrum
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1.	Ramnagar Danda, Doiwala Block, District Dehradun
		2.	Chogawan Area, District Baghpat
11.	West Bengal	1.	Pandua Block, District Hoogli
		2.	Khatura Bangar in Swarup Nagar & Gaighata blocks, District North-24 Parganas
		3.	Purulia District
12.	Rajasthan	1.	Jaipur
		2.	Mainpura village, Jhunjhunu District

LoC Between India and Pakistan

*290. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of countries had suggested that Line of Control may be made as an international border between India and Pakistan;

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

(c) whether India has rejected this proposal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan including issues related to the State of Jammu and Kashmir bilaterally and in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

National Watershed Policy

*291. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link National Watershed policy to the technology missions of pulses, oilseed and cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of implementation of the proposal; and

(d) the action plan finalised for the next five years to evolve and implement an integrated natural resource management strategy addressing issues like soil, water and country's bio-diversity and their use in a sustainable manner?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) There is no National Watershed Policy. However, the Watershed Approach is being adopted for the development of rainfed areas. Oilseeds, pulses and cotton are generally cultivated in the dryland and rainfed conditions.

(d) The Watershed Approach aims at achieving the twin objectives of sustainable production of bio-mass through integrated management of natural endowments like land, water, plant, animal and human resources and restoration of ecological balance.

The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by various Ministries on watershed basis for development of rainfed areas, drought prone areas, wastelands and reclamation of problem and degraded forest area are as follows:

A. Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

2. Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDSCA)

B. Ministry of Rural Development

3. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

4. Desert Development Programme (DDP)

5. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

6. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

C. Ministry of Environment & Forests

7. Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project.

Trade Relation with Pakistan

*292. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to take any initiative to cut-off trade links with Pakistan in retaliation to its acts of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved in persuading the Western ccuntries to condemn Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India do not propose to cut-off trade links with Pakistan, but will continue to take all necessary actions to protect the country's trade interests *vis-vis* that country.

(c) The facts regarding Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India have been effectively and appropriately brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognises Pakistan's state-sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region.

Minimum Wages to Women

*293. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minimum wages as guaranteed by law are not given to women workers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure minimum wages to women workers without any discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments. According to the provisions of the Act, the minimum wages are fixed for any person who is employed for hire or reward to do any work, skilled or unskilled, manual or clerical in a scheduled employment in respect of which minimum rates of wages have been fixed. The Act does not discriminate between man and woman for fixation of minimum wages.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 enacted by the Government ensures equal wages to women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature. Also Section 10 of the Equal Remuneration Act provides for fine/ imprisonment for making discrimination between men and women workers in contraventions of the provisions of the Act. Further, Section 20 of Minimum Wages Act provides for claim appeals in case of less than or non-payment of minimum wages. The compliance of these provisions is

secured through enforcement machineries both at Central and State levels in respect of scheduled employments under their jurisdictions. The Inspectors declared under the Acts conduct regular inspections of various establishments and take necessary action in respect of irregularities detected. In case of claims, the defaulters are advised to make up the short fall in payments and if they fail, prosecution cases are initiated against them.

[Translation]

Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

*294. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the year 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the eligibility criteria fixed by the Government to be a beneficiary under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(c) whether the Government propose to simplify the Scheme to cover more beneficiaries under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints from loan seekers under the Scheme during the last one year; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The plan target for 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is 2,20,000 educated unemployed youth (beneficiaries);

(b) A statement indicating eligibility criteria laid down by the Government to be a beneficiary under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The parameters of the scheme have already been simplified to cover more beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. The simplification/ modification in the scheme is a continuous process based on the interaction with the implementing agencies and the experience gained in the implementation of the scheme.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) All complaints received are taken up with the concerned authorities for corrective action.

Statement

Eligibility Criteria Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

I.	Age	(a)	18 to 35 years for all educated unemployed in the country except for the North Eastern States.
		(b)	18 to 40 years: for all educated unemployed in the North Eastern States.
		(c)	18 to 45 years: for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, Physically Handicapped And Women educated unemployed in the Country.
II.	Educational Qualifications:		VIII Passed. Preference will be given to those trained in any trade in Government recognised/Approved institutions for a duration of at least Six months.
III.	Family Income:		Neither the income of the beneficiary along with Spouse nor the income of parents of the Beneficiaries should exceed Rs. 24,000/- per annum.

		For North Eastern States:
		Upto Rs. 40,000/- per annum.
IV.	Defaulter:	Should not be a defaulter to any nationalised Bank/ financial institution/ cooperative bank. Further a person already assisted under other Subsidy, linked Government schemes would not be eligible under the Scheme.
V.	Residency:	Beneficiary should be the permanent resident of the area for at least three years.

[English]

Milk and Milk Products

*295. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to import milk and milk products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact on the Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Merger of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*296. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge some Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of such schems;

(c) whether the Government have also scrapped some of the schemes;

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

(e) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited as a result thereof; and

(f) the time by which the merged schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (f) It is proposed to integrate some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for agricultural development into one comprehensive scheme for assistance to the States. A list of schemes under consideration for integration, given in the attached statement.

Upon the implementation of the new scheme, the States will be free to continue the existing schemes according to their own priorities.

The proposal will accord greater fexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities for the benefit of the farmers on the basis of regional priorities, enhance the productivity of support programmes and bring synergy of activities.

The merged scheme is likely to be implemented during 2000-01.

Statement

List of Schemes being considered for Integration in State Work Plans

1. Assistance to Weaker Section Co-operatives.
2. Assistance to Co-operatives for Women.
3. Assistance to Co-operative credit institutions in the under developed States and special Areas. (Non Over due cover).
4. Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.
5. Special Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice).
7. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat).

8. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

9. Special Jute Development Programme.

10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System-SUBACS.

11. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers.

12. Promotion of Agricultural mechanization among small farmers.

13. Integrated Development of Tropical Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits.

14. Production and Supply of Vegatable Seeds.

15. Development of root and tuber crops.

16. Development of Commercial Floriculture.

17. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

18. Development of Cashews including cocoa.

19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

20. Development of Mushroom.

21. Use of Plastics in agriculture.

22. Bee Keeping.

23. National Wateshed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA).

24. Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.

25. Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.

26. Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Usuar) soils.

27. Strengthening of State Land Use Boards.

28. Macro Management.

Production of Milk

*297. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of milk in the entire country and in the dairy farms of the National Dairy Research Institute during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of milk in the National Dairy Research Institute has shown a declining trend during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the schemes formulated by the Government to increase the production of milk?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) Annual production of Milk in the entire country.

Year	Milk Production (Million Tonnes)
1996-97	69.1
1997-98 (Provisional)	70.8
1998-99 (Provisional)	74.7

Annual production of Milk in National Dairy Research Institute.

Year	Milk Production	
1997	1513,323 kg	(0.001513 million tonnes)
1998	1272,835 kg	(0.001272 million tonnes)
1999	1294,928 kg	(0.001294 million tonnes)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The milk production of NDRI farm declined during 1998 due to reduction in total number of animals, adverse weather conditions both in summer and winter during that year. Also there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease during October, 1998. However, the milk production had shown an increase during 1999.

(d) The details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Programmes are being given in Statement attached.

Statement

Note on Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes Under Operation During Ninth Plan

1. Central Cattle Development Organization

The Department operates 7 Central Cattle Breeding Farms, a National Frozen Semen Production and Training

Institute and 4 Central Herd Registration Units in different parts of the country.

These organizations are producing pedigreed bull calves, frozen semen doses for distribution to States for use in artificial insemination programmes and in location superior germ plasm through milk recordings and registration. It is proposed to strengthen these organizations to improve their efficiency during 1999-2000.

2. Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme

Under the schemes 100% Central assistance is provided to State Government and military farms for creation/strengthening of breeding infrastructure *viz.* Artificial Insemination Centre, Frozen Semen Banks, Frozen Semen Bull Stations, Testmating of bulls etc.

3. National Bull Production Programme

Under the scheme, 100% assistance is provided to State Governments for conservation of threatened cattle breeds, and development of draught breeds. It envisages setting up of embryo transfer centers; mass castration of scrub bulls, and training of officials.

National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

The above schemes of Extension Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing Programme and National Bull Production Programme are being merged into a National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding with higher focus on:

- Establishment of mobile artificial insemination centers.
- Delivery of breeding inputs at farmers doorsteps.
- Strengthening of programmes for improvement of indigenous breeds of Cattle and Buffalo breeds.

The programme shall help in (i) conservation of well adopted indigenous breeds and (ii) establishing national milch herd.

The Expenditure Finance Committee in the meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Exp.) on 28.9.1998 had cleared the project subject to approval of Planning Commission. The scheme has been referred for approval of full planning commission in August, 1999.

4. Central Fodder Development Organization

The Department operates 7 Regional Stations for Fodder production and Demonstration and Central Fodder Seed Production Farm to increase the production of foundation seeds of fodder crops, pasture grasses and legumes.

5. Assistance to State Fodder Farms

Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Assistance to State Fodder Farms", assistance is provided for the following activities:

(i) Strengthening of State Fodder Seed Farms

(ii) Establishment of Fodder Banks

(iii) Enrichment of straws and cellulosic waste

(iv) Establishment of selve pasture for biomas production

(v) Development of Grassland and Grass reserves

(vi) Estimation of area and production under Fodder crops.

The scheme will be reorganized to enable fodder production on waste land and common property resources to increase fodder seed availability.

6. Assistance to States for Control of Livestock Diseases

The scheme of Control of Livestock Diseases have following components:

(i) Systematic Control of Diseases like Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Swine Fever, Canine rabies, Pullorum disease, Sterility, Infertility, abortions.

(ii) Foot and Mouth Disease.

(iii) Animal Disease Surveillance to monitor the disease situation.

The major emphasis under the scheme is on Foot and Mouth Diseases (FMD) control to arrest extensive production losses arising from disease. The Planning Commission has cleared the scheme "Foot and Mouth Disease Control" on implementation on 100% grant basis against the existing pattern of 25:25:50 between the Central and State Government and the beneficiary.

7. Creation of Disease Free Zones

With a view to control and eventually wipe out FMD, a massive programme of creation of disease free zones in ten areas selected (on the basis of potential growth of livestock products is to be launched in the 9th Plan.

8. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication

The OIE notified India's declaration of provisional freedom from rinderpest *w.e.f.* March, 98. The project seeks to achieve "Freedom from Disease" and "Freedom from Infection" by March, 2002. Contingency plans to control outbreak of rinderpest, has been put in place.

9. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme

Under the scheme assistance is provided to State Governments, agricultural and veterinary universities and veterinary colleges to promote and propagate latest animal husbandry practices and technologies and to create awareness among farmers and breeders about the potential of livestock sector.

10. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

The scheme seeks promotion of dairy activities in the economically disadvantaged hilly and backward areas and other areas hitherto uncovered to benefit poor farmers.

11. Organization of New Dairy Cooperatives at Village Level

The scheme aims at organization of additional 25000 Village Dairy Cooperatives Societies in five years, in operation flood districts to support additional 35 lakh farmers with dairy productivity enhancement and marketing channels. So far about 75,000 dairy cooperatives with 95 lakh farmer members have been formed which are playing significant role in development dairy activities and improving socio economic status of poor farmers.

12. Assistance to Cooperatives

The scheme assistance to Cooperatives aims at reorganization of economicaly weak dairy unions and federations to expand their operational base so that they can assist farmers in providing inputs for milk production enhancement and development of requisite infrastructure for processing and marketing of milk produced. The Expenditure Finance Committee held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Exp.) on 28.7.1998 has approved the scheme. It has been referred for approval of CCEA.

Production Capacity of Public Sector Steel Plants

*298. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present production capacity of various public sector steel plants in the country, plant-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed to increase the production capacity of these public sector steel plants during the current Plan period; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target of production of steel by these plants during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The present capacity of crude steel in various public sector plants is as follows:

Unit: '000 T

Bhilai Steel Plant	3925
Durgapur Steel Plant	1802
Rourkela Steel	1900
Bokaro Steel Plant	4360
Alloy Steel Plan, Durgapur	234
Indian Iron and Steel Company	300
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited, Bhadrawati	95
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL) (*Capacity of VSP is of liquid steel)	2700*

(b) During the current plan period, further increase in capacity is not envisaged.

(c) The production targets originally fixed for Ninth Plan period could not be achieved due to slow growth in demand. The production is being stepped up as per market demand.

Software Piracy

*299. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of pirated software in India accounts for a loss of Rs. 700 crores every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Information Technology Training Centres are using pirated software despite a restraint order;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the compromise arrived at between the defaulting centres and software giants Adobe Systems Microsoft Corp. and Autodesk of US in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) While no estimate has been made by the Government, NASSCOM in their recent report has estimated use of pirated software to the tune of Rs. 700 crores in 1998-99.

(b) Government has taken following measures to curtail software piracy:—

— In India, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright Law, violation of which attract both the fine and imprisonment.

— To create awareness, Government has been supporting Anti-piracy campaign through NASSCOM and also issued instructions to various Government Departments to make use of only the legal copy of the software.

— Custom duty on Software has been made zero.

— Government has also introduced comprehensive Information Technology Bill in the Parliament. This bill is expected to take care of various aspects relating to software piracy.

(c) to (e) It is learnt from NASSCOM that the High Court has recently ordered the inspection of the computers of an IT training centre which is allegedly using pirated software, despite a restraint order.

Last year M/s. Abode System, M/s. Microsoft Corporation and Autodesk of USA filed a suit before the court alleging that a particular computer centre and its branches engaged in imparting training to students has been using its software without any licence.

The settlement term recorded by the court required the Centre to cease using unlicensed/counterfeit software of NASSCOM/BSA (Business Software Alliance) member companies and provide documentation to NASSCOM/BSA Council reflecting use and purchase of licensed software.

According to the compromise formula, the defaulting centres were to replace its pirated software with the licensed one and were also required to give a complete list of computers and inventory of software being used at various centres.

Co-operation in Information Technology

*300 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established co-operation with other countries in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has emerged as a far more attractive market for information technology related services as compared to China; and

(d) the names of countries that have sought Indian expertise in this field?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India have, so far, signed agreements/ MOUs/Programmes of cooperation with-Russia, Egypt, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Belarus and Hong Kong for cooperation in various areas of Information Technology and Electronics.

(c) As per available information, no such market study on China has been carried out. The Government of India recognises IT enabled services as a key opportunity area for export growth and has been giving priority to this sector at par with the software services.

(d) A proposal was received from the Government of Fiji to address Y2K problem in their Taxation Department. An expert was deputed from M/s. CMC Ltd., a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Information Technology.

Employees State Insurance

3060. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of criminal cases against the defaulting companies who have not paid the dues of (ESIC), State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to give them second and third chance for depositing the dues of ESI before declaring them defaulter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The requisite information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) Under regulation 31 of the ESI (General) Regulations, 1950 the employers are liable to pay ESI contributions in respect of the employees within 21 days of the last day of the calendar month in which the contribution falls due. As there are no provisions to condone delay in payment of ESI contributions and any delay in this regard entails levy of interest/damages at the prescribed rates, the question of giving second and third chance to the ESI defaulters does not arise.

Statement

No. of Criminal cases Pending against Defaulting Employers, State-wise

S.No.	Name of State/Region	No. of Criminal cases (as on 30.9.99)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26
2.	Assam	122
3.	Delhi	33
4.	Gujarat	2383
5.	Karnataka	487
6.	Kerala	225
7.	Madhya Pradesh	558
8.	Maharashtra	
	(i) Mumbai	1206
	(ii) Nagpur	350
	(iii) Pune	421
9.	Goa	167
10.	Punjab	608
11.	Haryana	1051
12.	Orissa	204
13.	Tamil Nadu	
	(i) Chennai	259
	(ii) Coimbatore	120
	(iii) Madurai	235
14.	Uttar Pradesh	765
15.	Bihar	372
16.	Rajasthan	196
17.	West Bengal	1078
	Total	10866

Fishing Hooks

3061. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to build fishing hooks for protection from soil erosion in West Coast Azhikal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The proposal for construction of a fish hook bend (breakwater) at Azhikal in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu has not been found suitable from the techno-economic angle. Hence, the proposal has not been considered.

Coir and Coir Products

3062. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests to exclude Coir and Coir Products from the list of free importable items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL

INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Coir and coir products are freely importable from SAARC countries with effect from 1.8.1998 on payment of applicable duties. Representations have been received from the Government of Kerala to include coir and coir products in the Negative List of the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement so that stiff concessions on import of these products are not availbale. While the Negative Lists of items for which no tariff concessions that will be granted by the two sides are yet to be finalised, coir and coir products and are proposed to be retained in India's Negative List.

Uranium Deposits

3063. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where Uranium deposits are available;

(b) whether there is huge Uranium deposits in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the total Uranium produced in each State with its value during the last year;

(d) whether the Government are giving any royalty to State on this;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to extract more Uranium in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIENVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for exploration and Research (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has identified uranium deposits at various locations in the States of Bihar, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) Uranium occurrence of Low Tonnage (<5000 Tonnes Uranium Oxide) has been identified in Lambapur and Peddagattu in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh which are in the exploratory stage.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose information on the quantum of Uranium produced in the country and its value.

(d) Yes.

(e) An amount of Rs. 25,98,893/- was paid as royalty to Government of Bihar during 1998-99.

(f) Survey and drilling investigations have been intensified to study the techo-economic feasibility of exploitation of the available deposits in Andhra Pradesh.

Demands of Central Government Employees

3064. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently received any memorandum from Central Confederation of Government employees containing various demands;

(b) if so, the details of such demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No memorandum from a Confederation by the name of "Central Confederation of Government employees" containing various demands has been received in this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the above.

Coir Board

3065. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Coir Board in regard to the development of Coir Products in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total export of Coir Products made from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Coir Board to develop products from all coconut growing areas in the country and increase their exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Coir Board is implementing several schemes for the development of the coir industry in all coir producing States. In Andhra Pradesh, the Coir Board has set-up a Demonstration-cum-Extension Centre at Narsapuram, started a Regional Coir Training and Development Centre at Rajamundry, set up a Regional Office at Vishakhapatnam, imparted training and gave assistance to entrepreneurs for setting up coir units.

(b) During 1998-99, 16.35 tonnes of coir fibre and coir products valued at Rs. 1.99 lakhs have been exported.

(c) For increasing the coir activities in the coir producing States, the Coir Board is providing necessary training and financial assistance to the workers and entrepreneurs for setting up of new coir units. It also provides financial help to women workers for purchase of ratt.

For promotion of exports of coir and coir products, the Coir Board participates in the International Trade Fairs/ Exhibition/Seminar. The exporters are also encouraged to participate in such fairs by providing them subsidized space. Integrated Coir Development Projects are also being implemented in the coir producing States for increasing the export of coir and coir products.

Corruption in Consumer Cooperative Societies

3066. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a concerted move to eradicate the rampant corruption prevailing amongst the public servants and employees in the consumer cooperative societies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of public servants and employees/officers identified and enquiry proceeded against guilty during each of the last three years giving the present status of those cases;

(c) whether a public servant or a private citizen of his own or by taking the help of elected representatives expose the deeds of public servants and authorities of consumer co-operative societies which are corrupt in nature and detrimental to the public interest;

(d) if so, the safeguards available to such persons;

(e) whether there have been cases where such persons who dare exposing the corrupt are themselves harassed and victimised; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to protect such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (f) Whenever any complaint of corruption is received against employees of such societies necessary investigation is carried out and action taken against the defaulting officials as per the provisions of the Cooperative Societies Act and Rules framed thereunder. The Consumer Cooperative Societies in Delhi come within the domain and jurisdiction of Government of NCT of Delhi. That Government has denied the prevalence of rampant corruption in these Consumer Cooperative Societies. Anti-corruption cases in respect of two officials, one each in 1997 and 1998 of the Consumer Cooperative Societies in Delhi have been processed for prosecution. In the Cooperative store (the Super Bazar Delhi there is a CBI investigation against 7 employees and 21 employees are facing departmental disciplinary proceedings.

There are public grievance cells in the departments. any private citizen can make complaints which are looked into and enquired through the Vigilance Cells. The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported no instance of any harrasment or victimisation of any complainant.

[Translation]

Four Lanes Road Project

3067. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to complete the four lanes road project connecting

four metropolis before the stipulated one year period *i.e.* 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the metropolis of the country included in this scheme and the names of the highways to be constructed under this scheme alongwith their length;

(d) the amount likely to be spent, highway-wise/ metropolis-wise; and

(e) the latest position of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Task Force headed by the Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission merged the programme for 4/6 laning of North-South and East-west corridors from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra respectively with Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta called "National Highway Development Project" (NHDP). Later on, Cochin-Salem spur on NH-47 has also been included in the NHDP. The NHDP at an estimated cost of Rs. 54000 crores (at current prices) is targeted to be completed by the year 2009. The Golden Quadrilateral part of NHDP aggregating to a total length of 5952 kms. is targeted to be completed by 2003.

(c) The national highways falling on the route of the Golden Quadrilateral are NH2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 46.

(d) Since the stretches are to be 4/6 laned in phases by the year 2003, it is not possible to give the amount highway-wise/metro-polis wise.

(e) 4-laning on 504 kms. length of national highways on the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed and work on 732 kms. is in progress.

[English]

Export of Steel

3068. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been short fall in export of steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the strategy chalked out by SAIL to strengthen its export market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) As per the existing EXIM Policy, export and import of steel is freely allowed and no targets are fixed by the Government. However, the exports of steel are increasing over the past few years.

(c) The strategy adopted by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to strengthen its export include market segmentation and sustained presence in respect segments, value added exports, effective market intelligence, improve infrastructure at loading ports and steel plants.

[Translation]

Bargi Dam

3069. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost involved in the construction of right bank canal of Bargi dam in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) whether the Union Government are contemplating to provide financial assistance to the State Government for the completion of right bank canal of Bargi Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The latest estimated cost of the right bank main canal of Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 1554.50 crore (at 1994 price level).

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are investigated, planned, executed, and funded by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities.

[English]

Agricultural Crops

3070. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of major Agricultural crops in Kerala is less than the other States in the country;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this low productivity; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The production and productivity of major agricultural crops in Kerala & other major States is given in the Statement attached. While the production/ productivity of certain Agricultural crops in Kerala is lower than those of some States, it is higher than those of some other States.

(b) and (c) The productivity of crops depend on various factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, timely use of high quality inputs, development and adoption of package of improved practices besides level of investment. Accordingly, it is not possible to reach the same level of productivity for agricultural crops in all States. The Government is implementing various crop specific schemes/programmes to increase the production and productivity in the State of Kerala like Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System, National Pulses Development Project and Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems.

Statement

Statement showing the production and productivity of major agricultural crops in Kerala, other States and all India during 1998-99.

Production-'(000' tonnes)
Yield-Kg/hectares.

States	Rice		Pulses		Groundnut		Sugarcane		Coconut		Cardamom		Black-Pepper	
	P	Y	P	Y	P	Y	P	Y	P*	Y	P	Y	P	Y
Andhra Pradesh	11434	2781	763	487	1920	989	16685	78038	1922	19573	—	—	—	—
Assam	3255	1345	69	545	—	—	1224	39987	127	6442	—	—	—	—
Bihar	6633	1301	698	764	6	1212	5219	48547	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	1016	1633	634	735	2578	1328	13566	69110	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	2425	2239	353	827	—	—	6880	55040	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	3605	2529	722	398	1229	999	28454	91199	1495	5195	1	57	1	239
Kerala	659	1891	27	788	10	841	406	72571	6672	6188	5	129	64	279
Madhya Pradesh	5374	1013	3573	709	259	1005	1973	39303	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	2468	1664	2255	644	634	1218	47151	88998	227	15020	—	—	—	—
Orissa	5392	1212	264	357	72	861	1470	65897	795	14589	—	—	—	—
Punjab	7940	3152	51	654	5	833	6130	59515	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	205	1223	2444	526	360	1091	1078	47712	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	8215	3443	472	463	1961	1805	46673	134156	3097	11620	—	—	1	198
Uttar Pradesh	11616	1958	2269	835	83	669	116303	59019	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	13317	2255	126	621	38	1349	2002	74420	318	12935	1	240	—	—
All India:	85995	1928	14809	622	9164	1210	295726	72560	14925	7821	9	104	66	277

P: Production
Y: Productivity (Yield Rate)
*- (Million Nuts)

Meat Research Centre

3071. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade National Research Centre on Meat located at Izatnagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the meat leads to more than 150 diseases as per World Health Organisation study and Joint report of World Cancer Research Fund & American Cancer Research Society;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a study on medical costs of meat consumption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Research Centre on Meat is being established at Hyderabad as full-fledged center with independent status. Officer on Special Duty has been appointed on 21st September, 99. EFC for the IX Plan has been already approved.

(c) Eating of good quality meat do not cause any diseases. In fact meat is a good source of high quality animal protein which helps in fighting malnutrition diseases. Consumption of Cured Bacon with excessive amount of nitrite coupled with deep fat frying has been suggested to have carcinogenic effect due to formation of nitrosamines but without any conclusive evidence. To prevent such risks the permissible limit of nitrite has been fixed as 200 ppm in curing of Bacon (pig meat). Researches are on to find suitable substitutes for nitrite for curing meat products. However, use of nitrites prevents the hazard of botulism food poisoning which is indeed very serious.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vizag Steel Plant

3072. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Vizag Steel Plant to make it viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to bring down the interest burden of the company on Government loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) had submitted a comprehensive turn around proposal for its revival which inter-alia included waiver of losses. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999, alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity in RINL to a strategic buyer. No final decision has yet been taken on these recommendations.

Impact of US Sanctions on Space Programmes

3073. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Programmes have been affected by the sanctions imposed by the United States of America against India in the wake of nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any satellite has been launched by India after imposition of such sanctions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STAE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There have been only marginal effects on the Indian space programme in terms of schedule and cost over-run due to the sections imposed by the United States of America against India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) INSAT-2E was launched on the Ariane launch vehicle in April, 1999 and IRS-P4 (Oceansat-1) on the PSLV in May, 1999.

[English]

Price of Copra

3074. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of copra has been falling continuously;

(b) whether the price has fallen even below the support level announced for the 1999 season;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to undertake immediate market intervention through NAFED or through KERAFED for procurement operations on behalf fo NAFED in Kerala;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has made any recommendation on the Minimum Support Price for Copra for the year 2000;

(e) if so, the price so recommended; and

(f) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The prices of copra have shown a declining trend and have fallen below the Minimum Support Price for 1999 season in some markets.

(c) NAFED, the central nodal agency through the state marketing agencies, Marketfed & KERAFED has already commenced price support operations.

(d) to (f) In order to finalise price policy for copra for 2000 season, views of different States growing copra, including Kerala were elicited. The views of the State Government of Kerala have since been received and these will be duly taken into account while finalising the views of the Government.

Agricultural Development Project

3075. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural development projects sanctioned by the Union Government for the North-Eastern States during the last three years; and

(b) the financial assistance provided for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) List of schemes is given in the attached Statement.

(b)	Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
	1996-97	5216.01
	1997-98	4799.95
	1998-99	6637.82
	1999-2000*	4460.24

* Position till the end of the IIIrd quarter, 1999-2000.

Statement

Details of central sector/centrally sponsored projects/ schemes/programmes under which financial assistance was sanctioned for N.E. Region

S.No.	Name of the Schemes/Projects/Programme
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Rice.
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
3.	Special Jute Development Programme
4.	National Pulses Development Project.
5.	Oilseed Production Programme.
6.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
7.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
8.	Balanced & Integrated use of Fertiliser.
9.	Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
10.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small farmers.
11.	Exchange of Farmers within the country.
12.	Strengthening Agricultural Extension in North-Eastern States.
13.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.
14.	State Land Use Board.

1	2
15.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
16.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
17.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
18.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
19.	Development of Mushroom.
20.	Integrated Development Programme of Cashewnut.
21.	Integrated Development of Tropical Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
22.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops.
23.	Development of Vegetables.
24.	Integrated Development of Cocoa.
25.	Development of Spices.
26.	Assistance of Weaker Section Cooperatives.
27.	Assistance to Women Cooperatives.
28.	Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.
29.	Development of Betelvine.
30.	Development of Arecanut.
31.	National Project on Development & use of Bio-fertiliser.

Decline in Prices of Agricultural Commodities

3076. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of Agricultural Commodities are declining rapidly during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The wholesale prices of agricultural commodities which are broadly classified into two major groups namely, Food articles and Non food articles, have been maintaining an upward trend during the last five years. Annual Wholesale Price Index of Food articles has moved up from 331.1 in 1995 to 454.3 in 1999 and that of Non-food articles from 322.1 to 378.9 during the same period.

Purchase of Computers

3077. SHRI BASU DAB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of excise duty paid by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation for the purchase of computers during the last four years;

(b) the companies from which the computers were purchased;

(c) whether proper procedure was followed while purchasing computers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation (ET&T) has paid the excise duty for assembly of computer and TV at its Bhiwadi Plant as per details given below:

Year	Amount (Rs.)
1995-96	4,47,667/-
1996-97	10,67,935/-
1997-98	32,97,778/-
1998-99	10,37,791/-

In addition to assembly of computers at Bhiwadi Factory, ET&T also procured computers from local vendors on duty/tax paid basis.

(b) A list of vendors for supply of computers to ET&T is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The corporation generally adopts the following procedure:

1. Purchase at competitive prices after obtaining three offers except for proprietory items and emergency purchases.

2. Screening and evaluation of the offers by the Purchase Committee.

3. Approvals by the Purchase Committee for orders within the delegated financial powers.

4. Approvals by the higher competent authority where the purchase is above the financial powers of the Committee.

5. Purchase are made against the specific orders from customers.

A few cases where deviations from the approved procedure has been noticed are currently being examined by the Company.

Statement

List of Vendors

1. M/s. ACE Micro Electronics, New Delhi
2. M/s. Ascent Information Systems, New Delhi
3. M/s. Automation System, New Delhi
4. M/s. C.R. Infotech, New Delhi
5. M/s. EDX Electronics, New Delhi
6. M/s. Growth Compusoft Exports, Ahmedabad
7. M/s. Graphtek India, New Delhi
8. M/s. IBM Systems, New Delhi/Bangalore
9. M/s. Indocon Computers, New Delhi
10. M/s. Infotechnic, New Delhi
11. M/s. Iris Computers, New Delhi
12. M/s. O.A. Compuserve, New Delhi
13. M/s. Quantum Systems, New Delhi
14. M/s. Siemens, Nixodroff, New Delhi
15. M/s. Thakrac Computers, New Delhi
16. M/s. Triffin Technology, New Delhi

Land Holdings

3078. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the land holdings of the big, medium, small and marginal farmers at present in the country;

(b) the assessment of surplus land in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the revenue collected from the land holdings in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As per the latest available data relating to Agricultural Census, 1990-91, the number of holdings, area operated and the average area operated by marginal small, semi-medium, medium and large holdings is given in Statement-I.

(b) Land declared surplus by States as on September 1999 is given in Statement-II.

(c) Based on the Reserve Bank of India publication 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets 1999-2000' information about State-wise receipt of Land Revenue for Revised Estimates 1998-99 have been compiled and given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Number, Area and Average size of Holdings according to size-classes in India as per Agricultural Census, 1990-91

Size-group	Number of operational holdings (in 000)	Area operated (in 000 Ha.)	Average operated Area (hectare)
Marginal (below 1 ha)	63389	24894	0.39
Small (1.0-2.0 ha)	20092	28827	1.44
Semi-Medium (2.0-4.0 ha)	13923	38375	2.76
Medium (4.0-10.0 ha)	7580	44752	5.90
Large (10.0 ha. & above)	1654	28659	17.33
All holdings	106637	165507	1.55

Statement-II

Statement of surplus land declared by various States as on September, 1999

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Land Declared Surplus (Area in acres)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	792762
2.	Assam	612500

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	415447
4.	Gujarat	229062
5.	Haryana	107434
6.	Himachal Pradesh	316556
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	455575
8.	Karnataka	268478
9.	Kerala	139056
10.	Madhya Pradesh	298929
11.	Maharashtra	752731
12.	Manipur	1830
13.	Orissa	177996
14.	Punjab	223115
15.	Rajasthan	609315
16.	Tamil Nadu	198680
17.	Tripura	1955
18.	Uttar Pradesh	373614
19.	West Bengal	1363131
20.	D&N Haveli	9406
21.	Delhi	1132
22.	Pondicherry	2326
	Total:	7351030

Statement-III

Statement of State-wise receipts of Land Revenue (Revised Estimate 1998-99)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Land Revenue
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21458
2.	Assam	11080
3.	Bihar	3450
4.	Gujarat	6700
5.	Haryana	497
6.	Himachal Pradesh	101
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	90
8.	Karnataka	3578
9.	Kerala	3451
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3000
11.	Maharashtra	12179
12.	Manipur	50
13.	Orissa	6000
14.	Punjab	310
15.	Rajasthan	3656
16.	Tamil Nadu	3000
17.	Tripura	275
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4675
19.	West Bengal	46229
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	212
21.	Delhi	13
22.	Goa	435
23.	Meghalaya	16
24.	Mizoram	105
25.	Nagaland	10
26.	Sikkim	10
	Total:	130580

Source: State Finances: A Study of budgets 1999-2000, Reserve Bank of India, January, 2000.

Aralam Agricultrual Farm

3079. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal pending to hand over the Aralam Agriculture Farm in Kannur to the Kerala State Government since 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Some discussions were held in 1997 on this issue. However, no formal proposal has been received from the Govement of Kerala.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Contractors

3080. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation has appointed any contractors, consultants, project managers or consultancy firms during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details of the jobs assigned/completed and the amount paid to each of them during the said period;

(c) whether proper procedure was followed in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the Statement-I and II attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of Consultants, Project/Contractual Appointees Consultants:

Consultants	*Jobs Assigned/Completed*	*Tenure*	*Fee/Remuneration*
Consultant (F&A) (full-time) Mr. A.D. Mehtani	In the absence of Director (Fin.) & GM (Fin.). he was engaged to oversee the functions of F&A Division	21.8.96-30.6.99	Rs. 10,000/- p.m.
Consultant (part-time) Dr. M.L. Bala	To co-ordinate for Course design and Corporate Training Programmes	3.6.96-30.11.96	Rs. 4,000/- p.m.
Consultant (full-time) Dr. M.L. Bala	To co-ordinate for Course design and Corporate Training Programmes	1.12.96-30.11.97	Rs. 10,000/- p.m.
Jr. Consultant (full-time) Mr. S.K. Mandal	IT Marketing and embedded Y2K Project	1.1.97-31.12.97	Rs. 8000/- p.m.
Jr. Consultant (full-time) Ms. Vidya Kher	Course design and other related jobs in Computer Education Centre	3.2.97-2.2.98	Rs. 8,000/- p.m.

Project/Contractual Appointees:

The following persons in various levels were engaged in the company on Contractual basis in the following areas:

Name	Designation	Tenure	Jobs Assigned	Remuneration
1	2	3	4	5
1. Ms. Tripti Dayal	Project Manager	3 yrs. w.e.f. 5.1.98 (Being relieved on 31.3.2K)	Course design and development of Corporate Education Training	Rs. 9477/- p.m. (during 1st year) Rs. 11,146/- p.m. w.e.f. 5.1.99
2. Mr. Ravi Kr. Khattar	Project Manager	3 yrs. w.e.f. 15.1.98 (Left w.e.f. 5.3.98)	IT Marketing	Rs. 9477/-p.m.
3. Mr. S.K. Mandal	Asst. Project Manager	3 yrs. w.e.f. 1.1.98	IT Marekting and embedded Y2K Project	Rs. 8007/- p.m. during 1st year Rs. 9605/- p.m. w.e.f. 1.1.99
4. Ms. Sapna Mongia	Asst. Project Manager	3 yrs. w.e.f. 24.12.97 (Left w.e.f. 1.6.98	Franchise/ Licencee Management of Computer Education & Training Centres in Delhi	Rs. 7422/- p.m.
5. Mr. Sunil Bala-Chandran	Asst. Project Manager	3 yrs w.e.f. 16.3.98 (Left w.e.f. 25.6.98)	IT Marketing	Rs. 7833/- p.m.
6. Mr. V. Sreedhar	Asst. Project Engineer	3 yrs w.e.f. 26.12.97 (Left w.e.f. 31.8.98)	For Software Dev. activities	Rs. 6352/-p.m.
7. Mr. Neeraj K	Asst. Project Engineer	3 yrs w.e.f. 30.12.97 (Left w.e.f.) 20.11.98)	IT Marketing	Rs. 6837/- p.m.
8. Mr. Sajid B	Senior Project Fellow	3 yrs w.e.f. 8.11.99	Faculty Member for Computer Education & Training Courses	Rs. 8709/- p.m.

1	2	3	4	5
9. Ms. Sunitha	Senior Project Fellow	3 yrs. w.e.f. 7.1.2000	Course design and development of Corporate Education Training	Rs. 9099/- p.m.
10. Ms. Trina Dutta	Project Fellow	3 yrs w.e.f. 27.10.99	To look after examination systems for Computer Education & Training Courses	Rs. 7133/- p.m.
11. Dr. R.K. Datta	Advisor	1 yr w.e.f. 23.12.99	For establishment of Centre for SW Dev. & High-end Training	Rs. 600/- per visit

Statement-II

Details of Contracts for in House Services at ET&T Delhi

Name of the contractor	Period	Amount	Nature of contract
1	2	3	4
1. M/s. Shri Ram Yadav & Co.	1.9.96-30.11.97	45,272/- p.m.	For cleaning office premises
	1.2.97-31.12.98	29,750/- p.m.	-do-
	1.1.99-31.12.99	33,468.75 p.m.	-do-
2. M/s. Cube Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	1.9.96-31.12.98	23,500/- per annum	Maintenance of EPABX system
	1.1.99-31.12.99	12,000/- per annum	-do-
3. M/s. ACE Detective	1.7.96-30.11.97	77,047/- p.m.	Security Services
	1.12.97-30.11.99	32,555/- p.m.	-do-
	1.12.99-29.2.2K	39,564/- p.m.	-do-
4. M/s. Hoshi Security & Detective	1.12.97-29-02-2K	50,200/- p.m.	-do-
5. M/s. Air Serco Pvt. Ltd.	1.4.96-31.3.97	99,000/- per Annum	Maintenance Service of Air Conditioner Plant
	1.4.97-31.3.2K	105,000/- per Annum	-do-
6. Continental Airconditioner	15.4.96-14.7.98	53,600/- per Annum	Maintenance of Window A. Cs

1	2	3	4
7. Surya Refrigeration Works	15.7.98-14.7.99	20,400/- per Annum	Maintenance of Window A.Cs
8. Dr. Seekar Sachdeva	4.4.96-4.4.2K	7,125/- p.m.	Medical Consultants
9. Hitech Business System	1.6.96-31.5.2K	4320/- per Annum	Maintenance of Electronics Typewriter
10. Bansal Sinha & Co. C.A.	1.4.96-31.3.97	21,750/- per Annum	Income tax Consultants
11. Pruthi & Pruthi Associates C.A.	1.4.97-31.3.99	24,000/- per Annum	-do-
	1.4.99-31.12.2K	24,000/- -do-	-do-
12. Ashok Nanda & Co.	1.4.96-31.3.97	25,000/- -do-	-do- Salestax Consultants
	1.4.97-31.3.98	15,000/- -do-	-do-
	1.4.98-31.3.99	21,000/- -do-	-do-
	1.4.99-31.3.2K	26,000/- -do-	-do-
13. Sushil Jeetpuria & Co. C.A.	1.4.96-31.3.97	32,000/- -do-	P.F. Trust Consultants
	1.4.97-31.3.98	47,148/- -do-	do
	1.4.98-31.3.99	44,677/- -do-	-do-
14. Blue Dot Pest Control	1.2.97-31.2.2K	5,600/- -do-	Disinfestation & Termite control
15. Eureka Forbs Ltd.	24.6.98-23.6.2K	600/- -do-	Maintenance of Acqa Guard
16. Jindal & Co. C.A.	1.6.99-31.3.2K	8500/-p.m.	Consultant F&A

Note: In addition to above some job contracts get awarded on back to back basis for job orders received from customers against specific orders.

Decline in Rural Development

3081. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Rural Development Report has pointed to the disturbing trend of investment in rural development declining over the years in the States; and

(b) if so, the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. The India Rural Development Report 1999 prepared by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad had stated that "In the early years of planning, about a fifth of the total allocations were made towards all agricultural and rural programmes including irrigation, flood control and related areas, but this has undergone changes since the Fourth Five Year Plan. In the late 1990s, the combined State and Central expenses on agriculture and allied activities, irrigation and rural development does not exceed 12 per cent. The Central Government spends about eight per cent and State Governments, about 16 per cent".

(b) The details of expenditure accounted for by the NIRD in working out the trends in investment in rural development have not been specifically indicated in the Report. Investments in agriculture, rural development and water resources, (which include irrigation and flood control) accounted for 33.31% of the gross budgetary support for the Eighth Plan period. The corresponding percentage for the Ninth Plan period was 29.14%. The table given below indicates the yearwise details of gross budgetary support to the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources. The budget support to these Ministries, which was 25.66% of the total budget support to annual plan in 1992-93 increased to 36.62% in 1996-97. It is 29.59% in 1999-2000. In addition to the budgetary support to these three Ministries mentioned above, other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government also spend a substantial proportion of their plan allocation on programmes, which benefit the population residing in rural areas.

Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to the Central Plan

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Year	Agriculture	Rural Development	Water Resources	Total (Col 3 to 5)	GBS	col 6 as % of GBS
1.	Eighth Plan	9495.47	31682.00	2373.45	43550.92	130727.46	33.31
2.	1992-93	1408.00	3100.00	240.00	4748.00	18501.00	25.66
3.	1993-94	1918.00	5060.00	289.10	7267.10	23241.43	31.27
4.	1994-95	2005.00	7070.00	275.42	9350.42	27277.55	34.28
5.	1995-96	2144.00	7760.00	302.00	10206.00	28994.22	35.20
6.	1996-97	2020.47	8692.00	1266.93	11979.40	32713.26	36.62
7.	Ninth Plan	14877.00	42278.00	2291.00	59446.00	203983.00	29.14
8.	1997-98	2066.00	9096.00	341.00	11503.00	36130.00	31.84
9.	1998-99	2854.00	9912.00	396.00	13162.00	42484.00	31.00
10.	1999-2000	2896.40	9751.00	370.00	13017.40	44000.00	29.59

Source: Yearwise figures from Expenditure Budget of relevant years and Ninth Plan figures from the Ninth Five Year Plan Document

Export of Coir

3082. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the regional office of Coir Board at Pollachi in Tamil Nadu in view of its tremendous potential for marketing and export;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and

(b) A Regional Office of the Coir Board is already functioning at Pollachi, Tamil Nadu.

(c) Does not arise.

Banned Organisations

3083. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of organisations in which Central Government Employees are barred from participating in their activities;

(b) whether the Government propose to review this policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In terms of Rules 5(1) of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, no Government servant shall be a member of, or be otherwise associated with, any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics, nor shall he take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or activity. No consolidated list, containing the names of such parties/organisations, is however maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Annual Report of U.S. Department of State

3084. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Indian Government has been drawn to the first Annual Report of the U.S. Department of State on International Religious Freedom in which certain critical remarks on some political and religious organisations with regard to religious intolerance has been stated therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In response to a US domestic legislation, *i.e.*, the International Religious Freedom Act passed by the US Congress in 1998, the US Department of State released the first Annual Report on International Religious Freedom. The report deal with all countries of the world. In the section on India, the report, inter alia, describes some incidents of alleged attacks on Christian institutions and persons. The Report also highlights the tradition of religious tolerance and the secular character of the State in India.

(c) Government regards this report as an internal document of the US Government. Government rejects any instrusive exercise into how we conduct our affairs. The Indian Constitution guarantees religious freedom to the citizens of the country, reflecting the well-known social traditions of tolerance and respect for all religions.

[Translation]

Production of Bio-Fertilizers

3085. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Public Sector companies engaged in the production of bio-fertilizers in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production of bio-fertilisers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India is implementing a continuing Central Sector Scheme on Development and Use of Biofertilisers during the Ninth Plan. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid upto Rs. 20.00 lakhs is being extended for setting up/strengthening of biofertiliser production units of 150 tonnes capacity per annum by State Governments/Public Sector Companies and others. The Department of Fertilisers, Government of India is also extending grants for biofertiliser production. Till date,

63 biofertiliser production units have been approved with the grants from Government of India including 16 units with public sector undertakings. Besides, there are 48 other units which exist in different States. The total estimated production capacity of these units is about 17000 tonnes per annum and estimated production is about 1000 tonnes/annum. Statewise details of the Units financed by the Government of India are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of State-wise Biofertiliser production facilities created by Government of India

GOI financed unit	Capacity (ton)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1. Madras Fertiliser Ltd., Vijayawada	75
2. Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University, Hyderabad	75
3. Godavari Fertiliser & Chemicals Ltd., Secunderabad	100
Assam	
1. Assam Agro Industries Corporation, Guwahati	150
2. Hindustan Fertiliser Co., Namrup	75
3. Hindustan Fertiliser Co., Silchar	150
Bihar	
1. Sone Command Area Dev. Authority, Patna	150
2. Pyrite Phosphate Chemicals Ltd., Amjhore	75
3. Hindustan Fertiliser Co., Sindri	75
4. Hindustan Fertiliser Co., Barauni	75
Gujarat	
1. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd., Surat	225
2. Gujarat State Coop. Mktg. Federation, Ahmedabad	125
3. Gujarat State Fertiliser Co. Ltd., Vadodara	475
4. Gujarat Agro Industry Corpn., Ahmedabad	150
Haryana	
1. Chowdhary Charan Singh Hisar Agriculture University, Hisar	75
2. Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Hisar	50
Himachal Pradesh	
1. Department of Agriculture, Shimla	75
Karnataka	
1. Karnataka Compost Development Corporation	150
2. Karnataka State Agro Industries Corporation	150
3. Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Bangalore	50
4. Madras Fertiliser Ltd., Bangalore	75
Kerala	
1. Department of Agriculture Kerala, Pattambi	75
2. Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)	150
Madhya Pradesh	
1. National Fertiliser Ltd., Indore	75
2. MP Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhopal	450
3. Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Ltd., Gwalior	75
4. Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Bhopal	75
5. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Indore	200
6. MP State Cooperative Oilseed Growers Federation Ltd., Dhar	150
7. Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Jabalpur	50
Maharashtra	
1. BAIF Laboratories Ltd. (BAIF), Pune	75
2. Rashtriya Chemical and Fertiliser Ltd., Chembur	75
3. Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Nagpur	50
4. Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune	150
5. Institute of Natural Organic Agril. (INORA), Pune	150

1		2
6.	Environmental Protection Research Foundation, Sangli	150
Manipur		
1.	Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Imphal	50
Mizoram		
1.	Deptt. of Agriculture Mizoram, Aizawl	75
Nagaland		
1.	Deptt. of Agriculture Nagaland, Kohima	150
Orissa		
1.	Orissa Agro Industries Corporation, Bhubaneswar	75
2.	Orissa Agro Industries Corporation, Sambalpur	150
3.	Orissa Agro Industries Corporation, Rayagada	150
4.	Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Cuttack	150
5.	Regional Biofertiliser Development Centre, Bhubaneswar	50
Rajasthan		
1.	Rajasthan Agro Industry Corporation, Jaipur	75
2.	State Farm Corporation of India, Suratgarh	150
Tamil Nadu		
1.	Madras Fertiliser Ltd., Chennai	75
2.	Deptt. of Agriculture Tamil Nadu, Salem	250
3.	Deptt. of Agriculture Tamil Nadu, Kudumiamalai	75
4.	T. Stanes & Co., Coimbatore	925
5.	Southern Petro Chemical Ind. Corpn. Ltd., Chennai	100
6.	Seema Cotton Development Research Association, Coimbatore	75
7.	Eswin Advanced Technology Ltd., Chennai	150
Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Ltd., Phoolpur	75
2.	Deptt. of Agriculture Uttar Pradesh, Etah	50
3.	Deptt. of Agriculture Uttar Pradesh, Baharaich	50
4.	Deptt. of Agriculture Uttar Pradesh, Orai	50
5.	National Biofertiliser Development Centre. Ghaziabad	75
West Bengal		
1.	Bidhan Chand Krishi Vishvidalaya, Kalyani	75
2.	Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Durgapur	75
3.	Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Siliguri	150
Pondicherry		
1.	Pondicherry Agro Industries Corporation, Pondicherry	75
Meghalaya		
1.	Department of Agriculture Meghalaya, Tura	75
	Total	9025
	Total No. of GOI units	63

[English]

Assistance to Tanneries

3086. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to assist small scale tanneries for technological upgradation for productivity improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the maximum grant proposed to be given and procedure devised for monitoring implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

A tannery modernisation scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to provide financial assistance to the existing tannery units for undertaking modernisation programmes for a positive environmental impact, becoming competitive, effecting better capacity utilisation, achieving productivity gains and reducing wastage. The scheme would initially be in operation from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 and cover about 30% of the existing tanneries during the 9th Five year Plan.

(c) The assistance under the Tannery Modernisation Scheme will be limited to 30% of cost of machines subject to a maximum of Rs. 28.00 lakhs in case of small sacle units and 20% for non-small sacle units subject to a maximum of Rs. 35.00 lakhs. Implementation of the scheme and monitoring will be done by the Project Management Unit of the National Leather Development Programme (PMU-NLDP) through SIDBI/FIs/Nationalised Banks/SFCs.

Trade with Bangladesh

3087. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow bilateral trade with Bangladesh through the Haldibari-Chilahati route by road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this route is likely to be opened in the interest of export of Indian goods to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the India—Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting held in New Delhi in March 1997, the two sides discussed the feasibility of providing additional land routes for facilitating trade between the two countries. In this connection, the two sides agreed to operate additional routes including, *inter alia,* Haldibari-Chhilihati. The matter was further discussed at the Trade Review Talks between India and Bangladesh held in Dhaka in December 1998; it was noted that the work to operationalise the land customs as per the decision of the last JEC meeting was being carried out.

IAS Officers

3088. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a shortage of Indian Administrative Service officers in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As against the total authorised strength of 5159 of Indian Administrative Service as on 1.1.2000 for all States/Joint Cadres in the country, the number of officers in position is 5161.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

CBI Inspectors

3089. KUNWAR SARV RAJ SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Inspectors belonging to the parent cadre and on deputation working in the Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.) at present; and

(b) the academic qualifications of present Inspectors and the qualification prescribed for the post of Inspectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are 637 inspectors working in the CBI, out of which 343 belong to the CBI cadre and 294 are on deputation from other organisations.

(b) Out of 637 Inspectors presently working in the CBI 121 are post-graduates, 396 graduates and 120 under-graduates. The posts of Inspector in the CBI are filled either by promotion or by deputation/transfer. As such no minimum educational qualification is prescribed in the Recruitment Rules for the post of Inspector.

Terrorism in Kashmir

3090. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that delegates of France, Portugal, Germany and Finland had visited J&K in October 1999 to study the spreading of terrorism in the State;

(b) whether the Union Government officials after their visit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received the contents of the report prepared by these found delegates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government to the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation of Ambassadors of France, Portugal, Finland, Germany and the European Commission visited Jammu & Kashmir from October 25-27, 1999.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The purpose of the visit was to meet Government officials, political leaders and a cross section of people in Jammu & Kashmir to obtain a better understanding of the situation prevailing in the State.

(d) to (f) Representatives of the delegation which visited Jammu and Kashmir have briefed the Government of their impressions regarding the effect of cross-border terrorism on the State. The international community now openly recognises Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of J&K and elsewhere in India.

[English]

Improving the Agricultural Land

3091. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for improving the agricultural land has been undertaken by the Agricultural and Space Scientists;

(b) if so, the main purpose of the proposed scheme; and

(c) the States likely to be covered under the Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project will address to the following thrust areas:

- To prepare resource inventories for each agro-eco system.
- To identify constraints and improve land use efficiency and resource sustainability.
- To delineate micro level variation in each of the identified watersheds.
- To review the present cropping pattern/system in relation to economic viability of production system of a given agro-eco-system.
- To develop eco-region specific land use options based on land evaluation (resource) and socio-economic factors and issues.
- To monitor the state of health of natural resources (Land and water).
- Impact analysis of the suggested land use options for improvement and/or modification.

(c) The project will cover West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Orissa, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Delhi and Goa.

Leather Garment Industry

3092. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any new proposals/ projects to improve leather garment industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any report from any State Government or from the State Pollution Control Board regarding the pollution caused by the leather tanneries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Ministry of SSI & ARI has recently approved a proposal to set up a computer-aided designing training-cum-service centre for the leather garment industry in Delhi and agreed to provide one-time grant of Rs. 123.58 lakhs to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for the procurement of machinery and equipment. This will assist the leather garment industry in product design and pattern generation and also in conducting training programmes for meeting skilled manpower requirement of the leather garment industry to enable the industry to produce garments of international quality.

(c) and (d) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, a total of 70 leather units including tanneries throughout the country have been identified under the Central Action Plan on 17 categories of highly polluting industries. Out of these 70 units, 11 are closed and the remaining 59 units have set up adequate pollution control facilities to comply with the standards. Further, a total of 92 defaulting leather units have been identified under the Central Action Plan on grossly polluting industries discharging effluents into rivers and lakes. Out of these, 51 have arranged requisite treatment/disposal facilities, 21 units are closed and 20 are still defaulting.

National SC/ST Finance and Development Corporation

3093. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries who have sought/sanctioned loans from the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure release of sufficient funds for the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) The Government have released budgetary support amounting to Rs. 20.23 crores, 81 crores and 30 crores during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. It is proposed to release Rs. 35 crores to this Corporation during the year 2000-2001. In order to ensure continuous flow of sufficient funds to this Corporation, its authorized share capital has been enhanced from Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 1000 crores.

Statement

Statewise No. of SC/ST Beneficiaries who sought & who were sanctioned Loans from National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation During the Last Three Years

Sl. No.	State/UT	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		No. of beneficiaries who sought loans	No. of beneficiaries sanctioned loans	No. of beneficiaries who sought loans	No. of beneficiaries sanctioned loans	No. of beneficiaries who sought loans	No. of beneficiaries sanctioned loans
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	22	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3498	1955	2596	1793	6161	6161

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	15	13	13	5	4
4.	Assam	176	75	85	85	350	193
5.	Bihar	7685	685	1676	1675	1672	1672
6.	Chandigarh	10	10	90	70	85	85
7.	D&Nagar Haveli	25	25	36	36	17	16
8.	Delhi	130	88	67	51	92	40
9.	Goa	13	13	34	29	8	5
10.	Gujarat	342	191	498	497	2653	1946
11.	Haryana	215	140	225	225	160	160
12.	Himachal Pradesh	129	55	218	91	106	82
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	100	50	20	20	91	91
14.	Karnataka	10111	5051	2640	2437	470	457
15.	Kerala	344	343	686	644	352	349
16.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	3	3	5	4
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1573	649	2031	1126	1329	1046
18.	Maharashtra	2006	756	2225	1011	2462	108
19.	Manipur	121	51	338	217	127	100
20.	Mizoram	121	27	335	290	228	216
21.	Nagaland	88	44	158	111	103	90
22.	Orissa	641	281	89	71	390	385
23.	Pondicherry	34	34	28	27	81	64
24.	Punjab	400	400	50	25	50	50
25.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	844	600	431	430
26.	Sikkim	95	42	226	62	304	186
27.	Tamil Nadu	277	273	574	542	282	275
28.	Tripura	430	294	732	281	355	213
29.	Uttar Pradesh	10278	10078	200	200	Nil	Nil
30.	West Bengal	450	240	1240	1239	2438	2412
	Total	39329	21865	17957	13471	20807	16840

[Translation]

Famine Affected States

3094. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States affected by famine during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government had sent Central teams to the States to assess the situation;

(c) whether the relief work in these States have since been launched according to the observations made by the Central teams;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount allocated by the Union Government to each famine State and the amount utilised by the each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Report on drought conditions were received during 1996-97 from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa, during 1997-98 from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and during 1998-99 from Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

(b) Central teams were deputed for assessment of the situation wherever necessary.

(c) and (d) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) had been released to the States every year for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The respective State Governments plan and carry out the relief activities.

(e) In addition to CRF, funds from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought were also released for the purpose as indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	—	30.00	—
Karnataka	—	22.00	—
Orissa	54.00	—	—
Rajasthan	—	—	21.98

[English]

Jurala Multi-Purpose Project

3095. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up Jurala Multi-purpose irrigation project on river Krishna in Mahbob Nagar district;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Clearance of Jurala Irrigation Project is *inter-alia* linked with submission of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan to the Centre by Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The work on the project have already been taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the latest estimated cost is Rs. 545.82 crore.

Development of Hilly Areas

3096. SHRI JARBOM GAMLIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for development of hilly areas of North-Eastern Region particularly in the State of Arunachal Pradesh have been undertaken under the scheme for Special Central Financial Assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Although there is no specific head titled "Special Central Financial Assistance" under which schemes are being undertaken in the hilly areas of the north eastern region, including Arunachal Pradesh, the following policy

initiatives have been taken to augment the resource base of these States:

(i) 30% of Normal Central Assistance is ear-marked for Special Category States which include N.E. States.

(ii) 90% of Plan assistance is grant and 10% loan as against 30% grant and 70% loan for other States.

(iii) State contribution of 15%, which is mandatory for the Basic Minimum Services schemes, is not applicable to N.E. States.

(iv) 10% of Plan provision of the Central Ministries/ Deptts. has been earmarked for development of N.E. States.

(v) Over and above the State Plan outlays which have been increasing over the years, funds are also being sanctioned out of the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources created through transfer of unspent balance of the earmarked outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments meant for development of the N.E. States.

(vi) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the region.

(vii) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

(viii) Diversion to the extent of 20% of the Normal Central Assistance (Plan) is allowed for Non-Plan purposes.

(ix) Special Central Assistance is allocated for addressing the special problems of the border areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

In the specific case of Arunachal Pradesh, Rs. 13 crore have been allocated as Special Central Assistance under the Border Area Development Programme in the current year. Further in addition to the initiatives mentioned above, Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 1,245 crore has been allocated for (a) preparation of detailed project reports for Externally Aided Projects and (b) maintenance of foot tracks and suspension bridges.

Command Area Development Project

3097. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Sukla Command Area Development Project in Kamrup district of Assam;

(b) the date of commencement and the time likely to be taken for completion of this project;

(c) the total area likely to be benefitted in the State after completion of the project; and

(d) the funds released by the Union Government under the project, during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The total target and the present status of the core items of the Command Area Development activities of the Sukla CAD Project up to December, 1999 as reported by the Government of Assam are given below:

S.No.	Command Area Development Activity	Total target	Achievement till Dec. '99
1.	Field Channel	17166 ha	13101 ha
2.	Field Drain	18084 ha	2238 ha
3.	Warabandi	17166 ha	1720 ha
4.	Land Levelling	304 ha	4 ha

(b) Sukla CAD project was included under Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme in 1983-84, but the work commenced in 1984-85 and is likely to be completed by the end of the Ninth Plan that is 2001-2002.

(c) The total Culturable Command area likely to be benefitted in the State from the project is 17166 ha.

(d) Project-wise Central assistance is released to the State Government on receipt of detail information, project-wise and item-wise. In the absence of adequate details Central assistance of Rs. 124.00 lakh was released to the Government of Assam on *ad-hoc* basis during 1997-98 for carrying the Command Area Development activities in all eligible projects including Sukla. On account of non-admissibility of Central assistance to the State Government, no fund was released during 1996-97 and 1998-99.

Import of Steel

3098. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Steel imported during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) the strategy for import of steel for the year 2000-01?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The quantity of finished steel imported during the year 1999-2000 (upto November '99) is estimated to be 10.54 lakh tonnes.

(b) At present import and export of iron & steel is freely allowed. As such, the strategy for import of steel is evolved by the users/importers keeping in view of demand, source of procurement and other relevant factors.

Israeli Agro Technology

3099. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt Israeli Agro Technology in agricultrue for dryland/desert in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the crops proposed to be grown using this technology, State-wise;

(c) whether any pilot projects are likely to be formulated and financed by Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Two projects are being implemented, one in Rajasthan and the other in Gujarat for sustained productivity in dryland/desert areas.

(c) and (d) Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a demonstration project on Jojoba in collaboration with "Association of the Rajasthan Jojoba Plantation and Research Project (AJORP).

The Government of Gujarat sanctioned a scheme of wasteland development pilot project in the year 1996-97. In this regard, on behalf of the Government of Gujarat, the Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad have concluded agreement with "Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd.", Telavit, Israel.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects

3100. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. C. KRISHNAN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of irrigation projects submitted by each State Government and cleared by the Union Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the estimated cost of each project and funds released by the Union Government to each State Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the present status of remaining proposals and reasons for delay in taking the decision;

(d) the number of irrigation projects completed during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) State-wise details of 88 projects received from State Governments during the last three years for appraisal alongwith their estimated cost and present status of appraisal is given in Statement-I. The clearance of these projects is linked with the promptness with which the States comply with the observations of various Central Appraising Agencies. State-wise details of expenditure/outlays during the last three years as submitted by the State Governments to the Planning Commission are given in Satement-II.

(d) and (e) State-wise details of projects completed is given in Statement-III. The completion of any project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, clearance, geological conditions and equally important are the funds allotted by the State Governments to individual project as per the States priority.

Statement-I

Details of Projects received from State Governments during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	State	Estimated cost (Crore)	Date of receipt in CWC	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6
	1997-98				
1.	Tilaiya Dhadhar (Major)	Bihar	301.79	1/98	A
2.	Ajoy Barrage/Siktia Barrage (Major)	Bihar	40.509	3/98	B
3.	Upper Sakri Reservoir (Major)	Bihar	67.67	1/98	B
4.	Proposal for construction & extension of Minor (RIDF-I) (Major)-ERM	Haryana	60.08	2/98	A
5.	Proposal for construction & extension of minor and flood project works (RIDF-II) (Major)-ERM	Haryana	81.00	2/98	A
6.	Rafiabad Irrigation Canal (Medium)	Jammu & Kashmir	30.00	8/97	A
7.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal (Medium) - ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	10.07	8/97	A
8.	Kandi Canal Project (Medium)	Jammu & Kashmir	43.07	8/97	A
9.	Mod. of Lar Canal Project (Med.) - ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	37.05	9/97	A
10.	Mod. of Ahji Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	7.96	11/97	A
11.	Mod. of Lar Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	6.63	11/97	A
12.	Mod. of Sonaman Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	4.58	12/97	A
13.	Mod. of Mavkhul (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	7.00	12/97	A
14.	Mod. of Martand Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	17.72	12/97	A
15.	Markandeya (Concrete Dam & Canal on both banks) (Major)	Karnataka	134.53	5/97	A
16.	Lower Wardha (Major)	Maharashtra	61.99	11/97	A

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Lendi Irrigation Project (Major)	Maharashtra	177.615	5/97	A
18.	Haranghat Lift Irrigation (Medium)	Maharashtra	12.19	8/97	A
19.	Kirimiri Darur Lift Irrigation (Medium)	Maharashtra	4.14	9/97	A
20.	Wagholi Bute Lift Irrigation (Medium)	Maharashtra	24.98	10/97	A
21.	Sulwade Barrage (Medium)	Maharashtra	88.25	12/97	A
22.	Lal Nala (Medium)	Maharashtra	19.05	9/97	A
23.	Upper Manjra (Medium)	Maharashtra	40.49	11/97	A
24.	Talamba Irrigation Project (Major)	Maharashtra	28.90	4/97	B
25.	Nawargaon (Medium)	Maharashtra	3.43	12/97	B
26.	Ranapur (Medium)	Maharashtra	4.30	12/97	B
27.	Saiki Makar Dhokar (Medium)	Maharashtra	12.47	1/98	A
28.	Jiri Irrigation (Medium)	Manipur	9.78	10/97	D
29.	Upper Ianth (Med) (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right bank)	Orissa	43.50	11/97	A
30.	Kanupur Irrigation Project (Major)	Orissa	47.71	9/97	B
31.	Telengir (Med.) (Earthen) Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right bank)	Orissa	13.83	9/97	B
32.	Ret (Medium) Earthern Dam with Ogee type spillway, canal system on both sides of bank	Orissa	9.775	10/97	B
33.	Ib Irrigation Project Compsite Rockfill Dam with concrete spillway canals on both right & left banks, (Major)	Orissa	96.60	2/98	A
34.	Brutang Irr. Project (Earthen Dam with concrete spillway Link canal to Kuanaria Reservoir, Main Canal on right bank of Kuanaria reservoir) (Major)	Orissa	188.70	1/98	A

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Utilization of Yamuna water in Jhunjhunu Distt. (Major)	Rajasthan	273.00	1/98	A
36.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal (Major)-ERM	uttar Pradesh	64.86	8/97	A
37.	Kishan Dam (Major)	Uttar Pradesh	4099.00	7/97	C
38.	Modernisation of Agra Canal (Major)-ERM	Uttar Pradesh	45.83	3/98	A
	1998-99				
39.	Suddavagu (Medium)	Andhra Pradesh	56.48	3/99	A
40.	Yerravagu (Medium)	Andhra Pradesh	4.45	3/99	B
41.	Deopani Project (Medium)	Assam	29.77	10/98	A
42.	Kadwan Reservoir Project (Major)	Bihar	1111.14	5/98	A
43.	Kanhar Reservoir Project (Major)	Bihar	1015.76	11/98	A
44.	Changer Area Lift Irr. Scheme (Medium)	Himachal Pradesh	3.041	11/98	—
45.	Modernisation of New Pratap Canal (Medium) - ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	10.94	12/98	A
46.	Remodeling of Dab Canal, Gandabal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	5.40	7/98	A
47.	Singatalur (Huligudda) Lift Irrigation Scheme (Major)	Karnataka	123.00	7/98	A
48.	Gunjawani (Major)	Maharashtra	86.77	5/98	A
49.	Pothra Nalla (Medium)	Maharashtra	36.95	5/98	A
50.	Chikotra (Medium)	Maharashtra	89.38	6/98	A
51.	Labhan Sarad (Medium)	Maharashtra	5.72	10/98	A
52.	Jangam Hati Lift Irrigation (Medium)	Maharashtra	3.46	6/98	B
53.	Umadi (Major)	Maharashtra	212.03	—	Sent back in 11/98
54.	Tarali (Major)	Maharashtra	194.32		Sent back in 10/98
55.	D'zuza Irrigation Project (Medium)	Nagaland	11.50	5/98	B

1	2	3	4	5	6
56.	Upper Indravati Extension Project (Major)-ERM	Orissa	41.794	9/98	B
57.	Upper Kolab Extension Project (Major)-ERM	Orissa	19.28	9/98	B
58.	Samakoi (Med.)	Orissa	38.41	2/99	A
59.	Cheligada (Med.)	Orissa	43.05	1/99	A
60.	Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Project (Phase III)-Major	Punjab	1149.00	5/98	A
61.	Modernisation and extension of Badshahi Canal (Medium)-ERM	Punjab	11.77	8/98	A
62.	Kandi Canal Extension from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur (Major)-ERM	Punjab	29.52	9/98	B
63.	Modernisation of Gang Canal (Major)-ERM	Rajasthan	450.04	5/98	A
	1999-2000				
64.	Vamsadhara Phase-I of State II (Major)	Andhra Pradesh	555.55	11/99	A
65.	Vamsadhara Project Stage-II (Major)	Andhra Pradesh	275.74 (86-87 SOR)	11/99	A
66.	Peddavagu (Medium)	Andhra Pradesh	202.60	8/99	A
67.	Surampalem Res. Scheme (Medium)	Andhra Pradesh	4739	10/99	B
68.	North Koel Reservoir (Major)	Bihar	836.11	5/99	A
69.	Konar Irrigation (Major)	Bihar	350.551	7/99	A
70.	Balh Valley Left Bank Irrigation Project (Medium)	Himachal Pradesh	41.46	8/99	A
71.	Modernisation of Dadi Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	10.91	6/99	A
72.	Mod. of Kathua Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	12.00	9/99	A
73.	Mod. of Nandi Canal (Medium)-ERM	Jammu & Kashmir	6.61	5/99	A
74.	Mod. of Babul Canal (Medium)	Jammu & Kashmir	4.77	6/99	A
75.	Prakasha Barrage (Medium)	Maharashtra	93.60	4/99	A
76.	Jambre (Medium)	Maharashtra	55.72	7/99	A
77.	Sina Kolegaon (Major)	Maharashtra	40.17		Sent back in 1/2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
78.	Madhya Pradesh W.R.C. Project	Madhya Pradesh	441.90	1/2000	A
79.	Improvement to Salki Irrigation Project (Major)	Orissa	10.80	9/99	A
80.	Improvement to Taladanda Canal and Distributory No. 12 with its system. (Major)	Orissa	57.06	9/99	A
81.	Remodeling of channels Upper Bari Doab Canal system (Major)-ERM	Punjab	154.00	4/99	A
82.	Raising lining of Bhakra Main Canal (Major)-ERM	Punjab	—	6/99	B
83.	Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Ravi Project Unit-V)	Punjab	1400.19	2/2000	A
84.	Punjab Irrigation Project (Lining of Channels) under RIDF fund (Medium)	Punjab	49.02 (9/99 Price Level)	2/2000	A
85.	Modernisation of Bhakra Canal System (Major)	Rajasthan	310.56		Sent back in 10/99
86.	Utilisation of Yamuna Water in Churu District	Rajasthan	346.85		Sent back in 11/99
87.	Kanhar Irrigation (Major)	Uttar Pradesh	341.45	6/99	A
88.	Eastern Yamuna (Hatnikkund) Link Channel (Major)	Uttar Pradesh	—	9/99	B

- A - Under Correspondence.
- B - Accepted by Technical Advisory Committee subject to observations
- C - Deferred by Technical Advisory Committee.
- D - Pending with Planning Commission.

Statement-II

State-wise Details of Expenditure During 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of States	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	514.88	659.70	790.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.94	0.36	0.31

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	22.00	30.34	45.91
4.	Bihar	192.68	240.67	121.00
5.	Goa	31.00	22.94	20.54
6.	Gujarat	1063.19	1212.95	1347.32
7.	Haryana	201.29	214.75	342.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.22	10.11	12.25
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	17.11	21.41	73.52
10.	Karnataka	975.89	1308.29	1354.27
11.	Kerala	130.00	153.58	140.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	297.58	375.47	425.85
13.	Maharashtra	642.89	1606.24	2627.99
14.	Manipur	32.21	40.33	36.65
15.	Meghalaya	1.50	1.50	4.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.04	0.03
17.	Nagaland	0.30	0.80	0.04
18.	Orissa	327.74	519.98	602.81
19.	Punjab	75.84	51.15	58.62
20.	Rajasthan	287.79	386.95	436.74
21.	Sikkim	0.00	2.16	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	186.16	87.96	294.96
23.	Tripura	5.49	5.00	7.58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	415.66	473.87	470.00
25.	West Bengal	100.00	102.04	58.12
	Total States	5525.36	7528.60	9272.00
	Total U.T.s	1.46	0.51	1.12
	Grand Total	5526.82	7529.11	9973.12

Statement III

Number of Major & Medium Irrigation Projects Completed

S.No.	State	No. of Projects Completed	
		Major	Medium
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	17
7.	Haryana	—	—

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	4
10.	Karnataka	1	—
11.	Kerala	5	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	4
13.	Maharashtra	—	4
14.	Manipur	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	2	3
21.	Sikkim	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	2
23.	Tripura	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—
	Total	11	34

Note: The above details pertain to the year 1992-97 for which the latest statistics are available.

Indian Artisans Living Illegally in Kuwait and UAE

3101. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian artisans who were living illegally in Kuwait and U.A.E. sent back;

(b) the number of artisans still living there; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal migration of Indian artisans to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Indian Missions, approximately 2.60 lakh and 8.00 lakh Indian workers were working in Kuwait and UAE respectively. While no separate record of the Indian artisans in these countries is kept, majority of these workers belong to the un-skilled or semi-skilled category and had migrated to these countries for contractual employment on the basis of valid documents. It is not known how many of them are living illegally. However, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait had issued 1364 Emergency Travel Documents during the last two years and the Embassy of India in UAE had issued 228 Emergency Certificates during the last three years to the Indian nationals to facilitate their travel back to India. Some of the persons, to whom these emergency certificates were issued, were staying in these two countries illegally.

(c) The steps taken/being taken to prevent illegal emigration of Indian workers include scrutiny of the travel documents including the employment contracts by the Protectors of Emigrants, before grant of emigration clearance, and further scrutiny of these documents by the immigration authorities at the airports with the help of ultra violet lamp, magnifying glass and questionable document examiner.

State Governments have also been requested to issue instructions right up to the police station level to keep a strict vigil on the activities of the unauthorised agents.

[English]

Production of Cashewnut

3102. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and area under cultivation of cashewnut during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided to the States for the cultivation of cashewnut;

(c) the steps taken by the Union-Government to increase the production of cashewnut;

(d) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for re-plantation and productivity improvement of cashew;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The area and production of cashewnut in India is given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Cashew in India is being implemented under which assistance is being provided for new planting, replanting, adoption of improved production technology, intensive pest control, setting up of regional nurseries for production of quality planting material and training of farmers. The details of assistance provided to the States under the scheme during the Ninth Plan is as follows:

Year	Assistance provided (Rupees in crore)
1997-98	12.74
1998-99	15.40
1999-2000 (Outlay)	17.50

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal entitled 'Replanting and Productivity Improvement of Cashew in Kerala' with an outlay of Rs. 107.105 crores during November, 1997. The project proposal envisaged activities like area expansion, replanting, production and distribution of hybrid varieties of cashew, better management of young plantations, establishment of model gardens and training which were similar to the activities under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Cashew in India under which assistance was already being provided to the Government of Kerala. The State Government was informed accordingly in December, 1997. An amount of Rs. 1.84 crores have been provided to the Government of Kerala during the first two years of the IX Plan. During 1999-2000, an allocation of Rs. 0.86 crores has been provided for Kerala.

Statement

Area and Production of Cashew in India
(Para a of Unstarred Question No. 3102 for 15.03.2000)

Area in Ha., Prod. in tonnes

	State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	121000	60000	124000	50000	127000	80000
2.	Goa	51000	20000	52000	25000	53000	20000
3.	Karnataka	85000	52000	87000	35000	89000	40000
4.	Kerala	119000	134000	120000	100000	122000	130000
5.	Maharashtra	80000	80000	104000	60000	119000	85000
6.	Orissa	105000	40000	108000	45000	114000	50000
7.	Tamil Nadu	79000	30000	81000	30000	83000	35000
8.	West Bengal	9000	6000	9000	6000	9000	8000
9.	Others	10000	8000	16000	9000	16000	12000
	Total	659000	430000	701000	360000	732000	460000

Child Labour

3103. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child labour still prevalent in a large scale in our country;

(b) whether many countries refused to purchase certain products on the ground that the child labour was involved in the process; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government restrict employment of child in these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.26 million.

(b) In October 1997, the US Congress passed an Amendment, attached to the Appropriations Bill, prohibiting the importation of goods made with indentured or bonded child labour. In June 1999, President Clinton issued an Executive Order prohibiting articles made with forced child labour. He directed the US Department of Labour to publish in consultation with the Department of Treasury and State, within 120 days, a list of products identified by their country of origin to have been produced by forced child labour. The US Department of Labour has not yet brought out the list even though the dead line of October 10, 1999 has passed.

(c) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child related provisions of the laws. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

Socially/Educationally Backward Classes

3104. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the socially and educationally backward classes in different States and Union Territories have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted therefore;

(c) whether the State Government have submitted the lists to the Centre in that direction; and

(d) if not, steps being taken for early completion of the lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) As per provision under the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) examines requests for inclusion of any class of citizen as a backward class in the lists and hears complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists based on social, educational and economic aspect of backwardness and tender such advice to the Central Government, as it deems appropriate.

The Government of India decides cases for inclusion/amendment in the Central List of Backward Classes based on the advice tendered by the National Commission for Backward Classes and details thereof are notified from time to time.

So far as the State List of Backward Classes is concerned the matter is dealt by the State Government concerned.

Construction of Canal

3105. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to construct canal between Dadhpur and Nalwi in Haryana;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the canal is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Union Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Plight of Peasants

3106. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the peasants suffering in the non-irrigated and drought-prone areas in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any specific recommendations to improve the conditions of agriculture in those areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas for the benefit of farmers in rainfed areas. The approach and strategy of the Project is based on twin concepts of integrated watershed management and sustainable farming systems development. This is achieved through treating both arable/non-arable lands and natural drainage lines in the rainfed areas for in-situ moisture conservation associated with diversified farming systems approach for improving production and productivity. Other programmes implemented by the Government of India, under which assistance is given to States, for the development of agriculture in non-irrigated areas include the National Pulses Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme and the Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Coarse Cereals-based Cropping System Areas.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages for Bidi Workers

3107. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to protect the Bidi workers from the exploitation of the employers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any minimum wage has been fixed for the Bidi workers for making Bidis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government have enacted the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 to protect the interests of beedi workers. This Act is being implemented by the State Governments. Rules have also been framed under this Act to ensure proper implementation of various provisions.

Further, Government are implementing various schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education, Recreation and Social Security under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, for the welfare of beedi workers and their dependants.

(c) and (d) State Governments, who are the appropriate Governments for the fixation and revision of minimum wages for the workers employed in Beedi Industry under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have fixed rates for making beedies in their respective States. The rates currently prevailing in the concerned States are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Minimum Wage Rate for rolling Beedis (Rs. per thousand beedis rolled)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45.65
2.	Assam	40.80
3.	Bihar	41.81
4.	Gujarat	64.80
5.	Karnataka	53.23
6.	Kerala	60.96
7.	Madhya Pradesh	32.42
8.	Rajasthan	34.50
9.	Maharashtra	39.00
10.	Orissa	42.50
11.	Tripura	29.00
12.	Tamil Nadu	37.68
13.	Uttar Pradesh	59.62
14.	West Bengal	61.62

[English]

Captive Power Plant

3108. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of power in each public sector steel plants;

(b) the sources from where power to each steel plant is met;

(c) whether any steel plant has set up its captive power plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) (1) Power requirement of

integrated steel plants of SAIL during the year 1998-99 has been as follows:

(All figures in average MW)

S.No.	Plant	Power Requirement
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant	221.44
2.	Durgapur Steel Plant*	107.87
3.	Rourkela Steel Plant	176.60
4.	Bokaro Steel Plant	249.76
5.	IISCO	25.74

*including Alloy Steel Plant

(2) The total annual requirement of power of Vizag Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) at full capacity is 220 MW.

(b) The sources of power supply for these steel plants are as follows:

S.No.	Plant	Sources of Power
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	Captive and MPEB
2.	Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	Captive and DVC
3.	Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	Captive and WESCO
4.	Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	Captive and DVC
5.	IISCO	Captive and DVC
6.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam	Captive and A.P. Transco

(c) As above integrated Steel plants have their captive power plants.

(d) The details of the capitve power plants of these steel plants are as given below:

(MW)

S.No.	Plan	Acheivable Capacity
1.	BSP	104
2.	DSP	135
3.	RSP	190
4.	BSL	240
5.	IISCO	25
6.	(VSP (RINL)	247.5**+39@

** installed capacity
@auxiliary generation capacity

[Translation]

Purulia Arms Drop Case

3109. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have received any request from Government of Russia to minimise the period of life imprisonment of four Russian citizens in Purulia arms drop case;

(b) whether similar request has also been received from the Government of U.K.; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In their interaction with the Russian authorities, Government have maintained that the judiciary in India is independent and that the law takes its own course.

[English]

C.A.T. Award

3110. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal has given any Arbitration Award with regard to the implementation of revised pay scale of Rs. 5000-8000 to Grade 'D' stenographers after the report submitted by Fifth Pay Commission; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government on the Central Administrative Tribunal Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Central Administrative Tribunal has not given any Award with regard to revision of Pay scale of Rs. 5000-8000 to Stenographers Grade 'D'. However, the Board of Arbitration in CA No. 11 of 1992 has accepted the

demand of revision of pay scales of Steno Grade 'D' of CSSS vide its order dated 30.07.1998. Owing to implications on cadres similarly placed, Government has not found it feasible to accept the Award. In accordance with the accepted procedure of the JCM Scheme, a resolution of this is being placed in the Parliament.

Production of Prawn

3111. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that super cyclone in Orissa has doubled the Prawn yield;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the Prawn culture in order to export the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Orissa, there is no information regarding doubling of shirmp production due to cyclone. However, upwelling arising out of cyclonic conditions may result in increased production of fin and shell fishes, which can only be known after a certain interval of time.

(c) The efforts made by the Government to boost Prawn culture for increased export inter alia include:

(i) Development of scientific shrimp farming through Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies/Fish Farmers Development Agencies and providing package of technical, financial and extension support to prawn farmers;

(ii) humen resource development by establishing demonstration-cum-training centres;

(iii) issue of guidelines outlining measures for development and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices.

(iv) regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas in an eco-friendly manner by setting up an Aquaculture Authority under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and

(v) implementation of a World Bank Project on Shrimp & Fish Culture to develop an area of about 798 hectares in the States of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh to promote shrimp farming.

[Translation]

Nuclear Power Projects

3112. SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of nuclear power stations in operation in the country at present;

(b) the number of stations set up during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of national income spent on the maintenance of these stations during the last three years, year-wise till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Presently there are 5 Nuclear Power Stations (comprising of 2 units at each stations) with a total installed capacity of 1840 MWe in commercial operation in the country.

(b) The details of Atomic Power Stations set up during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Station	Capacity
1999	*Kaiga Atomic Power Station - Unit-2	220 MWe
2000	**Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-Unit-3	220 MWe

*Achieved criticality on 24.9.1999 and synchronised to the grid on 2.12.99.
** Achieved criticality on 24.12.1999.

(c) The amount spent towards maintenance of these stations during the last 3 years are as follows (in crores)

1996-97	1158.73
1997-98	1358.66
1998-99	1642.52

[English]

Industrial Training Centres

3113. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITC's who have sought recognition of National Council of Vocational Training State wise during last one year; and

(b) the reasons for not giving recognition for the Industrial Training Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The number of Industrial Training Centres (private) which have sought affiliation is 1045.

The total number of Industrial Training Centres which have not been granted affiliation is 25.

The total number of Inspection Reports pending is 27.

The State-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

Not fulfilling the norms laid down by National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) in terms of infrastructure (*i.e.* space, tools, equipment and machinery, power supply and instructional staff) required for the trades/units for which affiliation was sought are the reasons for not according affiliation.

Statement

Statewise Details of Industrial Training Centres (Private) Sought Affiliation to National Council for Vocational Training

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Institutes sought affiliation	No. of Institutes pending	Not Recommended for affiliation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	168	12	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	13	—	—
5.	Goa	2	—	—
6.	Gujarat	6	3	—
7.	Haryana	3	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—
9.	J&K	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	119	8	11
11.	Kerala	135	—	1
12.	M.P.	37	1	—
13.	Maharashtra	247	—	3
14.	Manipur	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	2	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Orissa	56	—	2
19.	Punjab	7	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	2	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	224	—	5
23.	Tripura	—	—	—
24.	U.P.	17	—	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—
26.	A&N Islands	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
28.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
29.	D&N Haveli	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	6	3	—
31.	Lakshadweep	--	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
	Total	1045	27	25

Modernisation of Steel Plant

3114. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fresh international bids are being called for the modernisation of steel plant of the Burnpur based Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Government has approved a proposal to convert Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) into a Joint Venture (JV) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) holding minority stake. Action plan for the purpose has not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Investment of Multinational Companies

3115. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow the multinational companies and non-resident Indians to invest in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Government do not at present propose to allow the multinational companies and non-resident Indians to invest in the agriculture sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Teesta Barrage

3116. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost, the present status and funds released by the Union Government and spent by the State Government of West Bengal alongwith its share in completion of Teesta Barrage during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount likely to be spent on this project during next two years;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional assistance under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for early completion of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) At present, first sub-stage of stage-I of Phase-I of Teesta Barrage Project with the latest estimated cost of Rs. 1177 crore is under construction. An expenditure of Rs. 781.78 crore has been made on the project upto March, 1999, of which Rs. 77.85 crore, Rs. 64.67 crore and Rs. 44.00 crore were spent during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. The Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) amounting to Rs. 5 crore during 1996-97, Rs. 15 crore during 1997-98, Rs. 10 crore during 1998-99 and Rs. 9.5 crore during 1999-2000 has been provided to this project by the Union Government. The assistance under AIBP is linked with the budget provision and the expenditure made by the State Government on the project. The amount likely to be spent during the next two years and time for completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[Translation]

Development of Fisheries

3117. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes implemented for development of fishery in India during the last three years;

(b) the funds made available to each State by the Union Government during the last three years, till date;

(c) the amount actually utilized by each State Government during the above period;

(d) whether the State Governments have submitted proposal for additional funds during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by the Government of India, inter alia for development of fisheries and aquaculture:

1. Integrated Coastal Aquaculture.
2. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries through (a) Motorization of Traditional Crafts and (b) Reimbursement of Central excise duty on HSD Oil purchased by mechanised fishing boats of length below 20 meter.
3. Providing Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing Centres.
4. Development of Freshwater Aquaculture.
5. National Welfare of Fishermen.
6. Training and Extension.

The details of funds released during the last three years and the amount utilised by the States and funds released to States during 1999-2000 till February, 2000 in respect of the above referred schemes are given in Statements-I to VI attached.

(d) and (e) Additional funds, if required by States, are made available to them depending on the physical and financial progress with regard to the funds already made available to them.

Statement-I

Releases made and Expenditure Reported by the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Coastal Aquaculture During 1996-97 to 1998-1999 and Releases Till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48.78	48.78	—	—	Nil	Nil	—
2.	Goa	13.06	13.06	2.00	N.A.	2.00	2.00	1.00
3.	Gujarat	6.50	6.50	7.50	14.84	20.22	19.50	13.28
4.	Karnataka	2.00	2.00	16.50	10.30	12.88	15.85	14.34
5.	Kerala	45.00	45.00	45.00	N.A.	25.47	—	60.53
6.	Maharashtra	21.17	21.17	Nil	12.93	23.07	19.72	16.49
7.	Orissa	25.05	25.05	3.07	27.19	16.36	33.65	41.55
8.	West Bengal	61.13	61.13	—	50.00	—	11.13	44.00
9.	A&N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	0.43	—
	Total	222.69	222.69	74.07	115.26	100.00	102.28	195.19

NA—Not Available: Expenditure also includes the funds released during the previous year(s)

Statement-II

Releases made and Expenditure Reported by the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries during 1996-97 to 1998-1999 and Releases till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80.00	92.00	115.00	200.00	15.00	N.A.	—
2.	Goa	12.00	10.00	68.45	73.45	21.41	21.41	20.84
3.	Gujarat	400.00	323.00	517.00	N.A.	489.15	500.00	445.50
4.	Karnataka	82.00	12.00	96.85	158.85	130.42	N.A.	97.00
5.	Kerala	25.00	16.00	25.00	N.A.	—	—	—
6.	Maharashtra	849.00	405.00	343.4	657.56	332.00	309.57	220.37
7.	Orissa	24.00	40.00	55.96	138.00	—	4.00	82.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	75.00	—	68.00	187.00	62.00	40.00	—
9.	West Bengal	160.00	—	—	N.A.	—	N.A.	—
10.	A&N Islands	1.00	—	7.20	0.12	—	—	—
11.	Daman & Diu	6.00	—	—	13.92	7.50	1.08	—
12.	Lakshadweep	1.00	—	—	0.45	0.50	1.05	—
13.	Pondicherry	10.00	—	—	N.A.	6.00	N.A.	—
	Total	1725.00	898.00	1296.90	1429.35	1063.98	877.11	865.71

NA—Not Available: Expenditure also included the funds released during the previous year(s)

Statement-III

Releases made and Expenditure Projected by the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Facilities Harbour at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing Centres during 1996-97 and 1998-1999 and Releases Till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.23	Nil	28.77	50.00	—	—	—
2.	Goa	10.00	Nil	34.63	10.24	—	5.27	—
3.	Gujarat	304.37	182.42	10.66	51.73	540.90	750.58	203.60
4.	Karnataka	Nil	15.69	274.30	117.20	300.00	470.44	55.85
5.	Kerala	721.35	1014.29	541.63	226.36	18.40	501.27	—
6.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	611.75	—	—	366.75	—
7.	Orissa	193.05	132.03	100.00	143.43	—	53.76	—
8.	Tamil nadu	Nil	21.55	Nil	35.45	—	—	—
9.	West Bengal	Nil	108.48	196.26	162.10	—	100.00	—
10.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	90.00	Nil	—	—	—
11.	Pondicherry	100.00	36.39	Nil	Nil	100.00	110.00	—
	Total:	1350.00	1510.85	1888.00	796.51	959.30	2358.07	259.45

NA- Not Available: Expenditure also includes the funds released during the previous year(s)

Statement-IV

Releases made and Expenditure Reported by the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Freshwater Aquaculture during 1996-97 to 1998-1999 and Releases Till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44.00	N.A.	25.00	—	Nil	Nil	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26.00	26.00	24.00	24.00	Nil	Nil	8.00
3.	Assam	46.00	—	38.44	—	Nil	—	—
4.	Bihar	Nil	—	114.00	—	Nil	25.60	70.11
5.	Gujarat	17.00	7.25	51.00	11.41	Nil	14.02	—
6.	Haryana	28.00	22.67	25.39	26.35	20.00	26.17	38.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	2.38	3.00	3.49	15.00	16.01	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.00	2.68	11.00	—	Nil	N.A.	—
9.	Karnataka	12.00	1.00	42.57	—	30.00	30.00	—
10.	Kerala	19.00	19.00	40.00	40.00	Nil	N.A.	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	141.85	227.00	152.81	200.00	159.35	52.47
12.	Maharashtra	26.00	26.00	78.91	33.61	59.29	104.60	40.00
13.	Manipur	16.00	26.00	22.74	22.74	Ni.	6.74	—
14.	Meghalaya	2.00	88.00	35.60	—	Nil	N.A.	—
15.	Mizoram	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.50	10.00	10.00	—
16.	Nagaland	105.00	60.00	40.00	—	60.00	40.00	26.77
17.	Orissa	160.00	75.66	120.00	45.85	Nil	166.27	—
18.	Punjab	42.00	27.41	50.00	—	34.00	64.33	—
19.	Rajasthan	2.00	—	15.00	19.31	Nil	N.a.	—
20.	Sikkim	2.00	2.77	5.00	—	Nil	N.A.	3.50
21.	Tamil Nadu	13.00	—	16.25	—	Nil	13.90	—
22.	Tripura	16.00	17.07	16.00	16.78	8.90	7.89	31.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	195.00	220.82	259.28	—	120.00	227.09	213.34
24.	West Bengal	210.00	260.00	222.56	—	240.81	240.81	140.25
25.	Pondicherry	Nil	2.11	2.00	3.16	Nil	N.A.	—
	Total	1095.00	1038.67	1494.24	409.01	798.00	1152.98	623.39

NA - Not Available: Expenditure also includes the funds released during the previous year(s)

Statement-V

Releases Made and Expenditure Reported by the States Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Welfare of Fishermen During 1996-97 to 1998-99 and Releases Till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97.52	109.52	112.91	N.A.	Nil	Nil	—
2.	Assam	9.98	6.95	—	N.A.	Nil	Nil	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Bihar	19.08	1.81	7.00	N.A.	Nil	Nil	10.00
4.	Goa	—	—	0.03	0.03	Nil	Nil	—
5.	Gujarat	26.67	77.93	22.25	N.A.	30.00	30.00	93.90
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	0.22	0.28	0.28	—	—	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.62	18.71	15.36	11.15	Nil	Nil	26.25
8.	Karnataka	63.60	124.48	168.62	N.A.	80.57	80.57	81.00
9.	Kerala	392.22	440.90	356.39	351.52	365.13	399.13	367.37
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6.63	9.88	3.43	N.A.	Nil	1.80	6.80
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	25.00	23.43	18.56	Nil	N.A.	—
12.	Manipur	0.19	13.06	0.14	0.14	14.85	N.A.	—
13.	Orissa	2.61	2.61	7.22	23.14	12.60	N.A.	—
14.	Rajasthan	0.09	Nil	Nil	N.A.	Nil	Nil	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	754.47	783.47	58.95	N.A.	463.79	591.79	824.77
16.	Tripura	17.72	18.65	11.02	0.30	7.15	10.72	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	25.30	21.50	74.57	41.50	15.00	56.50	120.00
18.	West Bengal	34.67	34.67	45.14	9.14	Nil	18.00	31.00
19.	A&N Islands	0.59	0.58	0.96	0.39	0.90	1.26	—
20.	Daman & Diu	41.74	Nil	1.74	N.A.	Nil	30.25	—
21.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.04	0.10	0.10	—	—	—
22.	Pondicherry	96.00	69.35	97.54	N.A.	30.00	38.90	—
	Total:	1589.84	1759.33	1507.08	456.25	1019.99	1258.92	1561.09

NA - Not Available : Expenditure also includes the funds released during the previous year(s)

Statement-VI

Releases Made and Expenditure Reported by the States Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Training and Extension During 1996-97 to 1998-1999 and Releases Till Date

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 till Feb., 2000
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.43	4.00	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	3.33	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Bihar	—	—	5.00	—	—	—	—
4.	Goa	—	—	3.59	—	—	—	—
5.	Gujarat	—	—	0.44	0.65	0.93	—	—
6.	Haryana	0.20	—	—	—	—	3.68	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1.63	2.56	1.43	3.06	2.80	17.50
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1.67	3.81	2.80	—	15.20
9.	Karnataka	—	2.00	—	—	0.76	—	—
10.	Kerala	17.61	—	3.00	17.51	1.61	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2.00	3.00	0.50	2.00	—	1.00	—
12.	Manipur	—	—	2.50	4.00	—	2.50	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	0.95	—	—	3.42	—	—
14.	Mizoram	—	2.00	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Nagaland	—	—	1.12	—	3.33	3.33	9.15
16.	Orissa	—	—	1.50	2.79	1.71	—	—
17.	Punjab	—	2.00	3.69	—	4.02	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	—	0.50	0.39	0.42	—	0.50	2.10
19.	Tamil Nadu	2.50	—	6.23	—	—	—	—
20.	Tripura	0.52	3.00	1.28	0.25	—	0.68	9.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1.08	—	0.50	4.80	0.52	—	—
22.	West Bengal	—	1.81	—	—	1.12	—	17.25
23.	A&N Islands	—	—	0.73	—	0.35	0.10	—
	Total:	24.34	20.89	34.70	37.93	26.69	14.59	70.20

Expenditure also includes the funds released during the previous year(s)

[English]

Stock of Milk Powder

3118. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has assisted Karnataka to sell the unsold stock of milk powder;

(b) if so, the quantity of milk powder sold by this intervention;

(c) the worth of unsold stock of milk powder at present with Karnataka; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure early clearance of old stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Mother Dairy, Delhi of the National Dairy Development Board has offered to purchase Skimmed Milk Powder from Karnataka.

(b) to (d) The closing stock at present is 2200 Metric Tonnes (MT). Out of the total present stock, the Karnataka

Milk Federation (KMF) Dairies would need 1200 MT. SMP for reconstitution during the ensuing summer months. For the balance quantity, negotiations are being done with Mother Dairy, Delhi and Delhi Milk Scheme.

Livestock and Dairy Development

3119. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount to be allocated by the Union Government for each sponsored scheme for livestock and Dairy Development during Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): The Government have been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for promotion of livestock and Dairy Sectors. These schemes are implemented in all the States and U.Ts. Under these Schemes assistance is provided to the States/U.Ts on the basis of viable proposals of the State Governments.

A Statement indicating the Scheme-wise allocation during the 9th Five Year Plan is attached.

Statement

Ninth Plan Allocation for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Allocation during Ninth Five Year Plan
	A.H. Sector	
1.	Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme	320.00
2.	National Bull Production Programme	82.20
3.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	21.05
4.	Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development	44.00
5.	Assistance to States for Poultry/Duck Farms	16.20
6.	Assistance to States for Fodder Development	50.00
7.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	119.00
8.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	48.00
9.	Improvement of Slaughter Houses/Carcass Utilisation Centre	55.00
10.	Integrated Sample Surveys for Estimation of Production of Livestock Products	20.00
11.	Assistance to States for Preservation and Development of Pack Animals.	5.00
	Dairy Development	
12.	Integrated Dairy Development Projects in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas	250.00

Dairy Co-operatives

3120. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government regarding problems being faced by the Dairy Co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Union Government to solve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No memorandum has been received by the

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying regarding problems being faced by the Dairy Co-operatives. However a memorandum has been received from Central Executive Committee (CEC), a policy making body of Indian Dairy Association seeking concessions in terms of excise duty, custom duty etc. on various items related to Dairy Industry.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Lac Production

3121. CH. TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the production of lac in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following strategies are being adopted to increase the production of lac in the country:

(i) Technology development for increasing the lac productivity.

(ii) Technology development of broodlac production.

(iii) Intensification of transfer of technology activities.

(iv) Broadening of area of lac cultivation through linkages with various Government and non-Government organisations.

(v) Increasing the domestic consumption of lac through value addition and product diversification thereby increasing the demand for lac.

State-wise production of lac during the past three years is as under:

State	Production in M.T. (1996-97 to 1998-99)
Bihar	25,146
Madhya Pradesh	10,653
West Bengal	7,178
Maharashtra	1,072
Uttar Pradesh	1,900
Others	210
Total	46,159

[Translation]

NRIs Gift for Kargil Soldiers

3122. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Consul-General in Chicago and Indian Ambassador in Washington have refused to take gifts for Kargil Soldiers from the NRIs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to all Indian Embassies/High Commissions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Indian Consul General in Chicago and Indian Ambassador in Washington have not refused to receive gifts for Kargil soldiers from the NRIs. Throughout the Kargil crisis, the Embassy and Consulate remained in close contact with the Indian community through the various associations, to disseminate information and co-ordinate action regarding receipt and despatch of contributions for families of Kargil soldiers.

(c) to (e) Standard Government policy in times of national crisis is not to solicit help but accept voluntary contributions. In keeping with this policy, our Embassies and Consulates abroad accepted contributions from Non-resident Indians for Kargil soldiers. These were passed on to designated recipients such as Prime Minister's Relief Fund, the National Defence Fund and the Army Central Welfare Fund as soon as they were received.

[English]

Maskinala Medium Irrigation Project

3123. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maskinala Medium Irrigation project is being constructed in the State of Karnataka with the Central Assistance;

(b) if so, the estimated cost, irrigation potential alongwith the present status of the project;

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government and spent by the State Government on the project so far; and

(d) the expected time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka have taken-up works of Makinala Medium Irrigation Project from State Plan funds and with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assistance. An expenditure of Rs. 25.35 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.1999 against the latest estimated cost of Rs. 29.95 crore. The project on completion will provide irrigation to an area of 2830 Hectares.

(d) The project is expected to be completed by 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Per-Capita Availability of Water

3124. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita availability of water in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Union Government to create more water resources in the country to increase water availability for the benefits of irrigation, domestic, industrial and other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Assessment of average annual availability of water resources potential in the country has been made river basin-wise. A Statement showing per capita water availability of River Basins in the country is enlcosed.

(b) Water resources projects are conceived, planned and executed by the State Governments from their plan funds. Since most of the run off is available in the rivers during the Monsoon period, storages are necessary for utilising the water during non-monsoon months. A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM has been created by construction of large dams and medium projects upto 1995 including about 3 BCM capacity created by medium and small dams. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCM are under planning.

Government of India is also promoting Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water hervesting under the Sector Reform Project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementation agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

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-Brahmaputra-Meghna System (includes Ganga & Brahmaputra & Barak)	109.76	1110.62	206.07	392.04	18,061	3358.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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-Baitarni	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	—	10.48	1,052	1051.53
Sabarmati	2.17	3.81	—	10.58	360	360.11
Narmada	9.88	45.64	10.80	14.70	3,109	3839.46
Tapi	6.51	14.88	8.27	14.80	1,007	1564.19
West Flowing Rivers	—	—	28.90	—	—	—
a. Tapi to Tadri	5.59	87.41	—	25.80	3,383	3387.98
b. Tadri to Kanyakumari	5.62	113.53	—	32.60	3,480	3482.52
c. Kutch and Saurashtra Incl. Luni	32.19	15.10	—	22.10	683	683.26
East Flowing Rivers	—	—	18.20	—	—	—
a. Mahanadi to Godavari	8.66	22.52	—	23.60	953	954.24
b. Pennar to Kanyakumari	10.01	16.46	—	45.20	366	364.16
Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	6	—	—	7.10	—	—
Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	3.63	31.00	—	2.10	14,623	—

[English]

Cattle and Buffalo Breed

3125. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Comprehensive National Project on Cattle and Buffalo breeding;

(b) whether a total outlay of Rs. 402 crores has been envisaged for the above project during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project is yet to be approved by the Government. Salient features of the proposal are:

(i) merger of ongoing schemes Extension of Frozen Semen Technology, Progeny Testing Programme and National Bull Production Programme;

(ii) progressively bringing all breedable bovines under coverage of quality breeding services, either by artificial insemination or natural service and door step delivery of A.I. Services;

(iii) conservation of indigenous breeds;

(iv) development of synergies among various agencies involved in cattle and buffalo breeding;

(v) establish appropriate institutional structures to produce and supply high quality breeding inputs and services;

(vi) setting up standards for bulls, semen, semen laboratories and A.I. services to guarantee quality assurance;

(vii) training and retraining programme for inseminators and professionals;

(viii) total allocation for the scheme is likely to be modified depending on the number of years available for implementing the programmes during Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

Global Terrorism

3126. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with the foreign countries for setting up Joint Working Group to combating the global menace of terrorism;

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

(c) the time by which these groups are likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) (i) India and USA have established a Joint Working Group to intensify their cooperation in combating terrorism. The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism, that may be invoked to justify them. The Indian Government agreed to the US offer of Anti-terrorism Assistance programmes, the specifics to be determined in future visits. The group also decided to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts in April to discuss the Indian-proposed UN Terrorism Convention. The Indian side shared with the US side our information and assessment relating to the nature and origin of cross-border terrorism in India and to the identity of individuals and agencies involved in the hijacking of IC-814. The two sides agreed to intensify their joint cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814 are brought to justice, as part of their joint efforts to combat international terrorism. The two countries agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approaches and action.

(ii) There is an Indo-German Working Group on Terrorism, the first meeting of which was held in Meckenheim, Bonn on September 15-17, 1998. The meeting discussed issues relating to the kidnapping of foreigners in Kashmir in July 1995, terrorists groups based both in India and Germany and the external funding of terrorist groups. No formal agreement establishing this joint working group has, however, been signed.

(iii) An India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management (JWG) was set up in June 1997 to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border for activities directed against either country by terrorist and other elements. Three meetings of the JWG have been held so far, the latest on February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. Concrete measures and cooperation on security issues are discussed, reviewed and followed up at these meetings.

(iv) India and Bangladesh have been regularly discussing various security related matters including terrorism at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries, including, inter alia, the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group. The sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group was held in January, 2000.

(v) Under the provisions of an agreement signed in January 1994 between India and Myanmar, the two countries periodically hold India-Myanmar national-level and India-Myanmar sectoral-level meetings at the level of Joint Secretary and Home Secretary respectively. At these meetings, issues pertaining to cooperation in the area of control of cross-border insurgency are discussed. The last sectoral-level meeting was held in November 1999 and the last national-level meeting was held in July 1999.

Subsidy for Fertilizers

3127. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount of subsidy provided by the Union Government for Fertilizers and for Family Bio-Gas Plants during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Government of India released Rs. 7,578 crore during 1996-97, Rs. 9,918 crore during 1997-98 and Rs. 11,387 crore during 1998-99 as subsidy on various fertilizers. Grants-in-aid, mainly on account of Central Subsidy to State Governments and nodal agencies amounting to Rs. 49.09 crore, Rs. 54.90 crore and Rs. 54.62 crore were released during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, respectively under the Central Sector Scheme of National Project on Bio-Gas Development catering to family size biogas plants.

[English]

Task Force

3128. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "11 Member task force set up" appearing in 'The Pioner' dated February 17, 2000;

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

(c) the composition of the task force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) A 13 Member Task Force has been set up for India's Development as a Knowledge Society.

(c) The Composition of the Task Force is as under:

1.	Shri K.C. Pant Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission	Chairman
2.	Dr. K. Venkatasubramanian, (Convenor) Member, Planning Commission	Member
3.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Principle Scientific Adviser to The Government of India.	Member
4.	Prof. R.A. Mashelkar Director General, Council for Scientific & Industrial Research	Member
5.	Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Infosys Technologies Ltd., 44, Electronics City, Hosur Road, Bangalore-561 229.	Member
6.	Professor Ashok Parthasarathi Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.	Member
7.	Dr. Hari Gautam Chairman, University Grants Commission	Member
8.	Shri K.K. Baksi Principal Adviser (Education), Planning Commission	Member
9.	Prof. J.S. Rajput, Director, NCERT	Member

10.	Dr. N. Vijayaditya Dy. Director General (Acting DG), National Informatics Centre (NIC)	Member
11.	Shri M.K. Kaw, Secretary, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development	Member
12.	Dr. (Smt.) Manju Sharma, Secretary, Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.	Member
13.	Dr. V.P. Garg Joint Adviser (Education) Planning Commission.	Member- Secretary

(d) As per Terms of Reference, the Task Force shall submit its report to the Planning Commission within six months of its constitution.

Rural Industrialisation

3129. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch national programme for rural industrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has suggested some measures for the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1999-2000. The programme aims at developing 100 rural industrial clusters every year for five years. It is basically a bank finance driven programme wherein guidance and support is provided by Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and State Governments. KVIC has taken up 50 clusters for development and will extend its own financial assistance to the extent provided for under the existing norms of its on going schemes.

[Translation]

Loss Suffered by H.S.C.L.

3130. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total turnover of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited during the each of the last three years and in current year;

(b) whether the H.S.C.L. is running under heavy loss;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to make this unit profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The total turnover of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) during the last three years and in current year are as noted below:

Year	Rs. in crore
1996-97	414.69
1997-98	321.76
1998-99	222.77
April, 1999-Feb., 2000 (Provisional)	

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. HSCL has been running under heavy losses due to following reasons:

(i) Excessive manpower and consequently high cost of wages;

(ii) Operational losses and impasse in Libyan works;

(iii) Market sluggishness, especially in the steel sector; and

(iv) Lack of adequate orders from PSU steel plants.

(d) On 6.7.1999, CCEA has approved the Financial Restructuring-cum-Financial Assistance Package for revival of HSCL comprising conversion of loan into equity, writing off of loans and interest accrued and due, capital restructuring, rationalisation of manpower through VRS and financial assistance. Salient features of CCEA are as follows:

(i) Conversion of plan loans as on 31.3.99 into equity: Rs. 97.10 crores;

(ii) Grant of moratorium on repayment of and interest holiday on all Government of India (GOI) loans upto 31.3.99 for 10 years;

(iiii) Waiver of interest accrued and outstanding on all GOI loans as on 31.3.99 amounting to around Rs. 975.17 crore;

(iv) Grant of a Non-Plan loan of Rs. 79.33 crore with moratorium on repayment and interest holiday for 5 years subject to review at the end of five years. This non plan loan will be utilised by HSCL for payment of statutory dues only;

(v) Exemption from payment of corporate tax for the financial year 1999-2000 on account of windfall profits due to waiver of interest on loans;

(vi) Continuance of Government Guarantee for Rs. 12 crore cash credit and Rs. 80 crore bank guarantee facilities, with waiver of guarantee commission of 1%; and

(vii) Government will provide guarantee and full interest subsidy therefor for raising Rs. 318.36 crore from Banks during the three year *i.e.* 1999-2000 to 2001-02 for separating 2000 employees per year.

It is expected that the implementation of the above package will make the unit profitable.

[English]

Evaluation of Central Sponsored Schemes

3131. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested to the Government for independent evaluation of Central Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the norms adopted by the Government for assessing the development of Central Sponsored Scheme at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Independent evaluation of Centrally sponsored schemes is already being undertaken through several agencies. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission also undertakes independent evaluation studies of selected programmes/schemes (including Centrally Sponsored Schemes).

(c) The concerned Central Ministries/Departments suggest the norms to the PEO and other evaluating agencies for conducting such studies. These norms vary from Scheme to Scheme.

Minimum Needs Programme

3132. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to the State of Manipur under the Minimum Needs Programme during the last three years; and

(b) the amount actually released and utilised during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) allocated and released to Manipur, by the Union Government and the amount actually utilized by the State Government during the last three years under the Basic Minimum Services, which has replaced the earlier Minimum Needs Programme, are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation	Released	Utilisation
1997-98	44.30	44.30	44.30
1998-99	64.30	64.30	64.30
1999-2000	72.64	64.33 (as on 10.03.2000)	28.29 (as on 30.09.99)

Experts Deputed Abroad

3133. SHRI ANANDA MOHAN BISWAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number experts are being deputed broad to take foreign assignments under Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) and bilateral assignments to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America;

(b) if so, the number of such experts deputed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) It is true that experts are deputed to foreign assignments under Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) and bilateral assignment to developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The number of experts sent abroad during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 10.3.2000) has been as follows:

1997-98	9
1998-99	16
1999-2000	35

As regards nomination of experts on bilateral assignments, the Department of Personnel and Training nominated 50 experts to the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America during the years 1997-2000 (upto 10.3.2000). The year-wise break-up is as under:

1997-98	22
1998-99	15
1999-2000	13

The State Governments have been authorised vide letter No. 1/17/86- FAS, dated the 31st July, 1987, of Department of Personnel & Training to grant clearances to experts on bilateral assignments, in respect of their employees, at their level. Therefore, figures pertaining to the experts nominated by the State Governments are, not maintained in the Department of Personnel & Training.

(c) When a requisition is received from a foreign Government for nomination of an expert, the data-base is accessed for drawing the names of experts meeting the requirements, if available, and if not, the vacancy is circulated inviting applications/nominations of eligible experts. Experts meeting the requirements are considered for nomination. The data-base on experts maintained by the Department of Personnel and Training is based on the experience profile of the experts only. Therefore, the information on the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among those nominated, is neither available nor maintained in the Department of Personnel and Training.

[Translation]

Women Labourers

3134. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women labourers in the country at present particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of women labourers employed in the hazardous industries out of them;

(c) whether reproductory organs of the women are badly affected by constantly working in these hazardous industries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to put a ban on employing women labourers in these hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to 1991 census, the total female work force in the country, including women labourers is 8,97,67,563. State-wise numbers of these workers are indicated in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) There are special protective provisions prohibiting/regulating the working conditions of women workers in hazardous industries/areas in various statutes. This includes the Factories Act, 1948 and Model Rules framed thereunder which prohibit employent of women workers in dangerous processes/operations and the Mines

Act, 1952, which prohibits employment of women workers below ground. No specific study has been conducted to assess whether reproductory organs of women are badly affected as a result of being employed in hazardous industries.

Statement

State-wise Number of Female Workers (1991 Census)

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Workers
1	2	3
	INDIA	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	3,14,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

Note: Census was not held in Jammu and Kashmir in 1991.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Programme

3135. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 projects reports for Rs. 3278 crores were submitted by the State Government of Kerala to the Union Government, under the Centrally sponsored programme for providing assistance for taking up anti-erosion works in the State;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the clearance to the projects and the funds likely to be released to the Kerala Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has submitted 20 schemes costing Rs. 32.78 crore to the Union Government in February, 2000 seeking assistance under centrally sponsored programme for implementation of anti river erosion works in the State. A proposal of centrally sponsored programme *viz;* "Critical anti erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States" has been referred to Planning Commission for approval. The issue of rendering fund/assistance is dependent on the approval of the proposal by Planning Commission as well as techno economic viability of the scheme.

Allocation of Funds

3136. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC & ST Parliamentarians have demanded allocation of funds for development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes on proportionate to their population;

(b) if so, action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs has been declining as compared to the other sectors/divisions of his Ministry in the recent past;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the funds demanded/allocated for the Scheduled Castes Development Division, Tribal Development Division, Physically Handicapped Division and Social Defence Division for the last three years and percentage thereof as compared to the total outlays and the funds actually utilized, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission. The Commission, however, did not find favour with the proposal on the ground that "population" alone cannot be taken as the sole criterion for allocation of funds for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

However, the following special programmes have been evolved for encouraging substantial allocation of resources for these Groups:

(i) Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes, which has been in operation since 1979-80 for supplementing/complementing the Central and the State Budget. In terms of this arrangement, population is the major criterion to assess the quantum of funds under various development sectors both at the Central and the State levels. 13 Central Ministries and 24 States/UTs are successfully implementing these two strategies.

(ii) "Special Central Assistance (SCA)" by Central Government as an additive to SCP and TSP budgets in the State Sector. Population is the major criterion for allocation of funds for this purpose.

(iii) Assistance under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for improving the infrastructural facilities in Tribal areas.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The table below will explain:

(Rs. in crores)

Allocation of funds	1996-97	1997-98	Increase over 1996-97	1998-99	Increase over 1997-98
SCs/STs	1134.68	1252.00	117.32	1352.00	100.00
Disabled	45.90	106.44	60.54	141.54	35.10
Social Defence	33.20	44.00	10.80	59.00	15.00

(e) Allocation of Funds (Last Three Years)

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Scheduled Castes Development Division		Tribal Development Division		Physically Handicapped Division		Social Defence Division	
	Allocation	% age of total outlay	Allocation	%age of total outlay	Allocation	% age of total outlay	Allocation	% age of total outlay
1996-97	691.18	53.37	443.50	34.24	45.90	3.54	33.20	2.56
1997-98	771.00	42.98	481.00	26.81	106.44	5.93	44.00	2.45
1998-99	776.00	38.92	576.00	28.89	141.54	7.10	59.00	2.96

Statements-I to XVII showing funds released to States/UTs under the schemes implemented by Scheduled Castes Development Division, Tribal Development Division, Physically Handicapped Division and Social Defence Division for the last three years are enclosed.

Statement-I

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	1996-97 Released	1997-98 Released	1998-99 Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2915.22	2680.13	3388.78
2.	Assam	163.52	142.18	596.66
3.	Bihar	2678.61	2808.20	3620.07
4.	Gujarat	278.90	1659.99	371.40
5.	Goa	2.09	3.83	2.72
6.	Haryana	520.00	546.41	741.77
7.	Himachal Pradesh	180.29	256.91	259.56
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	95.23	73.87	132.80
9.	Karnataka	1884.01	1389.35	1820.07
10.	Kerala	404.93	645.94	724.54
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1910.39	1945.24	2237.08
12.	Maharashtra	1448.87	1922.45	1673.92
13.	Manipur	5.11	6.58	10.62
14.	Orissa	1265.07	1925.47	2281.57
15.	Punjab	883.28	0	1119.74
16.	Rajasthan	1619.91	2279.81	2575.48
17.	Sikkim	3.39	4.44	4.03
18.	Tamil Nadu	2271.54	1756.90	3236.93
19.	Tripura	72.54	106.28	108.72
20.	Uttar Pradesh	5920.49	7646.66	7518.15
21.	West Bengal	2752.50	2848.78	3378.39
22.	Chandigarh	16.23	18.16	22.00
23.	Delhi	190.42	135.43	201.71
24.	Pondicherry	17.46	23.99	73.29
	Total	27500.00	30827.00	36100.00

Statement-II

State-wise and year-wise on release of funds from 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	256.48	396.50	1365.77
2.	Assam	11.92	15.37	
3.	Bihar	266.78	Nil	—
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	—
5.	Haryana	254.61	78.30	41.15
6.	Himachal Pradesh	128.04	34.88	143.22
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	68.98	34.73	—
8.	Karnataka	Nil	624.90	970.39
9.	Kerala	84.13	49.14	153.02
10.	Madhya Pradesh	34.39	25.47	4.77
11.	Maharashtra	647.08	1050.23	—
12.	Orissa	96.07	Nil	—
13.	Punjab	40.16	240.19	175.17
14.	Rajasthan	54.99	82.75	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	318.50	321.48	318.50
16.	Tripura	4.80	Nil	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	259.52	1120.58	1701.94
18.	West Bengal	107.78	Nil	1101.47
19.	Chandigarh	43.03	Nil	24.60
20.	Delhi	406.83	223.95	—
21.	Pondicherry	3.50	Nil	—
22.	Goa	13.45	13.45	—
23.	Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli	90.30	63.96	—
24.	Sikkim	8.16	24.02	—
	Total:	3199.50	4500.00	6000.00

Statement-III

Funds released National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	369.41	Nil
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bihar	Nil	464.22	Nil
Gujarat	Nil	890.00	Nil
Haryana	796.92	Nil	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	355.77	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	1747.00	2450.63	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orissa	196.39	106.94	589.73
Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan	1023.98	272.65	Nil
Tamil Nadu	1318.33	Nil	Nil
Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	3414.26	4446.13	Nil
West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	148.34	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	9000.00	9000.00	589.73

Statement-IV

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to SC and ST students - Central assistance released

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3124.637	3197.288	2639.458
2.	Assam	52.038	0	285.98652

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	0	0	797.152
4.	Goa	0	0	Nil
5.	Gujarat	494.89	0	50.254
6.	Haryana	2.26	0	57.57
7.	Himachal Pradesh	24.73	0	19.832
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.07	14.9	44.85
9.	Karnataka	1374.526	0	Nil
10.	Kerala	634.495	—	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1982.79	0	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	2371.8	967.78	471.24
13.	Manipur	374.5	0	507.8
14.	Meghalaya	371.843	0	749.058
15.	Mizoram	144.5	0	521.008
16.	Nagaland	404.9	0	1084.26
17.	Orissa	531.43	47.16	57.35
18.	Punjab	0	0	551.2841
19.	Rajasthan	934.75	84.7	450.53
20.	Sikkim	0	0	0.3729
21.	Tamil Nadu	1817.74	396.78	958.86
22.	Tripura	29.346	0	113.48448
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2070.823	705.392	621.65
24.	West Bengal	1146.122	0	Nil
25.	Andaman & Nicobar	1.85	0	1.0613
26.	Daman & Diu	2.089	0	1.15164
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1.83
28.	Delhi	0	0	Nil
29.	Guwahati Project	3	3	—
30.	Pondicherry	20	0	13.95706
	Total:	17993.13	5417	10000

Statement-V

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations - Central Assistance released

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49.66387	2.61442	30.38969
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	16.08	Nil	2.75
4.	Goa	Nil	Nil	0.358
5.	Gujarat	377.34425	83.77803	100.600
6.	Haryana	58.14456	Nil	62.83581
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	0.04
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	1.2145	0.69
9.	Karnataka	12.33637	27.3395	9.47
10.	Kerala	—	—	0.7
11.	Madhya Pradesh	340.16	9.73225	90.22125
12.	Maharashtra	67.644	21.2515	90.9805
13.	Orissa	11.64912	Nil	Nil
14.	Punjab	64.22409	Nil	Nil
15.	Rajasthan	115.1875	Nil	Nil
16.	Sikkim	0.50	Nil	0.07375
17.	Tamil Nadu	74.133	27.926	34.4335
18.	Tripura	14.656	1.6863	2.9082
19.	Uttar Pradesh	201.33626	24.4575	8.55
20.	West Bengal	1.37098	Nil	Nil
21.	Delhi	—	—	5
22.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	1404.43	200	440

Statement-VI

State-wise grant-in-aid sanctioned to the concerned Zila Parishads under the Central Sector Scheme of Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Caste Girls belonging to very low literacy levels.

Year	State	Grant-in-aid sanctioned to Zila Parishads (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of residential Schools funded
1996-97	Bihar	2.835	2
	Madhya Pradesh	21.2625	11
	Rajasthan	5.65	4
	Uttar Pradesh	4.2525	3
	Total:	34.00	20
1997-98	Madhya Pradesh	6.08192	3
	Rajasthan	422525	3
	Uttar Pradesh	1.4175	1
	Total	11.75192	7
1998-99	Bihar	2.835	2
	Madhya Pradesh	38.9452	27
	Rajasthan	28.05024	20
	Total	69.83044	49

Statement-VII

Detail of Central Assistance Released Under the Scheme of Girls Hostels for SCs

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	44.90	266.00
2.	Assam	Nil	9.00	Nil
3.	Bihar	46.54	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	3.20	Nil	Nil
5.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	25.000

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Karnataka	78.50	24.36	194.51
9.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Maharashtra	21.12	Nil	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	350.00	182.74	Nil
12.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	40.00	Nil	Nil
14.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	84.15
16.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	339.00	114.00
17.	Tripura	8.65	Nil	10.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Chandigarh	100.00	Nil	Nil
21.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	648.01	600.00	693.66

Statement-VIII

Detail of Central Assistance Released Under the Scheme of Boys Hostel for SCs

S.No.	State/U.T.	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	5.50	Nil
3.	Bihar	75.00	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	66.091
5.	Haryana	5.00	4.00	Nil
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	19.51	Nil
7.	Karnataka	121.50	Nil	36.18
8.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	50.00
9.	Maharashtra	67.54	Nil	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	500.00	666.75	574.53
11.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Orissa	Nil	30.00	Nil
13.	Punjab	Nil	30.00	20.00
14.	Rajasthan	143.96	129.66	243.20
15.	Tamil nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Tripura	12.00	20.00	10.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Chandigarh	15.00	Nil	Nil
20.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	940.00	905.42	1000.00

Statement-IX

Details of Central Assistance Released to States Under Coaching and allied Scheme for SCs/STs Students

S.No.	Name of State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.59	28.70	34.56
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	2.90	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	8.48	0.31	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	2.59	0.35	3.12
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Karnataka	Nil	11.17	13.75
10.	Kerala	10.89	Nil	5.21
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	43.12	82.94
14.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Punjab	Nil	2.45	3.39
18.	Rajasthan	31.58	17.76	43.18
19.	Tamil Nadu	3.69	1.98	Nil
20.	Tripura	0.78	7.16	Nil
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Delhi	3.42	3.57	2.83
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil	Nil	0.98
	Total:	106.92	116.57	189.96

Statement-X

Detail of Central Assistance Released Under Book Bank Scheme for SC/ST Students

S.No.	State/U.T.	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89.25	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	5.53	Nil	9.1
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	0.19	Nil	0.15
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.47	0.63	Nil
7.	Haryana	4.43	5.505	1.055
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	6.00	6
9.	Karnataka	16.06	52.44	Nil
10.	Kerala	11.73	11.96	Nil
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	31.39	Nil
13.	Manipur	1.59	1.00	Nil
14.	Orissa	5.00	5.00	Nil
15.	Punjab	9.22	10.995	Nil
16.	Rajasthan	Nil	15.00	42.14
17.	Tripura	1.65	1.91	3.2945

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	25.48
19.	Tamil Nadu	31.83	Nil	24.27
20.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	A&N Island	0.55	Nil	Nil
22.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Delhi	5.85	7.80	8.18
24.	Daman & Diu	Nil	0.07	Nil
25.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	0.73
	Total:	183.35	149.70	120.4015

Statement-XI

Details of Central Assistance Released Under the Scheme of Upgradation of Merit

S.No.	Name of State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.62	2.28	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil	3.57	Nil
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.78	1.02	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	2.83	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Haryana	1.52	2.31	7.73
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	0.18	0.54
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.47	Nil	Nil
9.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	1.50
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	21.45	55.74
12.	Mizoram	0.04	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Rajasthan	8.94	8.32	16.99
16.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Tripura	Nil	1.05	2.10
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	33.00	12.166
19.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	3.29
	Total:	16.37	76.00	100.00

Statement-XII

State/UT-wise and Year-wise Details of Central Assistance Released Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention Of Atrocities) Act, 1989 During 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	226.35	18.00	294.68
2.	Assam	3.00	—	—
3.	Bihar	6.00	9.50	50.00
4.	Goa	0.10	0.70	0.575
5.	Gujarat	142.81	156.24	50.00
6.	Haryana	17.113	—	21.70
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	1.00	1.81
8.	Karnataka	97.345	15.50	136.68
9.	Kerala	6.982	2.50	2.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	89.978	500.85	682.06
11.	Maharashtra	84.795	23.00	50.00
12.	Orissa	50.00	—	3.60
13.	Punjab	29.417	10.70	20.64
14.	Rajasthan	83.60	16.00	50.00
15.	Sikkim	—	—	0.25
16.	Tamil Nadu	98.585	14.550	100.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	226.14	844.51	50.00
18.	West Bengal	2.35	—	—
19.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.290	—	0.929
20.	Delhi	—	—	1.40
21.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13.54	15.88	15.90
22.	Pondicherry	15.57	18.28	18.60
	Total:	1250.00	1647.00	1550.00

Statement-XIII

Statement Showing Funds Released to States/U.T.s During 1996-97 for Tribal Development Under Various Schemes of T.D. Divisions

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	SCA	Article 275(1)	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel	Ashram School	Educational Complex	Vocational Training	R&T	NGO	STDCC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2287.52	460.50	101.10	—	212.50	6.66	24.34	25.00	16.90	90.00	3224.54
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	60.00	—	—	—	9.69	—	—	88.13	—	157.82
3.	Assam	1524.71	315.00	19.00	16.00	—	—	82.91	13.01	9.09	—	1979.72
4.	Bihar	3364.00	725.25	—	—	—	4.84	—	—	30.72	50.00	4174.81
5.	Gujarat	2642.95	675.00	—	—	21.60	8.78	101.90	—	1.12	—	3451.35
6.	Himachal Pradesh	622.44	24.00	—	—	—	—	—	0.22	—	—	646.66
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	681.54	95.25	—	17.22	—	—	—	—	30.28	—	824.29
8.	Karnataka	569.50	210.00	13.25	—	—	—	14.78	—	30.81	—	838.34
9.	Kerala	153.71	35.25	14.70	20.00	—	—	—	13.50	25.80	—	262.96
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7695.71	1687.50	—	—	—	27.96	—	22.02	2.03	—	9435.24
11.	Maharashtra	3160.78	801.75	—	—	—	5.91	—	22.70	38.89	75.00	4105.03
12.	Manipur	653.22	69.00	31.50	37.25	—	—	73.90	10.35	13.79	—	889.01
13.	Meghalaya	—	166.50	13.75	13.75	—	—	—	—	43.38	—	237.38
14.	Mizoram	—	72.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72.00
15.	Nagaland	—	116.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.16	—	118.41
16.	New Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.43	—	32.43
17.	Orissa	4411.44	771.00	50.00	40.00	60.00	37.42	—	6.70	73.35	135.00	5584.91
18.	Rajasthan	2467.32	600.00	33.37	—	—	18.78	—	5.66	—	50.00	3175.13
19.	Sikkim	138.41	9.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	148.16
20.	Tamil Nadu	238.81	63.00	8.04	35.24	—	—	—	9.30	29.01	—	383.40
21.	Tripura	594.48	93.75	34.04	31.41	93.46	—	—	11.21	0.31	—	858.66
22.	Uttar Pradesh	90.39	31.50	—	—	—	—	—	4.27	2.07	—	128.23
23.	West Bengal	1558.07	417.75	—	—	—	—	—	6.06	28.82	—	2010.70
	Union Territory											
1.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	15.00	—	—	—	—	3.25	—	18.25
2.	A&N Islands	95.18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95.18
3.	Daman & Diu	49.82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49.82
	Total:	33000.00	7500.00	318.75	225.87	387.56	120.06	297.83	150.00	502.34	400.00	42902.43

Note: Rs. 1.5 crores being released to TRIFED under the scheme of Village Grain Bank during 1996-97.

Statement-XIV

Details of State/UT-wise Release of Funds under Different Schemes for Welfare of STs during 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel	Ashram School	Vocational Training Centre	Educational Complex	NGOs	Tribal Research	SCA to TSP	Article 275(1)	STDCs.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.20	45.45	218.46	—	1.42	24.49	20.47	2581.54	453.50	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	102.77	0.26	—	120.00	—
3.	Assam	16.00	16.00	—	77.15	—	7.54	23.27	1460.00	305.00	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	20.65	38.00	0.53	—	641.75	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	66.35	13.83	—	9.47	2632.77	625.00	123.89
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	15.00	—	40.00	—	—	0.94	521.89	108.00	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	3.12	—	521.80	131.75	—
9.	Karnataka	14.99	27.50	—	—	—	19.18	0.28	500.00	270.00	50.00
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	26.14	20.07	196.12	111.75	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	50.20	8.88	49.96	9207.83	1262.50	200.00
12.	Maharashtra	10.00	12.50	104.50	45.50	4.59	57.60	50.72	3400.89	667.25	99.50
13.	Manipur	3.00	13.00	3.00	—	—	18.60	9.80	950.00	123.00	—
14.	Meghalaya	13.75	13.75	—	—	—	121.11	—	—	255.50	—
15.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	5.81	—	—	124.00	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	3.44	—	—	138.75	—
17.	Orissa	45.00	35.00	50.00	40.00	59.38	87.08	7.86	5576.27	657.00	100.00
18.	Rajasthan	150.17	159.55	—	24.00	55.94	14.42	13.37	2341.13	600.00	50.00
19.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60.00	103.35	—
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	17.03	30.50	243.71	121.00	—
21.	Tripura	17.25	15.25	93.46	32.00	—	0.28	11.67	885.00	231.25	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11.17	—	—	—	18.99	2.75	—	112.91	110.50	—
23.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	26.08	22.44	1600.39	339.25	100.00
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	118.00	—	—
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	12.75	—	—	—	—
26.	Daman & Diu	20.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.75	—	—
27.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	100.79	—	—	—	—
	Total:	376.53	353.00	469.42	345.00	225.00	699.84	271.61	32961.00	7500.00	823.00

Note: Rs. 1.80 crores released to TRIFED under Scheme of Village Gram Banks during 1997-98

Statement-XV

Details of State/UT-wise Release of Funds under Different Schemes for Welfare of STs during 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Girls Hostel	Boys Hostel	Ashram School	Vocational Training Centre State NGO	Educational Complex	NGOs	Tribal Research	SCA to TSP	Article 275(1)	STD CCs	PTGs		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	238.40	49.00	113.00	85.57	—	121.03	79.99	6.93	2728.47	607.60	—	117.19	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	9.57	128.25	—	—	60.00	—	—	—
3.	Assam	50.00	50.00	25.20	118.30	—	—	22.73	16.18	2089.56	210.00	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	75.00	75.00	—	—	—	5.13	86.73	53.40	—	483.50	79.00	100.00	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6.	Gujarat	4.02	2.29	175.29	67.50	—	16.12	6.48	0.86	3689.70	450.00	—	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	37.85	108.30	—	9.938	—	—	1.76	0.84	689.44	16.00	—	—	—
8.	J&K	—	—	—	9.125	—	—	52.54	—	739.22	63.50	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	—	29.44	—	—	—	—	29.02	0.31	686.64	140.00	3.00	—	8.91
10.	Kerala	22.05	22.05	67.00	6.18	4.35	—	28.26	20.00	408.17	123.50	50.00	—	8.15
11.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	100.00	100.21	109.50	—	39.57	22.23	49.39	9476.17	2125.00	255.00	100.00	—
12.	Maharashtra	33.07	86.24	157.38	28.40	—	9.91	54.43	30.18	3532.21	534.50	100.00	—	—
13.	Manipur	—	13.00	—	16.80	—	—	97.18	—	779.52	69.00	—	—	4.65
14.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	99.06	—	—	166.50	—	—	—	—
15.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.05	—	—	107.50	—	—	
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.90	—	—	316.25	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	17.50	17.31	40.00	—	—	74.77	110.76	38.47	5911.86	514.00	200.00	—	21.31
18.	Rajasthan	70.77	192.10	—	—	—	33.25	35.26	—	3475.72	700.00	—	100.00	—
19.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60.00	9.75	—	—	
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.20	25.16	296.91	42.00	—	—	
21.	Tripura	51.64	35.86	85.44	—	—	—	5.50	72.92	977.77	162.50	—	100.00	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11.00	9.00	175.445	—	—	51.07	20.72	3.14	57.54	21.00	—	—	—
23.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	15.65	—	65.64	23.78	2222.10	578.50	—	—	—
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands									133.90				
25.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	60.00	60.00	—	—	—	—	7.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65.10	—	—	—	—
27.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.69	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total:	769.3	829.7	938.97	451.4	20.00	369.49	1128.23	341.56	380.00	7500.00	687.00	512.9	43.06

STDCCS: State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations.

Note: Rs. 3.00 crore released to TRIFED under the Scheme of Village Gramin Bank during 1998-99

Statement-XVI

States/UT Wise Amount Released Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount released		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.71	—	—
2.	Haryana	1.42	—	2.20
3.	Karnataka	0.35	0.97	13.05
4.	Kerala	11.62	7.20	—
5.	Rajasthan	1.45	5.18	2.75
6.	Tripura	—	0.28	—
	Total	18.55	13.63	18.00

Statement-XVII

Grant-in-Aid Released during Last Three Years under the Scheme of 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice'

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Year		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	94.48
2.	Assam	17.30	—	15.83
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	143.89
5.	Gujarat	—	—	167.81
6.	Goa	0.81	—	—
7.	Haryana	6.46	8.52	26.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	25.00	2.38	31.23
11.	Kerala	23.53	20.97	48.63

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	61.25	341.58	161.76
13.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	88.69
14.	Manipur	3.08	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	2.77	2.82	2.93
16.	Mizoram	2.87	2.03	6.70
17.	Nagaland	2.52	3.00	3.45
18.	Orissa	14.79	—	—
19.	Punjab	15.56	15.56	23.68
20.	Rajasthan	11.95	8.18	9.31
21.	Sikkim	—	—	5.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	8.11	2.73	79.43
23.	Tripura	—	5.00	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	276.01
25.	West Bengal	75.00	18.33	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
28.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	29.00	—	10.00
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	--
	Total:	300.00	431.10	1195.00

First Rust Gene Identified

3137. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Asia's first Rust gene identified in Punjab" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated February 28, 2000;

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

(c) whether due to rust disease large quantity of wheat is damaged; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The News item appeared in the Indian Express is perhaps based or a presentation by Dr. R.G. Saini, Professor of Genetics, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana in a National Symposium (Session VI) on "Role of Resistance in Intensive Agriculture" held at Directorate of Wheat Research (DWR), Karnal on February 17, 2000.

So far, 47 leaf rust resistance genes have been identified and listed in the "Catalogue of gene symbols of wheat". All these designations were reported on the basis of research carried out in Canada, USA, Australia and CIMMYT (Mexico).

Two new genes *i.e.* Lr 48 and Lr 49 were identified as new adult plant leaf rust resistance genes from cultivars CSP 44 and VL404 respectively from India (Asia). The identification of these genes is the result of research work carried over a period of 17 years which has been jointly carried out by the Scientists at PAU, Ludhiana and DWR (ICAR) Regional Station at Shimla.

The rust disease can be checked through deployment of new genes. However, the pathogens can always evolve new races to match these genes. The variety developed through deployment of resistant genes continue to remain resistant till new races of the pathogen are evolved.

(c) and (d) Due to rust disease, a large quantity of wheat is not damaged per annum. However, a well targeted disease management strategy is followed through a very organized and systematic approach under the All India Coordinated Wheat Improvement Project (AICWIP), due to which India has the distinction of not having any serious disease epidemic for the last several years. The steps being taken are as follows:

- Resistant Varieties are developed through transfer of resistant genes into suitable genetic background by the Scientists of different ICAR Institutes/SAUs in the country. They are subjected to rigorous evaluation against rust disease by the Crop Protection Programme of the AICWIP at multilocations under hot spot and artificially inoculated conditions. Only the material with improved agronomical characters and a high level of resistance to rust diseases are identified and recommended for cultivation.

- Rusts are effectively managed through the deployment of rust resistant genes in different epidemiological zones in the country. It is a centrally planned properly executed strategic use of useful resistance genes over a large geographical tract to minimize the risk of epidemics of rust diseases.

- Survey and surveillance programme keeps the scientists informed about the appearance of diseases, appearance of new pathotypes or races. A constant vigil is kept on crop through roving surveys and planting of Trap Plot Nurseries at multilocations.

Damaged Small Scale Units Due to Cyclone

3138. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a huge damage has been caused to small scale units due to super cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the assessment made by the Government alongwith the names of the units and quantum of loss suffered; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Preliminary Survey reveals that 3174 numbers of SSI units have suffered damage worth Rs. 152.23 Crore during two cyclones that hit the State of Orissa in October, 1999 affecting 14 Districts. A Relief Package comprising of assistance from Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Small Industries Development Bank of India and National Small Industries Corporation has been announced.

Temporary Staff

3139. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary staff working under his ministry/department;

(b) whether the Government propose to regularise the services of these employees on a permanent basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) There are 74 temporary staff employed as Casual Workers in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) and (c) Whenever regular posts become available, the services of these Casual Workers are absorbed subject to the general instructions of the Government of India issued from time to time.

Projects for Approval

3140. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some welfare projects of Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals pending for want of inspection reports from State Governments;

(d) the financial assistance sought by NGOs in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared and amount provided to NGOs during the last three years for welfare activities in Andhra Pradesh, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 104 Projects of Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval at present.

(c) 52 proposals are pending for want of inspection reports from State Governments.

(d) The financial assistance sought by NGOs in Andhra Pradesh are for welfare of the disabled, pre-examination Coaching for Backward Classes & Minorities, old age homes, vocational training, Voluntary organization working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes & Other Backward Classes, street children and social defence.

(e) There is no specified time for sanctioning of projects. The time taken for disposal of application depends upon the receipt of complete documents, recommendations of the designated authorities and established need for the project in the area where it is proposed to be set up.

The amount provided to NGOs during the last three years for welfare activities in Andhra Pradesh, year-wise is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

1996-97	912.63
1997-98	60.34
1998-99	1520.66

Cold Chain Scheme

3141. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Kerala Government to Cold Chain Scheme for strengthening procurement and distribution network for fruits and vegetables is pending with the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous Organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture, had received a proposal of the Kerala State Horticulture Products Development Corporation Ltd. through the State Government of Kerala, seeking financial assistance for setting up Cold Chain and establishing procurement and distribution network for fruits and vegetables. The proposal was examined by the National Horticulture Board. It was observed that the State implementing agency had not furnished financial appraisal notes of lending commercial Banks/Public Sector Undertaking. The NHB has already conveyed to the State implementing agency that submission of financial appraisal notes of lending Commercial Banks/Public Sector Undertaking is a mandatory requirement for availing financial assistance.

Professional Social Work in Transition

3142. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of National Conference held in Bangalore on "Professional Social work in Transition Retrospect and Prospects at the beginning of the millennium";

(b) if so, the observations and suggestions made therein;

(c) the modifications being contemplated in the social work curricula pursued by various educational institutions; and

(d) the steps being taken to clear the area of operation of social work of criminal and terrorist elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting Up of a New National Commission

3143. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new National Statistical Commission; and

(b) if so, the composition along with its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government of India, through Resolution No. M/13011/3/99-Admn. IV of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation dated 19th January 2000, established a National Statistical Commission with Dr. C. Rangarajan, Governor, Andhra Pradesh as its part-time Chairman and the following as part-time members:

(1) Shri V.R. Rao, ex-Director, Central Statistical Organisation and UN Advisor.

(2) Shri S.M. Vidwans, ex-Director (Economics & Statistics), Government of Maharashtra and UN Expert.

(3) Prof. J. Roy, Professor Emeritus at Indian Statistical Institute.

(4) Dr. Prem Narain, Emeritus Scientist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute and ex-Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute.

(5) Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director-General, National Council of Applied Economic Research.

(6) Dr. V.R. Panchmukhi, Director-General, Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries.

(7) Dr. Y. Venugopal Reddy, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

(8) Dr. K. Srinivasan, Executive Director, Pollution Foundation of India and ex-Director of International Institute of Population Studies.

(9) Prof. S. Tendulkar, Delhi School of Economics and Vice-Chairman, National Advisory Board on Statistics.

(10) Dr. A.B.L. Srivastava, Chief Consultant, Educational Consultants India Ltd., & ex-Professor, National Council of Educational Research and Training.

(11) Dr. Fredie Ardeshir Mehta, Eminent economist and Director, M/s. Tata Sons Ltd.

Terms of reference

(i) To examine critically the deficiencies of the present statistical system in terms of timeliness, reliability and adequacy;

(ii) To recommend measures to correct the deficiencies and revamp the statistical system to generate timely and reliable statistics for the purpose of policy and planning in Government at different levels of administrative structure;

(iii) To recommend permanent and effective coordinating mechanism for ensuring integrated development of the decentralised statistical system in the country;

(iv) To review the existing legislation for the collection of statistical information and to recommend amendments, where necessary, to achieve the objective of collection and dissemination of timely, reliable and adequate statistics;

(v) To review the existing organisation of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (Statistics Wing) and other statistical units of the Government and to make recommendations on their staffing and training requirements to enable them to cope with the increase and development of satistical services;

(vi) To examine the need for instituting statistical audit of the range of services provided by the Government and local bodies and make suitable recommendations thereof; and

(vii) To recommend any other measures for improving the statistical system in the country.

Meeting of Indo-Canada Working Group

3144. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third meeting of the Indo-Canada Working Group on counter-terrorism was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) the other positive achievements of this meeting;

(d) whether any joint strategy has been evolved between the two countries to meet this threat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting was held in New Delhi on February 15-16, 2000.

(b) The two delegations met and reviewed the international security environment threatened by the growing menace of terrorism including narco-terrorism. They exchanged views on recent activities of various terrorist groups. They expressed satisfaction at their ongoing cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism and agreed to enhance such cooperation bilaterally as well as in multi-lateral forums;

(c) The delegations expressed their conviction that terrorist acts are criminal acts and could not be justified for political, ideological, religious or any other reasons;

(d) and (e) The Working Group provides the forum for continued consultation and cooperation between the two countries to combat the menace of terrorism.

Animal Disease

3145. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian cattle are affected by a wide variety of diseases;

(b) whether any survey has been done to find out the prevalance of such infections and the States which are worst-affected;

(c) if so, the common diseases and sicknesses affecting cattle, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to effectively combat diseases; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the current 9th Plan, Central Government assistance is given to States for Surveillance of Diseases and for identifying the worst affected areas. Incidence of infectious diseases are reported routinely by the State/Union Territory Governments. The common infectious diseases affected cattle are Foot and mouth disease, Haemorrhagic septicaemia, Black quarter and Anthrax.

(d) and (e) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services is a State subject. The State Governments undertake monitoring, diagnosis and control of animal diseases. The Government of India is supplementing the efforts of State Governments in controlling certain specific diseases like foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, tuberculosis, brucellosis etc. In addition, the States are also being supported for strengthening disease diagnostic facilities and biological production units. Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes covering these aspects are in operation, namely Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases and National Project on Rinderpest Eradication. Funds are also provided for establishment of Regional Disease Diagnostic Referral Laboratories.

Development of Vanilla Cultivation

3146. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the development of vanilla cultivation;

(b) if so, the assistance/incentive provided for production, processing and marketing of vanilla;

(c) the total production of vanilla produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase its production and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The assistance/incentives provided for production, processing etc. of vanilla is given below:

	Programme	Incentive/assistance provided
1.	Area expansion	Rs. 10,000/- per hectare (2 annual instalments of Rs. 6,500/- and Rs. 3,500/-) towards 25% of the cost of planting and maintenance
2.	Production of planting material in farmers' field	Rs. 1,250/- per nursery for production target of 1,000 rooted cuttings towards 25% of the cost.
3.	Assistance to growers, growers cooperatives/ associations for setting up vanilla processing units	Rs. 5,000/- per unit (curing box with accessories) towards 50% of the cost.
4.	Award for vanilla growers	One first price of Rs. 10,000/- and two second prices of Rs. 5,000/- each in addition to citations and certificates.

(c) The State-wise production of vanilla for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is given below:

(Quantity in Kilograms)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Estimated)
Kerala	250	450	750
Karnataka	300	550	850
Tamil Nadu	50	70	100
Total:	600	1070	1700

(d) For increasing production and export of vanilla, the Spices Board is implementing the following Schemes:

(i) Area expansion.

(ii) Production of planting material in the farmers field by opening certified nurseries.

(iii) Setting up of vanilla processing unit.

(iv) Award to best vanilla growers.

(v) Award of Spice House Certificate.

(vi) Award of Indian Spice Logo.

(vii) Promotion of Indian Brand abroad.

(viii) Technology transfer and infrastructure upgradation.

(ix) Trade promotions.

(x) Product and end use development.

(xi) Assistance to exporters to set up/upgrade in-house laboratory, installation of facilities for monitoring pesticide residues etc. in the manufacturing units of spices exporters.

Farmers Welfare Fund

3147. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PHASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for setting up of a Farmers Welfare Fund for Bihar to provide compensation to farmers affected by flood, excess rains in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount given to the State Government for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Ban on Cow Slaughter

3148. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several social, religious, cultural, educational and other organisations have sought Union Government intervention to enact a legislation to ban cow slaughter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations were received demanding, in general, ban on cow slaughter and bring a Central legislation on the subject.

(c) As enjoined by Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the State has exclusive power to legislate. Hence the Union Government is not in a position to enact any Central legislation to impose ban on cow slaughter.

[English]

Export Strategy for Steel Industry

3149. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any follow up action has been taken on the report submitted by an expert group in 1997 on the export strategy for Indian Steel Industry;

(b) if so, the details of the follow up action alongwith the results thereof;

(c) whether with the end of recession in East Asia and South-East Asia there is great potential in these areas by implementing some of the recommendation of this group; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Salient details of the follow-up action taken keeping in view the recommendations submitted by the expert group in the year 1997 and other relevant factors are as under:

(i) A Steel Exporters Forum (SEF), an institutional set-up, has been constituted for promotion of export of Iron & Steel and to resolve common problems being faced by Iron & Steel exporters in the country. Accordingly, the representatives from the major steel producers/associations and Cetral Government Ministries such as Steel, Finance, Surface Transport, Railways & Commerce have been included in the forum.

(ii) To provide overall direction to the research efforts on iron & steel and to approve specific research projects, an Empowered Committee has been constituted.

(iii) For development of ports and infrastructural facilities to facilitate exports of iron & steel, higher allocation of funds has been recommended by the Ministry of Steel.

(iv) For exports of specific iron and steel items, Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates have been rationalised.

Trends of export of iron & steel in the past few years have been encouraging.

(c) and (d) Till the recent financial crisis the South East Asian countries have been the largest importer of steel from India. However, after the Asian crisis, the region got transformed into a net exporter of steel. With the resurgence of these economies, the exports of iron & steel to these countries from India may increase.

As per the existing export-import (EXIM) Policy, import and export of steel is freely allowed. The quantity and destination of exports is decided by the individual producers keeping in view the demand, price and other factors.

Pension Scheme for Unorganised Sector

3150. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a committee to recommend a parallel pension scheme for unorganised sector, for creation of an Autonomous Regulatory Authority to oversee the functioning of pension scheme and replacement of public provident fund with a new scheme;

(b) if so, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social & Income Security) to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee submitted its final report to the Government on 11.1.2000. The Report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during his/her old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions. The report also recommended to set up a new regulatory Agency called "The Indian Pension Authority" to oversee and supervise the functioning of the pension system. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Revision of O.B.C. List

3151. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from State Governments of Delhi and Andhra Pradesh for inclusion of Jats of Delhi and Sista Karanam Caste of Andhra Pradesh in OBC List respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not yet including the said castes in the OBC List;

(c) the other request pending with the Union Government as on date, State-wise;

(d) the guidelines/criteria adopted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these requests are likely to be processed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) As per provision under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) examines all requests for inclusion of any class of citizen as a backward class in the lists and tenders such advice to the Central Government, as it deems appropriate. Action on inclusion of any community in the Central List of Backward Classes is taken by the Central Government only after the advice is received from the National Commission for Backward Classes. No such advice on inclusion of Jats in the Central List of Backward Classes for Delhi has yet been received from the National Commission for Backward Classes. Inclusion of caste/ community in the State List of Backward Classes rests with the State Government concerned.

Regarding inclusion of Sista Karanam caste in Andhra Pradesh in the Central List, National Commission for Backward Classes considered and rejected the proposal.

(c) Action on the cases recommended by the National Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion/ amendment in the Central List of OBC are taken as per the procedure.

(d) The National Commission for Backward Classes have formulated guidelines for consideration of requests which include criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

(e) Does not arise.

Remunerative Price for Fruits and Vegetables

3152. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to fix remunerative prices for fruits and vegetables on the lines of paddy, wheat etc.;

(b) whether the farmers are likely to bring more areas under fruits and vegetables after fixation of Minimum Support Price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to bring fruits and vegetables under the Minimum Support Price Scheme, as applicable to rice and wheat etc. The Fruits and Vegetables are covered under Market Intervention Scheme.

[Translation]

Abolition of Child Labour

3153. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated schemes for the eradication of child labour during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the implementation of these schemes in the above Plan;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the extent to which the child labour has been eradicated; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government of India has been implementing two Schemes, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations. The Schemes are to continue during the Ninth Plan. Under the Scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the Child Labour Project Societies constituted at the district level under the Chairpersonship fo the District Collector. Under the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid, funds are released directly to voiuntary organisations on the recommendations of the State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children.

(c) The amount allocated for child labour schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 248.60 crores.

(d) and (e) While no survey has been conducted to assess the extent to which child labour has been eradicated, periodic reports from projects indicate the number of children being rehabilitated. Evaluation of identified projects has been undertaken. Some projects have also been inspected by Inter-Ministerial teams to make an assessment of the progress made so far and ascertain the strength and weakness of the child labour projects. The findings of the studies indicated that National Child Labour Projects have been able to achieve the immediate objective of withdrawal of children from hazardous occupations and their rehabilitation through the special schools.

[English]

Rajghat Multipurpose Project

3154. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajghat Multipurpose Dam has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of villages submerged/likely to be submerged due to execution of this dam;

(c) whether the State Government have sought any Central assistance for the rehabilitation of displaced persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof and funds provided by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which all the oustees are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The major components of

Rajghat Multipurpose Dam have been completed except some minor works like erection of irrigation sluice gates, commissioning and testing of stop log units, operation and testing of radial crest gates to the full height and plugging of construction sluices. Sixty-nine villages are likely to be submerged due to execution of this dam.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Time required for rehabilitation of all the oustees s linked to providing requisite funds by the concerned State Governments.

Equal Opportunities for Handicapped Persons

3155. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act;

(b) the main provisions of the Act;

(c) the number of provisions implemented so far;

(d) whether any special programme for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped has so far been launched by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereunder, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a), (d) and (e) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Statement-II is enlcosed.

Statement-I

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995", enacted and enforced from Feb., 1996 is an important landmark in Government of India's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

2. The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action expeditiously. The following actions have been taken to implement various provisions of the Act:

(1) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24.10.97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(2) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(3) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took four meetings so far to review the progress of implementation of the Act.

(4) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed and he has assured the office *w.e.f.* 1.9.98.

(5) Five Core Groups of experts and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes to give effect to various provisions of the Act.

(6) 3% reservation of jobs in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings has been provided under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, for the persons with disabilities.

(7) The Ministry has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SJ&E), to review the existing identification of posts (done in 1986) and to identify more suitable posts.

(8) Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(9) The National Fund for People with Disabilities, which was set up under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 on 11.8.1983, has been activated and assistance has been sanctioned to non-Government agencies. So far, 17 projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

(10) A new Scheme, namely, Vikiang Bandhu has been formulated to provide training to disabled volunteers. The National Institutes and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres have so far trained a number of Vikiang Bandhus.

(11) A Bill for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed to provide support to those vulnerable categories and their families.

(12) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.

(13) More State Governments have constituted State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee and have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to redress the grievances of the disabled persons.

(14) A Conference of State Secretaries, in-charge of persons with disabilities was held on 14-15, Feb., 2000 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act. A Workshop of State Education Secretaries and State Labour Secretaries was also held at New Delhi to sensitise the State officials and to monitor the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(15) An Inter-Ministerial Group has been constitued to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act.

(16) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-Government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(17) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ&E has established six National/ Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(18) The Artifical Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricyle, artificial limbs, crutches and many other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons.

(19) The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

(20) Under the Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped financial assistance is given to States for running special employment exchanges and normal employment exchanges, for persons with disabilities.

(21) For providing suitable and cost-effective aids and appliances and improving the mobility and enhancement of employment opportunities for the disabled, the scheme of Science & Technology Project in mission Mode has been launched. Under this project, financial assistance is provided for generation of new technologies and guiding these to large scale use to meet social needs.

(22) 3% reservation for the disabled in Government establishments is in operation since 1977 in respect of Group C&D identified posts. After enactment of the Act, this reservation has been extended in Group A&B identified posts vide DoPT's order dated 18.2.97. Identification of posts for persons with disabilities in Group A, B, C & D posts has already been done in 1986. DOPT has also issued clarification that the existing identification of posts done in 1986 shall remain valid, till the same is modified by the Government of India. Instructions have also been issued vide letter dated 17.9.99 that all the recruiting agencies while sending the requisitions to the UPSC, SSC, etc. for filling up of posts, which have been identified as suitable for agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of. A circular dated 4.7.1997 is also issued by DoPT providing points No. 1, 34 & 67 in cycle of 100 vacancies in the 100 point register for reservation for the disabled persons, instead of point No. 33, 67 & 100 prescribed earlier, for the persons with disabilities in the posts filled by promotion.

3. Further, the Government have, in the current year, formulated several schemes specifically for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These include six Composite Regional Resource Centres in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities as outreach extension centres of the National Institutes in the disability sector; four Regional Resource Centres for persons with spinally injuries and orthopaedic disabilities as a Central Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis; four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. A new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been recently approved in the State sector in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. Funds are being released to the State Governments for implementation of the Scheme. In addition, more than hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composite fitment and rehabilitation centres in collaboration between the National Institutes/Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India/District Rehabilitation Centres under the Central Government and the District administration/ State Government respectively. A Bill for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed to provide support to those vulnerable categories and their families.

Statement-II

"The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted as Act No. 1 of 1996. Ensures equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in the nation building. The Act provides for both preventive and promotional spects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc. The Act has been enforced *w.e.f.* 7.2.1996.

2. The Act contain various provision, a brief of which is given in the following 14 Chapters.

Chapter 1 defines disability.

Chapter 2 creates a Central Coordination Committee and an Executive Committee.

Chapter 3 creates State-level coordination committees and executive committees. **The Central Coordination Committee will;**

Review and coordinate the activities of all Government departments, Governmental and non-Governmental organisations matter relating to disabled people advise Central Government on formulation of policies, programmes, laws and projects.

take up the cause of disabled people with authorities working with international agencies

look at funding policies of donor agencies in the light of their impact on disabled people

take other steps to ensure barrier-free environments in public and work places, schools and other public institutions.

Chapter 4 details prevention and early detection of impairments. The Government must undertake surveys and research on impairments, give training and encourage awareness on general health and sanitation, undertake pre-birth and after-birth care of mothers and infants and educate the public through the mass media.

Chapter 5 gives Governments and local authorities the duty of providing free education to disabled children to the age of 18. It promotes education in mainstream schools but special schools in public and private sectors must provide vocational training.

The State also has a duty to give every disabled child "free of cost, special books and equipments needed for its education".

Chapter 6 makes one percent reservation in employment for each of the categories of blind people, Deaf people and those with mobility impairments. This means that employers must ensure that three percent of their staff are disabled people with these impairments.

In Chapter 7 provision is made for disabled people to get plots of land at special rate for housing business, recreation, education, research or factory centres. Non-discrimination in physical access and transport is vital to disabled people in every country.

Chapter 8 gives the guarantee that railway carriages, buses, ships and aircraft will be designed to give easy access to disabled people. In all public places and in waiting rooms, toilets must be wheelchair accessible. Braille and sound symbol are also to be provided in lifts, hospitals, health centres and rehabilitation institutions. In addition, no employee can be sacked or demoted if they become disable during service, although they can be moved to another post with the same pay and conditions. No promotion can be denied because of impairment.

Chapter 9 contains provisions for research and staff power development.

Chapter 10 and 11 contains provisions for institutions for disabled people.

Chapter 12 says that the Central Government must appoint a Chief Commissioner for disabled people, to act as a watchdog on the rights of disabled people. If the Commissioner learns of discrimination, he has the power to investigate it. State Governments must appoint state commissioners to perform the same function. Commissioners will have the same powers as a civil court and their investigations will be considered judicial proceedings under the Indian Penal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code.

Chapter 13 gives disabled people rights in insurance and unemployment allowance.

Chapter 14 makes it a punishable offence (two years imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 20,000) if anyone tries to take any benefit meant for disabled people. Such benefits are given on the basis of a medical certificate and it has been pointed out that it might be better if this section contained a provision for punishment of doctors who issue false certificates.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act requires inter-linkages of the policies and programmes of various Ministries. Various schemes have to be formulated in order to implement provisions of the Act. These schemes are basically to be implemented through various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and State/UT Governments, as follows:

Prevention, Early Detection & Intervention - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Prevention, Early Detection & Intervention - Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) Integrated Education - Deptt. of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(d) Barrier-Free Environment - Ministry of Urban Areas and Employment, Ministry of Surface Transport, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(e) Vocational Training & Employment-Ministry of Labour.

(f) Rural Employment - Ministry of Rural Development.

(g) Setting up the institutes for training and rehabilitation, setting up of rehabilitation infrastructure in the districts and a variety of other stipulated activities. - Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action expeditiously. A number of provisions of the Act have been implemented details of which are given in Annexure-I in reply to part (a), (d) & (e) of the question. Implementation of the provisions of the Act is a continuing process and no time limit can be specified for this purpose.

Shrimp Culture

3156. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deadly white spot disease has taken a heavy toll in the shrimp culture in all the ten maritime States in the country; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given to farmers engaged in shrimp culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The white spot disease in shrimp aquaculture has been reported from the maritime States in the country, causing an estimated production loss of about 10,000 — 15,000 tonnes of shrimp.

(b) To assist shrimp farmers in the better management of their farms and to prevent disease outbreaks and shrimp mortalities, technical assistance is provided through laboratory facilities to select disease free healthy seeds. Training is imparted to Fisheries Extension Officers and shrimp farmers on early diagnosis of disease and health management practices. Guidelines have been issued on pond preparation, water and feed management, stocking, application of pro-biotics, etc. Demonstration programmes and publicity campaigns are also organised for educating shrimp farmers on best management practices. A revised Insurance Scheme *viz.* Market Agreement on Aquaculture (Shrimp/Prawn) Insurance is being implemented by the General Insurance Corporation of India and its subsidiaries which provides for a comprehensive cover for loss due to disease.

[Translation]

Cost Overrun Projects

3157. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects undertaken with the assistance of Union Government in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of projects out of them completed as per their schedule; and

(c) the number of projects out of them which are lagging behind their schedule resulting in cost overrun; project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As on 1-1-2000, 38 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above in the Central Sector are under implementation in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) 4 projects are reported to have been completed in accordance with their schedule during the last 3 years.

(c) Of the 38 projects, 6 projects have reported time overrun as well as cost overrun with respect to the original schedule and costs. The details of the 6 projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sector-wise List of Projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh with Time and Cost Overrun w.r.t. Original Schedule (As on 01.01.2000)

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure: Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Original Cost	Latest Cost	Now Anticipated cost	Cost Overrun %	App. Cumu. Expenditure Till now	Date of Approval	Date of Commissioning (YYYY/MM)			Time Overrun w.r.t. Original Approved Schedule	
								original	latest approved	Now anticipated	Total (Months)	% Overrun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
State: Madhya Pradesh												
Sector: Coal												
SECL												
1.	Dipka OC	533.96	533.96	580.66	9	163.00	1996/12	2001/03	2001/03	2002/3	12	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WCL												
2.	Tandsi UG	51.58	51.58	81.36	58	52.68	1985/09	1995/03	2001/03	2002/03	84	74
Sector: Steel												
SAIL												
3.	Sinter Plant -3 Bhilai SP	636.81	809.72	809.72	21	647.66	1995/03	1998/12	1998/09	2000/09	21	47
NMDC												
4.	10/11A Bailadila Deposit	430.50	430.50	466.69	8	203.27	1995/08	1999/08	1999/08	2002/07	35	73
Sector: Railways												
Doubl.												
5.	Bridge Line Doubl., Gher	22.75	22.75	45.34	99	45.82	1990/04	1996/12	1996/12	1999/03	27	34
Sector: Surface Transport												
RD&BR												
6.	4 Lane Widen NH3, Indore	102.97	102.97	219.00	113	118.38	1992/02	1997/03	1997/03	2001/03	48	79

[English]

Fruits and Vegetables Parks

3158. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up fruits and vegetables parks with a view to encouraging the growth of fruits and vegetables on the lines of science and software park;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India in the Department of Food Processing Industries is operating a scheme for establishment of Food Processing Industrial/ Food Parks. The scheme envisages to establish Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks by providing assistance for common facilities such as analytical and quality control, cold storage/modified atmosphere cold storage, warehousing facilities and supplementary pollution control facilities etc. Public Sector Undertakings/Joint/Assisted/ Private Sector/Non Governmental Organisations/ Cooperatives can get assistance for creating such facility. The scheme will encourage growth of fruits and vegetables.

So far three food parks have been provided assistance. Out of these, two are in the State of West bengal and one in Kerala.

Per Capita Income

3159. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita income has declined during the last two years as against the per capita income registered in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the per-capita income growth of each State and Union Territory as per the latest data;

(d) whether India ranks below Pakistan in terms of GNP per capita; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the per capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. As per the quick estimates on National Income, 1998-99 and Advance Estimates on National Income, 1999-2000, published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the per capita income measured by net national product at constant factor cost have increased by 3.2%, 5% and 4.2% in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively over the previous years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The latest State/Union Territory wise data on the growth of per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) available for the year 1997-98, is enclosed as Statement.

(d) As per the World Development Report, 1999-2000, India ranks above Pakistan in terms of per capita GNP measured at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), while the per capita GNP of India in terms of US dollar is less than that of Pakistan.

(e) Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices and containing the growth rate of population are essential to increase per capita income in the country. Some of the steps to achieve these are detailed in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Rate of Growth in Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at constant (1980-81) prices

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	Growth rate over the previous year 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-3.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.2
3.	Assam	0.7
4.	Bihar	0.8
5.	Goa	-0.3
6.	Gujarat	4.7
7.	Haryana	-0.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—
9.	J&K	—
10.	Karnataka	3.5
11.	Kerala	5.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.2
13.	Maharashtra	-1.5
14.	Manipur	3.9
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Nagaland	—
17.	Orissa	14.9
18.	Punjab	0.1
19.	Rajasthan	0.7
20.	Sikkim	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	4.8
22.	Tripura	4.2
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.5
24.	West Bengal	4.7
25.	A&N Islands	—
26.	Delhi	—
27.	Pondicherry	—

Notes:

1. Source data has been made available by the Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.
2. Owing to differences in source material used the figures for different State/UTs are not strictly comparable.
3. The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only.
4. The UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.
5. - not available.

Issue Raised in UN Security Council

3160. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has approached the UN Security Council and raised the issue concerning Indian Prisoners of War in Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the reaction of UN Secretary-General in this regard;

(c) whether Indian Army and Air Force pesonnel are still in the Pakistani jails as PoWs since 1971;

(d) whether the Indian Government has also urged the Un Secretary General to ask Pakistan's Military ruler to stop the 'proxy war' against India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the U.N. Secretary General in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) India is committed under the Shimla Agreement of 1972 to address all issues with Pakistan on the basis of bilateralism. The issue of Indian POWs in Pakistani custody has, therefore, been taken up directly with Pakistan.

India has raised the issue of sponsorship of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan against India directly with that country. India has also appropriately and effectively made known to the international community including the UN Secretary General details of such Pakistani actions which amount, in fact, to clandestine war against India. In response to a request by the UN Secretary General, India had provided detailed inputs including information on state sponsored cross-border terrorism of which India has been a victim for the past 20 years. It is note worthy that India's report on terrorism has been prominently included in the Secretary General's report on the subject submitted to the 54th General Assembly. As a consequence of our efforts, the international community better understands Pakistan's role as a state sponsoring terrorism.

Expulsion of Diplomats

3161. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindsutan Times' dated February 18, 2000 under captioned '3 Pak Officials expelled for spying';

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government has recently expelled Pakistan's diplomats and the Pakistan has also expelled Indian diplomats there in retaliation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the staff members of Indian mission in Islamabad were mentally and physically tortured;

(e) if so, whether the Indian Government have lodged any protest with the Pakistan Government and International community have also condemned the attitude of Pakistan in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and response of Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 18.2.2000, Pakistan was asked to withdraw Mr. Mohammad Khalil, Mr. Rana Mohammad Saghir and Mr. Muhammad Amin, staff members at Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi by 25.2.2000 as they were found to be indulging in activities incompatible with their official status. These officals left India within the stipulated time period. In retaliation and on false and baseless allegations, Pakistan sought the withdrawal of S/Shri Gopal Chander Roy, Asit Baran Das and R. Sankaranarayanan, staff members at Indian High Commission in Islamabad by 27.2.2000. These officials have returned to India.

(d) to (f) There have been incidents in the past of abduction, unlawful detention, assault, intimidation and harassment of officials of our Mission in Islamabad. On these occasions, Government have strongly condemned these incidents and asked Pakistan to abide by the provisions of the bilateral Code of Conduct and international conventions relating to treatment of Mission personnel. Government has reminded Pakistan of its obligations to ensure the safety and security of our Mission personnel in Islamabad. It is regrettable that Pakistan does not adhere to the Vienna Convention and the Bilateral Code of Conduct for treatment of diplomatic/consular personnel.

Project Coordination Committee

3162. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Project Coordination Committee to discuss the problems of steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) In order to address the problems of the on-going steel projects as well as the problems being faced by the newly commissioned/ existing steel plants in the country, Government have constituted a Project Coordination Group under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for Steel with the following terms of reference:

(i) To find ways and means and suggest measures for early completion of the ongoing iron and steel projects.

(ii) To address the problems of the existing/newly commissioned iron and steel plants with regard to the following:

(a) Demand generation;

(b) Customs and Excise Duty rationalisation;

(c) Availability of power at reasonable prices;

(d) Measures to boost exports; and

(e) Measures to restrict imports of Steel.

The term of the Group will be until 31.03.2001.

Mental Retardation Cases

3163. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes in operation for handicapped persons;

(b) whether the Government are aware that mental retardation cases are increasing in the country;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether a 20 point programme has been implemented in this regard;

(e) the steps taken to improve the living conditions of mentally retarded children/persons;

(f) whether the Government also propose to increase the budget allocation for handicapped persons in consonance with their population; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The number of persons with mental retardation will increase proportionate to increase in general population. However, prevalence of delayed mental development remains the same at 3 per cent of the general population as shown by several studies conducted in various parts of the country. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey of children with delayed development in the age group of 1-14 years. Prevalence of delayed development was observed to be 31 in 1000 rural children while in the urban areas it was present in 29 out of 1000 children in the age group of 1-14 years.

(d) None of the points relates to disability sector in the 20 Point Programme drawn up by the Government in 1986.

(e) The position is stated in reply to part (a) above.

(f) and (g) The budget provision in the disability sector in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has gone up from Rs. 45.46 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 177.33 crore in 1999-2000.

Statement

"The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995", enacted and enforced from Feb., 1996 is an important landmark in Government of India's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like

education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action expeditiously. The following actions have been taken to implement various provisions of the Act:

(a) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24.10.97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(b) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took four meetings so far to review the progress of implementation of the Act.

(d) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed and he has assumed the office *w.e.f.* 1.9.98.

(e) Five Core Groups of experts and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes to give effect to various provisions of the Act.

(f) 3% reservation of jobs in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings has been provided under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 for the persons with disabilities.

(g) The Ministry has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SJ&E), to review the existing identification of posts (done in 1986) and to identify more suitable posts.

(h) Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(i) The National Fund for People with Disabilities, which was set up under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 on 11.8.1983, has been activated and assistance has been sanctioned to non-Government agencies. So far, 17 Projects have been sanctiond under the Scheme.

(j) A new Scheme, namely, Viklang Bandhu has been formulated to provide training to disabled volunteers. The National Institutes and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres have so far trained a number of Viklang Bandhus.

(k) An Act for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been pased to provide support to those vulnerable categories and their families.

(l) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.

(m) Most State Governments have constitued State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee and have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to redress the grievances of the disabled persons.

(n) A Scheme called National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has now been approved for establishing necessary infrastructure up to the District level, to realise fully the objectives of the Act. Funds are being released to the State Governments for implementation of the Scheme.

(o) A Conference of State Secretaries, in-charge of persons with disabilities was held on 14-15, Feb., 2000 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act. A Workshop of State Education Secretaries and State Labour Secretaries was also held at New Delhi to sensitise the State officials and to monitor the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(p) An Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act.

(q) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-Government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(r) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ&E has established six National/ Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(s) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricycle, artificial limbs, crutches and many other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons. A scheme for setting up four Auxiliary Production Centres of ALIMCO has been launched recently with a view to expand the production base of ALIMCO.

(t) The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

(u) A programme viz. Rashtriya Gramin Viklang Sahayata Samiti has been launched, under which 100 districts have been identified and selected to provide rehabilitation services in collaboration with the district authorities and the respective State Government.

(v) A Scheme for setting up four regional centres for the spinally injured and persons with orthopaedic disabilities have been recently approved for implementation as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre: State share on 90:10 basis.

(w) A Scheme for setting up six Composite Resource Centres (CRCs) has been recently approved as a Central Scheme with the objective of creating an infrastructure for serving as composite outreach extension centres of the National Institutes under the disabilities sector for providing, *inter-alia* training, research, development and models of rehabilitation.

Kargil Issue

3164. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of countries including the USA have appreciated India's tolerance and patience during the Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, whether he had given an assessment of Kargil events to these countries during the meeting held in Singapore between the External Affairs Ministers of all important countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this has given a boost to the Indian diplomacy and many countries have come forward for negotiations with India particularly, France, Russia and Japan;

(e) if so, the extent to which the atmosphere created by India has been exploited by the Indian Government to improve its relations with all big powers;

(f) whether these big powers are being provided with the latest information about Indo-Pakistan current conflicts;

(g) if so, the extent to which they have appreciated India's stand on this conflict; and

(h) the extent to which India has achieved the goal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India's assessment and position on the armed intrusion and aggression by Pakistan, in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, were made known to the International community. The Minister of External Affairs also briefed Foreign Ministers at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) during his bilateral

meetings held on the sidelines of the 6th ARF meeting at Singapore in July, 1999. The international community acknowledged our restraint, the skill and valour of our Armed Forces and the effectiveness of our diplomacy which acting together succeeded in evicting Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression.

(d) The European Union, of which France is a member, has been supportive of our position on terrorism and has made supportive references to India's proposal for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Russian Federation has been more than sympathetic to our concerns. International terrorism forms the subject of discussions between India and the Russian Federation at the highest level, as well as at the Ministerial and Official levels. With Japan, the issue of international terrorism has been discussed at senior official levels. Both sides have agreed to cooperate and consult with each other on issues related to international terrorism including trans-border terrorism.

(e) to (h) Government have been, effectively and appropriately, bringing to the notice of the international community the reasons for Pakistan's unprovoked firing along the LOC and the facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's role in sponsoring cross border terrorism in India and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements by official spokesmen of several foreign governments and in the coverage on Pakistan by the international media.

[Translation]

Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations

3165. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are working in the field of external affairs;

(b) if so, the details of such organisations thereof;

(c) whether the Government provide any Central assistance to such organisations;

(d) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last three years to such organisations;

(e) whether the Government also provide any Central assistance to International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, New Delhi during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have received any complaint about the misuse of this Central assistance;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A list containing details of some of such organisations is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of assistance provided to such organisations during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Financial assistance of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rs. Ten lakhs) had been provided to the International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, New Delhi in 1997 for organising a conference on "NAM in 21st century held during 1-2 March 1997".

(g) No Sir.

(h) and (i) Not applicable in view of position stated at (g) above.

Statement-I

Institutions Dealing in External Affairs

International Institute for Asia Pacific Studies,
10, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057
Sh. M. Rasgotra, Chairman
Tel: 6873601

Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies,
11, Vasant Enclave, New Delhi 110 057
Maj. Gen. Dipankar Banerjee, AVSM (Retd.), Co-Director

India International Centre
40, Max Mueller Marg
New Delhi-110003
Sh. N.N. Vohra, Director
Tel: 461-9431

Indian Pugwash Society
26, Lodhi Estate
New Delhi-110003
Ashok Parthasarthy, Convenor

International Institute for Asia Pacific Studies
J-1882, Ground Floor, C.R. Park
New Delhi-110019
Vice Chairman: Sh. V.D. Chopra

Indo-Latin American File
(Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies)
C-22, Press Enclave, Saket, New Delhi-110017
Director: Sh. Om Gupta

International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
A-2/59, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029
Tel: 6105846; Fax: 6196294
Dir. Gen: Govind Narain Srivastava

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad
6-M, Bhagat Singh Market
New Delhi-110001
Sh. L.L. Mehrotra, President

Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies
M.M.D.W. Potdar Complex
Pune University Campus
Pune-411007
Air Marshal (Retd) S. Kulkarni, PVSM, VM, Director

Research & Information System for the Non-Aligned & Other Developing Countries,
Core IV-B, 4th Floor,
India Habitat Center, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003
Dr. V.R. Panchmukhi, Director

Indian Institute of Advanced Studies,
Rashtrapati Bhavan, Shimla-171005
Dr. Mrinal Miri, Director

Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations,
40, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003
Smt. Ishar J. Ahluwalia, Director General
Tel: 461 0775
Fax: 4620180

National Institute of Adanced Studies,
Indian Institute of Science Campus,
Bangalore-560 012
Prof. R. Narsimha, Director
Tel: 080-3310969; Fax: 080-3346634
Email: roddam@caos.iisc. ernet.in

Tata Institute of Social Studies
Post Box No. 8313, Sion-Trombay Road
Deonar, Mumbai-400088

United Service Institution of India,
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Post Bag No. 8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057
Tel: 6148849 Fax: 6149773
Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar, Director

Institute of Chinese Studies,
2nd Floor, ISIL Building,
9, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110002
Prof. Giri Deshingkar, Director

Centre for Policy Research,
Dharma Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021
Dr. V.A. Panandikar, Director
Tel: 611 4797, 6115273 Fax: 687 2746

Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses,
Block No. 1, Old JNU Campus,
New Delhi-110 067
Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, Director
Tel: 6187511; Fax: 6189023

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies
567, Diamond Harbour Road (2nd & 3rd floors)
BEHALA, Calcutta700034
Director: Dr. B.P. Saha
Tel: (033) 4681396, (033) 4684634; Fax: (033) 4681396

India-Pakistan Neemrana Initiative
C/o, Aga Khan Foundation
Sarojini House, 2nd Floor
6, Bhagwan Das Road
New Delhi-110001
Tel: 3782173; Fax: 3782174
Director: Dr. A.M. Khusro

Society For Indian Ocean Studies
Secular House, 9/1 Institutional Area
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067
Tel: 6512701; Fax: 6968171
Secretary: Sh. Satish Chandra

Indian Initiative For Peace and Disarmament
C/o Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan
Off Ganesh Khind Road
Pune-411016, Tel: 91-212-673386
Coordinator: Dr. Anil Athale.

Statement-II

1997-98

Sl.No.	Name of NGO	Purpose	Amount (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
01.	Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi	Holding international conference on eliminating nuclear weapons in Oct. 97	1,93,375.75
02.	-do-	Participating in CSCAP meeting in Singapore	22,600.00
03.	-do-	Membership fee of CSCAP for 1997	50,000.00
04.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP Meeting at Bangkok	15,000.00
0.5	-do-	Indo-South African Institute of International Affairs, Johanesburg	41,770.00
06.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP Meeting in Singapore	34,105.00
07.	-do-	Indo-Israel seminar in N. Delhi	80,000.00
08.	-do-	CSCAP membership fee for 1998	50,000.00
09.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP Meeting in Bangkok in Oct. 97	50,870.00
10.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP-CSBM Working Group Meeting in Tokyo in Nov. 97	60,300.00
11.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP Meeting in Washington in May 97	98,705.00
12.	-do-	Participation in CSCAP Meeting in Tokyo in Nov. 1997	60,100.00
13.	-do-	Holding 1st Indo-ASEAN Dialogue in New Delhi in Jan. 97	21,901.00
14.	-do-	Participation in Indo-INSS Workshop in Washington in Dec. 97	4,80,000.00
15.	-do-	Participation in Indo-ISRR (Tashkent) bilateral seminar in Tashkent	1,17,000.00
16.	Centre For Policy Research, New Delhi	Visit of 5 member delegation to Moscow	1,30,000.00
17.	-do-	Policy conference on India and Australia in Nov. 97	1,20,000.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi	Corpus Grant	9,50,000.00
19.	International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, New Delhi	Holding international conference on NAM in 21st century in March 97	10,00,000.00
20.	Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune.	Seminar on Indian Ocean-Challenges Ahead	73,000.00
21.	Society for Indian Ocean Studies	Seminar on Indian Ocean in 21st century.	3,00,000.00
22.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta	Seminar on India Uzbekistan Relations	52,000.00
23.	-do-	Seminar in New Delhi	80,000.00
24.	India Pakistan Neemrana Initiative, New Delhi	Holding bilateral talks with Pakistani counterpart	3,00,000.00
25.	United Service Institute of India, New Delhi	USID Research on issues relating to security and national defence	9,50,000.00
1998-99			
01.	Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi	Visit of Sh. T. Shreedhar Rao, Sr. Fellow, IDSA to Ankara	74,534.00
02.	-do-	Indo-Japan bilateral seminar, Delhi in Oct. 97	1,76,798.00
03.	-do-	Participation in CICA Colloquium Almaty in Oct. 98	58,000.00
04.	-do-	3rd IDSA-JIIA Tokyo in Dec. 98	2,14,595.00
05.	-do-	Membership fee of CSCAP for 1999	59,660.00
06.	United Service Institution of India, New Delhi.	International Consultative conference with Oxford Research Group at Neemrana, March 98	1,50,000.00
07.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay	Holding Indo-China Workshop on Nation Building in Nov. 98	9,98,000.00
08.	International Institute for Asia Pacific Studies, New Delhi	Holding seminar on "Vietnam Today and Indo-Vietnamese relations in Oct. 98	50,000.00
09.	Centre For Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune	Holding seminar on "Foreign Policy Imperatives for a nuclear India" in Feb. 1999.	77,449.00
1999-2000			
01.	National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore	Dialogue with Committee-International security and Arms Control-of national Academy of Sciences, USA, in May, 1999	2,00,000.00

1	2	3	4
02.	India Pakistan Neemrana Initiative, New Delhi.	India-Pakistan Neemrana Initiative-bilateral talks.	3,00,000.00
03.	India International Centre, New Delhi	India-Singapore Colloquium in Aug. 99 in Singapore	1,98,542.00
04.	-do-	Participation of Sh. I.P. Khosla in the seminars on "India's Foreign Policy"	46,500.00
05.	Indian Pugwash Society, New Delhi.	Workshop on" Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" in Oct. 1999	2,00,000.00
06.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta	Conference on 60th birth anniversary of Prof. B.G. Gafurov in New Delhi in July 1999	8,00,000.00
07.	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi	India-Korea Dialogue in Oct. 99	1,46,000.00
08.	Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, New Delhi	Conference on contribution by PIOs in development of countries of their adoption.	5,00,000.00
09.	Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi	Workshop on "India-Iran Relations" in Aug. 99	1,77,344.00
10.	-do-	Holding First Indo-Kyrgyzstan bilateral dialogue in Bishkek in Sep. 99	64,000.00
11.	-do-	Holding Indo-US Dialogue in Dec. 99	2,00,000.00
12.	Indian Initiative For Peace and Disarmament, Pune	Holding talks with NGOs in USA, UK and Canada	1,60,000.00
13.	Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, New Delhi	Holding seminar on Latin-American countries.	20,000.00
14.	Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune	Seminar on Indo-Pak relations-Challenges ahead.	90,000.00

[English]

Patent Laws

3166. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current patent regime is stifling innovator and allows only a few corporations to monopolise key areas of research in the software industry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to allow software patents in the country; and

(d) if so, the time frame and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATIOIN TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Computer

Software has been categorized in the country as an item of "literacy creations" and are covered under the Copyright Act and not the Patent Act.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Relations with Turkey

3167. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Turkey have decided to deepen their political ties by holding a regular dialogue in specific area of common security interests;

(b) if so, the whether this process of holding sectoral dialogue has in effect been already initiatod during the recent visit of India by the Turkish special envoy on Afghanistan;

(c) whether during the discussion focused attention in areas of special interest decided to pay special attention to joint forays in the oil and gas sector in Central Asia;

(d) if so, whether during the discussion External Affairs Minister invited the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit India;

(e) if so, whether Turkish Prime Minister is also likely to visit India; and

(f) if so, the extent to which the relations between the two countries have further been strengthen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Indo-Turkish relations are traditional and historical. High-level exchanges are a regular feature in our bilateral relations. During Foreign Office Consultations, discussions take place on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

(b) and (c) During the Foreign Office Consultations and as a part of the discussions on the international situation, India and Turkey have from time to time, exchanged views on the situation prevailing in Afghanistan. India and Turkey have also felt that potential for third country cooperation, including with Central Asian countries, in the economic and commercial area was available and that this should be exploited.

(d) The External Affairs Minister has invited the Turkish Foreign Minister to visit India.

(e) The Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Bulent Ecevit is scheduled to pay a State visit to India from March 30-April 2, 2000.

(f) The regular high-level exchanges between India and the Republic of Turkey and interaction at Ministerial and official levels have contributed to the expansion and development of our bilateral relations and to the mutual understanding on all issues of interest and concern.

National Seeds Corporation

3168. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Seeds Corporation and State Farm Corporation of India are engaged in development of agricultrue in North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) if so, the development work done by these organisations during the last three years, in North-Eastern States;

(c) the amount spent on them during each of the last three years in these States;

(d) whether any programme has been formulated for the next financial year for the N.E. Region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Both National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSC) and the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. (SFCI) are engaged in the production and distribution/ sale of quality seeds to the farmers and other organisations in North-Eastern States including Sikkim. This helps in the development of agriculture. Details of the total quantities of seeds supplied during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given in the attached Statement.

(d) and (e) Details of Seed production programme drawn up by NSC and SFCI for North-Eastern Region for the year 2000-2001 is given below:

	(in qts.)
NSC	
Paddy	1000
Palak	10
Mustard	100

SFCI	
Kharif	
Paddy	10500
Maize	210
Soyabean	675
Vegetable	1600
Others	107
Total	13092

RABI	
Wheat	1500
Rajmash	750
Toria	1575
Vegetables	256
Others	312
Total	4393

Statement

Quantity of seed supplied by NSC and SFCI to North-Eastern States including Sikkim during last three years

(Quantity in qtls.)

S.No.	Name of State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		NSC	SFCI	NSC	SFCI	NSC	SFCI
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	616.00	—	353.00	—	220.00	—
2.	Assam	2794.00	975.53	2013.00	779.90	3382.0	2078.20
3.	Manipur	1514.00	—	1394.00	—	1330.00	103.00
4.	Meghalaya	343.00	—	2044.00	—	2137.00	—
5.	Mizoram	433.00	—	612.00	—	1290.00	—
6.	Nagaland	83.00	2432.05	—	—	674.00	861.57
7.	Tripura	561.00	211.25	1241.00	—	374.00	1552.00
8.	Sikkim	1530.00	1730.00	1812.00	—	868.00	—
	Total	7874.00	5349.13	9496.00	779.90	10275.00	4594.77

Vocational Training

3169. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for agro-based vocational training for women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Abolition of Tax

3170. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the demands from Beedi workers for abolition of tax concessions given to mini-cigarette manufacturers and small beedi units manufacturing less than 20 lakh beedi per year;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate rule regarding payment of a guaranteed wage equivalent to the amount to be paid for selling 800 beedis per day should be strictly enforced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has been steadily increasing the rate of excise duty on minicigarettes since the past few years. Due to practical difficulties and peculiar decentralised nature of the beedi industry, which is mainly home based, it has not been found feasible to withdraw the full exemption granted in excise duty on production of unbranded beedis upto 20 lakhs in a financial year.

(c) to (e) The question of National Minimum Wage has been examined several times in the past and it has not been found possible to have a National Minimum Wage because of differences in economic levels in different States/Regions. However, the State Governments who are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of wages for workers engaged in beedi making, have been requested to fix the Floor Level Minimum Wages at Rs. 45/- per day.

[Translation]

Relation with Pakistan

3171. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: 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 "Pakistan sambandhi nitiyan badalne ka samay" appearing in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 9, 2000;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to review the foreign policy pertaining to Pakistan involvement in cross-border terrorism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news-item appearing in Dainik Jagaran on January 9, 2000.

(b) to (d) Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and continued attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism have been brought before international fora and have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's policy of state sponsorship of terrorism. There is a greater awareness on the impact this has on the security of the country and the region as a whole. This awareness is being reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, and in the statements by official spokesmen of several Governments. Government will continue to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Developmental Schemes

3172. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the developmental schemes of North-Eastern States pending with the Union Government;

(b) the time since when these schemes are pending; and

(c) the time by which the said schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The developmental schemes of the North-Eastern States being part of their Annual Plans do not require clearance of the Union Government for implementation/ execution.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Steel Items

3173. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of steel items have been increased by SAIL during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken to stop the frequent increase of prices of steel items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Since the liberalisation of the steel industry, Government has no control over the prices of steel items produced by the steel producers. The prices of different steel products have varied as per the market conditions.

Menace of Global Terrorism

3174. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 26, 2000 under the caption 'Regional initiative needed to tackle terrorism';

(b) whether India has proposed a regional initiative to tackle the growing menace of terrorism and for de-legitimising nuclear weapons and reducing the risks of accidental or unauthorised nuclear exchanges in an attempt to tackle proliferations; and

(c) if so, the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir, India has not proposed any such initiative. However, in his closing remarks to the Second International Conference on "Asian Security in the 21st Century" on January 25, 2000, EAM underlined the threat that nacro-terrorism, extremism and small arms proliferation constitute to plural societies and said that strengthening puralism was a major requirement for fashioning a lasting security order in Asia. He also said that if proliferation had to be tackled, Asian nations need to come together by undertaking initiatives for steps that will lead the way in de-legitimising nuclear weapons.

(c) At India's initiative a new Resolution "Reducing Nuclear Danger" has been adopted by the UN General Assembly. The Resolution inter-alia, calls for immediate steps to reduce the risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons. Government hopes that this initiative would help generate momentum towards the adoption of measures that delegitimise nuclear weapon and reduce the threat of nuclear war.

The Government of India is committed to combating and eradicating international terrorism, including cross border terrorism, at bilateral, regional and international levels. India has emphasized the need to take effective measures to combat terrorism in bilateral discussions with various countries, including countries in the region. India is party to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, which was signed in Kathmandu in November, 1987 during the Third SAARC Summit and came into force on August 22, 1988 following ratification by all Member States. India has also enacted "The SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, 1993" to give effect to the Convention. India is a party to 8 out of 11 international Conventions on terrorism.

Indian initiatives in the NAM and CHOGM fora have been fruitful in strengthening the position of these two organisations on the question of tackling terrorism.

India has been at the forefront in shaping the international consensus to tackle the menace of terrorism. India's initiatives have resulted in the General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism which in 1994 for the first time also addressed the obligation of States to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in territories of other States, or from acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts. The resolution also asks States to ensure the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of perpetrators of terrorist acts, in accordance with the relevant provisions their national law.

The General Assembly in 1999 has also adopted a resolution on Measures to Eliminate Terrorism which provides for initiating discussions on the Indian sponsored draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism from September 2000 onwards.

Demarcation of Land Boundary

3175. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Joint Working Group of Indo-Bangladesh was held in Delhi in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of such meetings held during 1998 and 1999 and the outcome of each of the meetings;

(d) the number of survey teams set-up for the working of completion of demarcation of land boundary till January 1, 1997 and the number of such teams increased till date;

(e) whether the increase in number of survey teams have helped the Government in demarcation of land boundary;

(f) if so, the extent to which they have helped in this regard; and

(g) the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The third meeting of the India — Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) was held in New Delhi in 1997. The fifth meeting of the JWG was held in August 1998. No JWG meeting was held in 1999. The JWG meetings discussed various issues related to border management including, *inter alia*, security, cross border movements, border demaraction and visa regime, etc. Both sides reiterated their resolve to ensure co-operation between the two Governments and not to allow their territories to be used for activities prejudicial to the other's interests.

(d) to (g) Both countries had deployed one survey team each on the India—Bangladesh boundary in West Bengal sector, Meghalaya sector, Assam sector and Tripura sector till January, 1997. In the West Bengal sector, the number of survey teams was increased in the 1997-98 field season to expedite the work of boundary demarcation. Survey officials of India and Bangladesh have completed joint demarcation of the India - Bangladesh boundary excepting a length of about 6.5 km. The Government of India propose to complete the task of joint demarcation of the boundary with Bangladesh with the co-operation of the concerned State Governments.

Five Point Package

3176. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed five point package to optimise the benefits of a safety net fund for workers displaced through industrial restructuring;

(b) whether the financial provisions for new package has been decided; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main sources of funding the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) With a view to optimising the benefits of a safety net for workers displaced through industrial restructuring, the Government has made a provision of Rs. 100 crores for Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) in the Union Budget for 2000-2001. In addition to this a sum of Rs. 270 crores has been provided for grant-in-aid to Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The VSS will be funded by unbundling assets of sick and non revivable PSUs and by putting in place mechanisms to raise resources from the market against the Security of these assets.

Training at the Cost of Public Exchequer

3177. SHRI ANANDA MOHAN BISWAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India nominates officers for training to the reputed foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial and administrative capabilities in the field of General/Public Administration and MBA courses at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad for both the short-term and long term training courses abroad during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SC/ST category among such officers sent abroad for the said training;

(d) whether the adequate number of SCs/STs officers have not been nominated for the said training; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Foreign Training Programmes to which officers of the Indian Administrative Service, State Civil Services, the Central Secretariat Service and those officers of other All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services working under the Central Staffing Scheme are nominated/deputed by the Department of Personnel and Training, fall under the Technical Co-operation Programmes, such as, the Colombo Plan (relating to Programmes in U.K. and Japan) and India Australia Training and Capacity Building Project (relating to training in Australia). Under these programmes the training costs are not required to be borne by the Government of India.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the position as stated in reply to para (a) of the question.

Reimbursement Under the Coir Industry

3178. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the claims for reimbursement under 20% Rebate Reimbursement Scheme are pending with the coir board for the period 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 which amounts to Rs. 7,33,49,905/-; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to release adequate funds to the coir board for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coir Board has submitted the claims of rebate arrears amounting to Rs. 7.14 crores in respect of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The claims are being verified.

Scholarship for S.T. Students

3179. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Government of Orissa for release of funds for post-matric scholarship, for scheduled tribes students is pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. The proposal received from Government of Orissa under the scheme for the year 1999-2000 was approved and the due Central assistance released.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of Working Group

3180. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the working group set up by the Union Government to study the present slow down in the steel sector have arrived at any decision;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the unscrupulous attempts by steel traders to import steel at very low prices by under invoicing imports;

(d) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to stop this practice; and

(e) if so, the number of such cases reported to the Union Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Adoption of Destitute Infants and Children

3181. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn out a plan for the upliftment of destitute neglected and orphan children;

(b) whether the Government have set up a Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) to encourage adoption of destitute infants and children;

(c) if so, number of children adopted under the programme during the last three years and financial assistance provided under the scheme for running homes for destitute infants, year-wise;

(d) the names of the companies that have agreed to contribute in these schemes; and

(e) the reasons for poor implementation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Number of children adopted during the last three years:

Year	In country	Inter-country
1997	1330	1026
1998	1746	1406
1999	1539	1267

Grant released in Shsishu Griha Scheme:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	0.77
1998-99	1.29
1999-2000	1.07 upto 28.2.2000

(d) No such offer has been received by the Government.

(e) The scheme is being implemented satisfactory.

Diseases in Coconut Plantation

3182. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board is functioning without a full time Chairman presently;

(b) whether lack of top management has effected the capacity of the Coconut Development Board to meet the challenge of mite and other diseases harming coconut plantations all over the country;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined the long term impact of inactivity with regard to potential loss of production in the coconut sector; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Coconut Development Board do not have a full time Chairman at present. However, Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been given additional charge of Chairman, Coconut Development Board.

(b) and (c) The Coconut Development Board is discharging all its legitimate duties effeciently with its staff and officers at the headquarters, 3 regional offices and 6 State centres under the guidance of Chairman in-charge of the Coconut Development Board.

The Board has played a key role starting from the identification of the problem of coconut mite, sensitising the issue for reseach support, creating awareness for its management through publication of literature and coordination of training. Research efforts in State Agriculture Universities as well as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute have been intensified. Chairman In-charge, Coconut Development Board as Chairman of Steering Committee is regularly monitoring the research and development work relating to control of mite.

(d) Druing 1999-2000, the Coconut Development Board is implementing programmes for increasing production and productivity of coconuts besides promoting product diversification and by-product utilisation with an outlay of Rs. 21.00 crores. When the incidence of mite was reported in 1998, the Board extended financial assistance of Rs. 96 lakhs to Kerala; Rs. 50.40 lakh to Karnataka and Rs. 25.00 lakhs to Tamil Nadu during 1998-99 for adopting plant protection measures against the pest under the Board's programme of Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement. The Board has also entrusted a study to Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for evolving bio-control measures against the pest.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research has formulated a network project for control of Eriophyid Mite in coconut at a cost of Rs. 142.00 lakhs for 3 years with emphasis on biological control.

[Translation]

Changes in Labour Policy

3183. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in the present Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the changes proposed alongwith reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted State Governments, trade union leaders and others in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the consultation;

(e) whether the Government propose to create a separate fund for organised and unorganised labour; and

(f) if so, the details theoreof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Review and updation of Labour Policy is a continuous process to make it in tune with emerging needs. The thrust of the Labour Policy is on consolidation of the base created through tripartism for maintaining industrial peace and harmony. Tripartite consultation with the State Governments, employers and employees unions is invariably undertaken before amending and enacting any labour legislations or policy.

(e) and (f) At present there is no proposal for creating a separate fund for organised labour and unorganised labour as a whole. However, the Government have set up Welfare Funds in respect of various categories and sub-categories of workers in unorganised sector *i.e.* the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund, 1946, the Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund, 1976, the Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund, 1972, the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, 1976 and the Cine Workers Welfare Fund, 1981. There is a provision of Welfare Fund for Construction Workers under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

[English]

State Information Technology Promotion Board

3184. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is setting up a State Information Technology Promotion Board on the lines of State Investment Promotion Board for devising policies and promotional measures for Information Technology in the State;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether any technical Committee is likely to be set up to sort out problems in the State Information Technology Promotion Board;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have constituted a three member project implementation team at the department level; and

(e) if so, to what extent these measures have improved?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Apex bodies have been established on 24.01.2000 for promotion of Information Technology and E-governance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Regional Engineering Colleges

3185. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal)
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Regional Engineering Colleges to the level of Indian Institute of Technology and also levying a cess on information technology firms to meet the trained manpower requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose and time frame worked out therefor;

(d) the details of the Regional Engineering Colleges (REC) likely to be upgraded;

(e) the name of the Ministry that will co-ordinate and implement this project;

(f) the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Committee on infotech;

(g) the recommendations implemented so far; and

(h) the time by which remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The Advisory Committee on Information Technology in its meeting held on 21st February, 2000 has suggested upgradation of the existing leading 43 Engineering Colleges/ Regional Engineering Colleges as IIT type institutions of higher learning and excellence in Information Technology List of Engineering Colleges likely to be upgraded is attached as Statement. The suggestions have been referred to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) for implementation.

(f) to (h) The major recommendations of the Task Force relate to simplified policies and procedures in telecommunication sector, enactment of Cyber Laws to promote e-commerce and to provide security to electronic transactions, simplifications in labour laws for IT sector, fiscal incentives, promotion of IT in schools and rura' areas, computerization in Government and to increase computer literacy at grass root levels.

44 out of 108 recommendations have already been implemented. 30 recommendations are on-going and are to be implemented in phases. 3 recommendations have been found non-implementable and 31 are yet to be implemented. Many of these recommendations yet to be implemented relate to Department of Telecommunications, Department of Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance and State Governments. Ministry of Information Technology being the nodal Ministry for promotion of IT in the country is pursuing with the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation of these recommendations. The recommendations in the second and third report are under the consideration of Government.

Statement

List of Engineering Colleges

Regional Engineering Colleges

1. Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad.
2. Maulana Azad College of Technology, Bhopal.
3. Regional Engineering College, Calicut.
4. Regional Engineering College, Durgàpur.
5. Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur.
6. Malviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur.
7. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Regional Engineering College, Jalandhar.
8. Regional Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.
9. Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra.
10. Visvesyaraya Regional Engineering College, Nagpur.
11. Regional Engineering College, Rourkela.
12. Regional Engineering College, Silchar.
13. Regional Engineering College, Srinagar.
14. Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engg. & Tech., Surat
15. Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathakal.
16. Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapalli.
17. Regional Engineering College, Warrangal.

Other Leading Engineering Colleges

18. PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
19. Assam Engineering College, Jorhat.
20. North-Eastern Hill University.
21. BITS, Pilani.
22. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.
23. Anna University, Chennai.
24. Roorkee University, Roorkee.
25. Jadavpur University, Calcutta.
26. Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
27. Bengal Engineering College, Howrah, West Bengal.
28. Delhi Engineering College, Delhi.
29. Delhi Institue of Technology, Delhi.
30. Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh.
31. LD College of Engineering, Ahmedabad.
32. Harcourt Butler Institute, Kanpur.
33. MS University, Baroda.
34. Bihar Engineering College, Patna.
35. Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi.
36. Andhra University, Waltair.
37. Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur.
38. Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi.
39. Thapar Institute of Technology, Patiala.
40. VJTI, Mumbai.
41. Government College of Engineering, Pune.
42. Shri GS Institute of Technology & Science, Indore.
43. University of Vishveshvariyya, Bangalore.

[English]

National Trade Test

3186. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Kerala Government to allow the students to take National Trade Test pending recognition of the Industrial Training Centres run by the Department of Scheduled Castes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A note from Director, Scheduled Caste Development Department to the Secretary, SC/ST and Ports Department, Government of Kerala was received in Dec. 1999 with a request to issue the National Trade Certificates for the candidates who have appeared for All India Trade Test from 1996 onwards from Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) of Scheduled Castes Development Department and who were issued Provisional Certificates by the State Director.

The above was replied vide letter dated 20th December, 1999, stating that the trainees in these institutes were admitted without recommendation of the Standing Committee. These Trainees were not eligible to appear in All India Trade Test and hence not eligible for National Trade Certificates.

Extradition Treaty with U.A.E.

3187. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instruments of ratification in respect of the Extradition Treaty between India and the U.A.E. have been exchanged;

(b) if so, whether the Government have forwarded any extradition request to the U.A.E.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether political offenders are covered under the Extradition Treaty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The Government of India has ratified the Extradition Treaty with the U.A.E. The Instruments of Ratification will be exchanged once the U.A.E. side completes the process of ratification.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Article 6(1) of the Extradition Treaty with the U.A.E. provides that extradition may be refused if the offences for which the extradition is requested is a political offence.

Revival of IISCO

3188. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SAIL reforms put IISCO revival plan in limbo" appearing in the "Statesman" dated February 2, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the strategies proposed by the Government to revive the ailing IISCO in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994. In response to a global tender called by SAIL for the revival of IISCO, a proposal was received from M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE), whose modified proposal is dependant on decision by the Russian Govt. on use of a part of Rupee Debt Repayment funds. Considering the importance attached to the project, the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, recommended during its Sixth Session that the Russian Government may convey their response by February, 2000. However, no official reply has been received from them till date.

In the meantime, Government has allowed SAIL to have a minority share holding in any Joint Venture contemplated for revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO). The formation of Joint Venture for the revival of IISCO has been targetted for June, 2001 by SAIL.

Conservation of Genetic Sources

3189. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Organisation in Delhi for documentation of conservation of genetic sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefitted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is a proposal to set up 'National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms'.

(b) and (c) The proposed Bureau is considered essential in view of the importance of microorganisms as a genetic resource. The activities of the proposed Bureau include identification, characterization, documentation, inventorization, conservation and utilization of agriculturally important plant microoganisms. This has become important due to existing and emerging intellectual property regime, especially on microorganisms. For example, nitrogen fixing bacteria could be used to produce far more nitrogen so essential for plants. Likewise, blue green algae could be used as bio-fertilizer. Also, many organizms could be a source of potential genes for developing varieties resistant to various biotic and abiotic stresses. Similarly, genes for quality attributes could profitably be exploited.

[Translation]

Investment in Steel Sectors

3190. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to encourage more investment in Research and Development to improve the quality of steel;

(b) if so, the investment made for Research and Development in public sector steel plants during the last three years; and

(c) the status of on-going Research and Development projects in public sector steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investments made in research and development in public sector steel plants during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (April-Sept., 1999)
(i) Steel Authority of India Limited	38.03	44.50	23.12
(ii) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	2.50	2.50	1.20

(c) The status of on-going Research and Development projects in Research & Development Centre for Iron and Steel (RDCIS), Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are as follows:

RDCIS, Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi

In the current year (1999-2000), RDCIS is pursuing 94 research projects in various steel plants and units of Steel Authority of India Ltd. Out of the 94 projects, 67 projects are earmarked for completion till 31st March, 2000. The projects are running as per schedule.

RINL, Visakhapatnam

Sl.No.	Name of the research project	Status (as on 15.3.2000)
1.	To study and reduce the variation in tensile strength in high carbon coils in Wire Rod Mill.	The project is in the final stage of implementation with a marked improvement in the tensile strength variations of the wire rods.
2.	To streamline the procedure to improve hit rate in EQ heats.	Hit rate has been improved to over 80%
3.	Study of formation of sticker in Coke Ovens with the aim to reduce the incidents.	Due to the action taken, the instance of stickers have been drastically reduced.
4.	Study the corrosion behaviors of Re-bars.	This has been completed.

[English]

Ties with Iran

3191. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have agreed to set up joint working groups to review political and economic co-operation at the bilateral and regional level and establish research centres on culture and world affairs;

(b) whether the Foreign Secretary had discussions with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia Pacific Affairs during his visit to Iran;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details of areas thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) At their meeting in February, 1999, in New Delhi, the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran directed that a process of regular and structured consultations should be established at experts' level between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran. Accordingly, discussions were held on formulating such consultations and it was decided during Foreign Secretary's discussions with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Tehran in July-August, 1999, that four expert level groups would be set up in the following areas: (1) Political and economic matters including bilateral and regional issues; (2) International issues; (3) Research and sectoral studies on areas of mutual interests; and (4) Cooperation in culture including on Dialogue among Civilisations.

The first meetings of these groups have been held. These meetings will contribute to the larger process of political and diplomatic interaction between the two countries.

Ongole Cattle

3192. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of Ongole cattle is gradually declining in India;

(b) the present estimate of Ongole cattle population in India,

(c) whether the Government are considering the preservation of the valuable Ongole cattle breed through upgradation by collaboration with countries like Brazil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the offer received from other countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Breed Census is not conducted under Quinquennial Livestock Census.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, steps have already been taken up under ongoing Departmental schemes for the conservation and development of the Ongole breed.

Adulteration of Fertilizers

3193. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is seriously considering a proposal to bring a substantive legislation providing for punitive action against those indulging in adulteration of fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) In order to ensure availability and supply of right quality of fertilisers to the farmers, the Central Government under powers conferred by Essential Commodities Act, 1955 had already enacted an order, called Fertiliser (Control) Order in the year 1957. This order was revised and an updated order was issued in September, 1985, now called Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985. Besides regulating the prices of fertilisers, the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 prohibits the manufacture/ sale of fertilisers which do not conform to the standards and specification prescribed in it. Any person violating these mandatory provisions and found indulging in trading in non-standard/spurious fertiliser, is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985/ Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State/UTs Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders who may indulge in any kind of malpractices in the manufacture/sale of fertilizers. The provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 are periodically reviewed and need based amendments are made. In case of pesticides also, the sale/supply of adulterated/spurious pesticides is regulated under the provisions of insecticides Act, 1968. Whenever pesticides are found sub-standard, prosecution is launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/suppliers of sub-standard pesticides. In order to make the Insecticides Act more effective and stringent amendments in the Act are under consideration.

Crisis in Coir Industry

3194. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Coir Industry of Kerala is now facing a crisis on account of accumulation of stocks of coir yarn and coir products; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Water Grid

3195. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish a National Water Grid for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for better utilisation of water resources in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the National Water Grid Project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission had in 1980 formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. NWDA has completed pre-feasibility report of 31 water transfer links and feasibility report of 5 water transfer links. Implementation of water transfer link proposal depends on availability of funds and how soon the detailed project reports are prepared and consensus is reached among the concerned States.

Welfare Schemes for Weaker Sections

3196. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes launched/being launched by the Union Government for upliftment of weaker sections of the country;

(b) the number of persons for weaker section benefited therefrom during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period, State-wise;

(c) the guidelines issued for the sanction of funds under various schemes;

(d) the funds allocated for these schemes for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately; and

(e) the amount actually released to State Governments till date for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Salem Steel Plant

3197. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector steel companies have expressed their interest in forming a joint venture with SAIL for the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of such companies;

(c) whether any condition have been laid down for private sector steel plants to form joint venture with SAIL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the production of steel is likely to be increased after the joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following private companies have offered their Expression of Interest (EOI) for participation in the proposed joint

venture for Salem Steel Plant (SSP) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL):

— TISCO, Jamshedupur
— Jindal Strips, Delhi
— Shah Alloys, Ahmedabad
— SMS Demag, Germany
— Avesta Sheffield, Swedan

(c) and (d) The pre-qualification criteria indicated in the advertisement issued by SAIL for seeking EOI envisaged that the strategic partner(s) should have:

— Sound technical, financial and managerial expertise in the area of stainless steel production.

— A minimum of ten years of consistent and proven experience in the production of quality stainless steel in different grades of AISI 300 and 400 series-particularly in 304 and 430 grades in hot rolled and cold rolled coils.

— Preferably, demonstrable experience of marketing stainless steel products in the international arena with a global network.

— Net worth in excess of Rs. 5,000 Million (Rupees five Thousand Million only)/US$ 115 Million (US Dollars One Hundred & Fifteen Million only).

The advertisement also indicated that the Strategic Partner shall comply with SAIL's decision to absorb all personnel presently working in SSP, with full protection of their existing compensation packages and other service conditions, in case of joint venture through equity participation in Salem Steel Plant.

(e) SAIL has indicated that the extent to which the production of steel is likely to be increased in SSP will be known only after finalisation of the strategic alliance partner

Withdrawal of Sanctions

3198. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged Japan to withdraw the economic sanctions imposed on India in the aftermath of Pokharan nuclear tests;

(b) if so, whether there is any difference over the nuclear issues between both the countries;

(c) if so, whether the recent Defence Minister's visit to Japan has further improved the relations between both the countries;

(d) if so, whether Japan has agreed to withdraw the economic sanctions imposed by them in 1998 and began a new round of discussion for building a broad based partnership in economic and security sphere;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these issues are likely to be discussed and these sanctions withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Our position regarding the withdrawal of the economic sanctions imposed by Japan is that this is a decision that Japan has to take in exercise of its sovereign right and shall undertake whenever the Government of Japan thinks it appropriate.

(b) Japan considers India to be a non Nuclear Weapon State in terms of NPT and would like India to fulfil the benchmarks of the UNSC Resolution 1172 including signing the NPT and CTBT. India's position on NPT is that it is a discriminatory and flawed Treaty. India's position on CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. Our position remains the same. Government is committed to working towards a national consensus. We continue to be guided by the imperative of India's strategic autonomy and the need to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.

(c) The visit of Raksha Mantri, Shri George Fernandes, to Japan from January 10-14, 2000 helped consolidate our bilateral ties. Both sides agreed to commence a regular security and defence related dialogue and expand defence personnel exchanges, education and training.

(d) Japan's position continues to remain that removal of sanctions remains conditional on the progress India makes on the nuclear issue including signing of the CTBT.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Micro Irrigation/Sprinkler Systems

3199. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage Micro Irrigation and Sprinkler Systems for increasing production of agricultural products in the country;

(b) if so, whether any additional assistance has been provided to State Governments for the purpose for the current year; and

(c) the details of additional assistance given to each State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Assistance is being provided to the State Governments for drip/micro irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems under different schemes. The outlay provided for micro irrigation and sprinkler irrigation during the current year under the following Centrally Sponsored schemes is given in the Statement enclosed.

1. Use of Plastics in Agriculture
2. Oil Palm Development Programme
3. Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems
4. Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Coarse Cereals
5. Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Wheat
6. Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice
7. Oilseeds Production Programme
8. National Pulses Development Programme

Statement

Outlay Provided for Micro and Sprinkler Irrigation During 1999-2000

Rupees in Lakh

State		Micro/Drip Irrigation			Sprinkler Irrigation				
		Use of Plastics in Agriculture	OPDP*	SUBACS	ICDP-Coarse Cereals	ICDP-Wheat	ICDP-Rice	OPP*	NPDP
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1251.000	717.000	75.000	—	—	—	530.700	30.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.450	—	—	—	—	20.000	—	—
3.	Assam	7.200	7.000	—	—	—	45.000	—	—
4.	Bihar	15.300	—	28.125	—	—	8.000	37.300	25.000
5.	Goa	10.580	5.000	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	210.600	10.000	36.750	37.500	—	—	581.700	45.000
7.	Haryana	74.250	—	—	—	375.000	—	66.700	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.660	—	—	—	25.000	—	10.000	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.930	—	—	—	10.000	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	2331.000	270.000	93.750	192.500	—	—	168.300	58.000
11.	Kerala	348.300	50.000	7.500	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	205.880	—	28.125	625.000	—	137.500	593.000	95.000
13.	Maharashtra	2652.750	—	318.750	625.000	—	—	420.700	50.000

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Manipur	14.850	—	5.438	—	—	14.250	10.000	—
15	Meghalaya	13.950	—	—	—	—	12.500	—	—
16.	Mizoram	13.950	—	5.438	—	—	7.500	—	—
17.	Nagaland	19.350	—	5.438	—	—	12.500	—	—
18.	Orissa	12.600	10.000	—	—	—	125.000	180.000	30.000
19.	Punjab	82.800	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	297.900	—	28.125	1248.660	60.000	—	596.000	120.000
21.	Sikkim	5.850	—	—	20.000	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1026.000	100.000	34.125	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tripura	11.520	8.000	—	—	—	30.000	50.000	22.000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	227.700	—	—	—	45.000	250.000	292.000	130.000
25.	West Bengal	1.800	—	—	—	—	50.000	10.000	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	Chandigarh	0.000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Delhi	0.950	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Daman and Diu	4.450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshdweep	4.450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1.400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Tatal:	8874.870	1177.000	666.564	2748.660	515.000	712.250	3546.400	605.000

*OPDP: Oil Palm Development Programme. Amount indicated is the total allocation for the scheme out of which 70% is to be used for area expansion and micro irrigation. Outlay for micro irrigation not earmarked separately.
SUBACS: Sugarcane Based Croping Systems.
ICDP: Integrated Cereals Developmet Programme.
OPP: Oilseeds Production Programme.
NPDP: National Pulses Development Programme.

Task Force on Agro Industries

3200. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force has been constituted on Food and Agro Industries Management Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

International Labour Organisation

3201. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Ministe of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation had presented a vision of "decent work" and a 'social floor' that help people to face globalisation and had suggested to arrange the policies that would enable the workers to work with equity, freedom and human dignity; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard and measures the Government intend to adopt to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The International Labour Organisation's constituents, *i.e.* Governments, Workers and Employers in the June, 1999 International Labour Conference, endorsed DG ILO's proposal that the single over-riding goal of the ILO for the next decade and beyond, must be to promote opportunities for people to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The long term objective is to promote decent work in a sustainable environment. The immediate objective is to put in place a social floor for the global economy in ways which meet the concerns of developing countries and working families. The Government Delegation from India also endorsed the above proposal. The various elements in the theme of "decent work" will be kept in mind by the Government while formulating Government's economic and social policies.

Setting up of Task Force

3202. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up expert committee/Task Force to look into the marketing set up of the Public Sector units in fertilizer sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the short and long term needs of the farming community; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for upgradation of soil testing and farmers the training facilities in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The fertiliser companies develop their marketing network as per their requirement, financial viability, requirements of States and their commercial judgement. In order to ensure timely availability of Urea, which is the only controlled fertiliser, its demand is assessed by the Government every season and allocations are made to the manufacturers in advance. Part of the requirements are also met through imports. In the case of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers like Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP), a buffer stock is maintained to overcome any shortage in supplies. Both urea as well as major decontrolled fertilisers are available to farmers at subsidised prices.

(d) Government of India is implementing a scheme of "Balanced and Integrated use of fertilisers" from 1991-92, inter alia, for setting up and strengthening soil testing laboratories in the States/Union Territories. A statement indicating the funds released to various States/Union Territories during the Eighth and Ninth Five year plans is enclosed.

Statement

Indicating the funds released to State Governments for setting up/strengthening soil testing laboratories

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Funds Released		
		VIII Five Year Plan	IX Five Year Plan	
			1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53.65	—	25.00
2.	Assam	20.30	—	5.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	86.70	—	5.00
5.	Goa	—	8.65	—
6.	Gujarat	17.63	—	40.00
7.	Haryana	28.65	103.80	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.30	17.30	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.00	—	10.00
10.	Karnataka	8.65	17.30	—
11.	Kerala	2.00	8.65	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	36.65	--	10.00
13.	Maharashtra	8.00	30.00	—
14.	Manipur	13.00	8.65	—
15.	Meghalaya	13.65	—	—
16.	Mizoram	11.35	—	—
17.	Nagaland	24.30	—	—
18.	Orissa	60.85	—	10.00
19.	Punjab	59.00	43.25	—
20.	Rajasthan	16.65	40.00	—
21.	Sikkim	11.90	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	32.90	17.30	—
23.	Tripura	4.10	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13.00	—	49.00
25.	West Bengal	13.00	—	5.00
26.	Lakshadweep	3.15	—	—
	Total:	574.38	294.90	159.00

[Translation]

Action Against Travel Agencies

3203. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of travel agencies involved in sending persons to foreign countries on the basis of fake documents;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies detected during the last three years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against these agencies; and

(d) the efforts being made to check illegal activities of such agencies in future and protect the interests of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Under the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder, only such of the agencies as are registered with the Government can make recruitment of Indian workers for

overseas employment. Such recruitment is made on the basis of a specific demand letter and power of attorney from the foreign employers. However, during the last three years, complaints against 189 unauthorised agents (including travel agencies) operating in different parts of the country, were received. The complaints, inter-alia, included extortion of money in the name of providing employment in foreign countries, sending the workers to other countries on tourist visas instead of sending them on employment visas etc. All these cases were referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation and registration of cases for violation of the provisions of the Emigration Act.

(e) With a view to curbing the activities of such agencies, detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for issue of necessary instructions right upto the level of police stations for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agencies and registration of cases against them.

[English]

Amount Allocated to Khadi Boards

3204. SHRI ABDUL HAMID:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Khadi and Gramodyog Commission to the Khadi Boards to carry on the activities of the Khadi and Gramodyog in the country in 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided in the form of loan and grant out of the above allocated amount during the above mentioned period, State-wise;

(c) the amount released by the Commission under the 'Margin Money Scheme' during the above period, State-wise;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the performance of these Khadi Boards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Statement-I showing the State-wise allocation of funds by the KVIC during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for conducting the Khadi and Village Industries activities in the country is enclosed.

(c) The amount released by the KVIC under Margin Money Scheme is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Every year, the KVIC analyses the performance of each State/U.T. KVI Board. The details of production, sale, employment and earnings for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Funds allocated to Khadi and Village Industries Boards for the year 1997-98 & 1998-99 under Khadi & Village Industries

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the KVI Board	1997-98				1998-99			
		Loan		Grant		Loan		Grant	
		KVIC	CBC	Other Grant	M.M. Grant	KVIC	CBC	Other Grant	M.M. Grant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Delhi	0	550.49	0	201.11	0	550.49	0	201.11
2.	Himachal Pradesh	0	118.73	0.19	42.41	0	118.73	0.19	42.41
3.	Haryana	30.85	1010.17	0	337.43	30.85	1010.17	0	337.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Punjab	0	2765.59	0.04	998.04	0	2765.59	0.04	998.04
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	43.00	377.90	0.25	171.10	43.00	377.90	0.25	171.10
6.	UT Chandigarh	0	23.05	0	8.86	0	23.05	0	8.86
7.	Rajasthan	102.38	1692.32	9.03	665.45	102.38	1692.32	9.03	665.45
8.	Andhra Pradesh	68.02	4518.24	9.25	1659.00	68.02	4518.24	9.25	1659.00
9.	Karnataka	79.29	6278.33	0	2243.67	79.29	6278.33	0	2243.67
10.	Kerala	65.47	1499.85	7.62	537.57	65.47	1499.85	7.62	537.57
11.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	0	48.13	0	100.00	0	48.13	0
12.	Pondicherry (UT)	0	69.18	0.63	26.36	0	69.18	0.63	26.36
13.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	153.41	0	60.15	0	153.41	0	60.15
14.	Maharashtra	0	2126.77	0.29	845.86	0	2126.77	0.29	845.86
15.	Gujarat	77.59	639.65	50.05	62.55	77.59	639.65	50.05	62.55
16.	Goa	0	116.12	0	38.45	0	116.12	0	38.45
17.	Bihar	21.92	1291.46	2.65	464.68	21.92	1291.46	2.65	464.68
18.	Orissa	0	2135.46	1.18	851.88	0	2135.46	11.18	851.88
19.	West Bengal	126.56	1436.55	0.19	526.17	126.56	1436.55	0.19	526.17
20.	A&N Nicobar (UT)	0	81.13	0.02	39.67	0	81.13	0.02	39.67
21.	Sikkim	0	21.88	0	9.26	0	21.88	0	9.26
22.	Assam	0	266.35	0.37	117.64	0	266.35	0.37	117.64
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	15.74	0	7.27	0	15.74	0	7.27
24.	Meghalaya	0	1546.39	76.62	92.44	0	1546.39	76.62	92.44
25.	Manipur	0	583.70	0.27	261.93	0	583.70	0.27	261.93
26.	Mizoram	0	417.95	0.01	192.50	0	417.95	0.01	192.50
27.	Nagaland	12.00	1023.30	5.74	713.82	12.00	1023.30	5.74	713.82
28.	Tripura	0	27.66	1.99	12.61	0	27.66	1.99	12.61
29.	Uttar Pradesh	160.40	2849.38	0.46	1031.73	160.40	2849.38	0.46	1031.73
30.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1719.43	0.19	656.45	0	1719.43	0.19	656.45
	Total:	887.48	35356.18	215.17	12876.06	887.48	35356.18	215.17	12876.06

Statement-II

Statement showing the amount released under the Margin Money Scheme to State KVI Boards

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	State Boards	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	U.P. KVIB	1004.54	3788.85
2.	M.P. KVIB	315.92	2715.25
3.	Orissa KVIB	207.33	275.69
4.	Bihar KVIB	—	—
5.	Sikkim	—	—
6.	West Bengal	—	12.50
7.	Andaman & Nicobar, KVIB	—	6.91
8.	Gujarat	—	287.28
9.	Maharashtra	743.34	782.30
10.	Goa, Daman & Diu	—	40.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	169.26	645.71
12.	Punjab	438.83	1839.27
13.	Chandigarh (UT)	—	—
14.	Haryana	139.04	506.57
15.	Himachal Pradesh, KVIB	269.75	514.98
16.	Rajasthan KVIB	575.42	551.22
17.	Delhi, KVIB	—	95.71
18.	Assam, KVIB	—	5.00
19.	Meghalaya, KVIB	--	142.36
20.	Tripura KVIB	—	—
21.	Nagaland, KVIB	90.00	396.11
22.	Mizoram, KVIB	180.34	1072.95
23.	Manipur, KVIB	867.34	850.62
24.	Arunachal Pradesh, KVIB	—	—
25.	Pondicherry, KVIB	—	94.58
26.	Andhra Pradesh, KVIB	2529.32	810.58
27.	Karnataka, KVIB	2172.67	4763.38
28.	Kerala, KVIB	—	1208.26
29.	Tamil Nadu, KVIB	—	12.50
30.	Lakshadweep, KVIB	—	109.68
	Total:	9702.94	21528.26

Statement-III

State KVI Boardwise Production and Sales 1997-98

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	State/UT KVI Boards	Production			Sales		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.65	214.28	216.93	2.00	218.74	220.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.77	0.77	—	0.79	0.79
3.	Assam	0.69	35.78	36.47	1.01	30.31	31.32
4.	Bihar	2.40	145.38	147.78	1.75	129.31	131.06
5.	Goa	—	8.04	8.04	—	10.37	10.37
6.	Gujarat	55.54	136.39	191.93	91.21	115.68	206.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Haryana	3.88	53.52	57.40	1.16	57.67	58.83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.04	60.56	60.60	0.57	64.47	65.04
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.03	72.64	72.67	0.03	79.54	79.57
10.	Karnataka	21.73	242.63	264.36	16.72	248.06	264.78
11.	Kerala	3.99	145.24	149.23	6.34	155.18	161.52
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.69	124.22	127.91	3.70	133.62	137.32
13.	Maharashtra	17.20	466.64	483.84	23.87	561.31	585.18
14.	Manipur	–	29.39	29.39	—	31.00	31.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.04	14.15	14.19	0.01	17.53	17.54
16.	Mizoram	—	20.81	20.81	0.12	19.58	19.70
17.	Nagaland	—	18.92	18.92	0.07	21.15	21.22
18.	Orissa	—	65.12	65.12	—	67.10	67.10
19.	Punjab	—	167.47	167.47	—	187.94	187.94
20.	Rajasthan	11.19	352.86	364.05	15.91	467.96	483.87
21.	Sikkim	0.09	2.65	2.74	0.07	2.60	2.67
22.	Tamil Nadu	18.66	397.52	416.38	30.50	395.71	426.21
23.	Tripura	0.19	12.13	12.32	0.06	12.59	12.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh	28.56	541.80	570.36	29.22	557.55	586.77
25.	West Bengal	15.92	142.60	158.52	3.43	146.78	150.21
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	1.08	1.08	—	0.98	0.98
27.	Chandigarh	—	6.03	6.03	—	6.96	6.96
28.	Delhi	—	25.65	25.65	—	28.01	28.01
29.	Lakshadweep	—	0.06	0.06	—	0.06	0.06
30.	Pondicherry	0.22	4.66	4.88	0.41	4.69	5.10
	Total:	186.91	3508.99	3695.90	228.16	3773.24	4001.40

State KVI Boardwise Production and Sales-1998-99

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	State/UTs	Production			Sales		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.77	238.97	239.74	0.64	249.96	250.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.31	0.31	—	0.30	0.30
3.	Assam	0.99	34.10	35.09	1.14	29.85	30.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	2.37	140.35	142.72	2.42	129.52	131.94
5.	Goa	—	11.43	11.43	—	14.06	14.06
6.	Gujarat	41.03	141.39	182.42	48.68	127.37	176.05
7.	Haryana	3.91	51.33	55.24	1.28	55.18	56.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.06	75.17	75.23	0.23	80.42	80.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	80.09	80.09	—	104.52	104.52
10.	Karnataka	19.74	270.20	289.94	18.77	284.97	303.74
11.	Kerala	4.36	151.62	155.98	3.13	154.35	157.48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.00	160.80	162.80	3.69	159.31	163.00
13.	Maharashtra	18.40	763.07	781.47	25.05	995.96	1021.01
14.	Manipur	—	44.29	44.29	—	45.76	45.76
15.	Meghalaya	—	11.18	11.18	—	14.41	14.41
16.	Mizoram	—	24.08	24.08	—	22.68	22.68
17.	Nagaland	—	17.60	17.60	0.04	19.52	19.56
18.	Orissa	0.14	45.88	46.02	0.15	50.82	50.97
19.	Punjab	—	188.61	188.61	—	197.34	197.34
20.	Rajasthan	11.74	418.63	430.37	12.92	544.53	557.45
21.	Sikkim	0.20	2.98	3.18	0.11	3.01	3.12
22.	Tamil Nadu	15.75	403.83	419.58	21.94	411.41	433.35
23.	Tripura	—	11.61	11.61	—	12.51	12.51
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33.35	558.18	591.53	35.23	599.96	635.19
25.	West Bengal	14.10	149.32	163.42	2.96	156.94	159.90
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	0.68	0.68	—	0.93	0.93
27.	Chandigarh	—	2.90	2.90	—	3.34	3.34
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	-	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	26.00	26.00	—	28.71	28.71
31.	Lakshadweep	—	0.91	0.91	—	1.11	1.11
32.	Pondicherry	0.10	4.37	4.47	0.45	4.55	5.00
	Total:	169.01	4029.88	4198.89	178.83	4503.30	4682.13

State-wise KVI Boardwise Employment and Earnings-1997-98

(Employment in lakh person) (Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	State/UT KVI Board	Employment			Earnings		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.07	3.15	3.22	1.50	89.03	90.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.32	0.32
3.	Assam	0.07	0.94	1.01	0.35	10.05	10.40
4.	Bihar	0.13	1.04	1.17	1.29	25.15	26.44
5.	Goa	—	0.05	0.05	—	3.33	3.33
6.	Gujarat	0.53	0.53	1.06	28.64	32.23	60.87
7.	Haryana	0.06	0.39	0.45	0.85	12.89	13.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	*	0.65	0.65	0.02	22.98	23.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	*	0.70	0.70	0.02	23.33	23.35
10.	Karnataka	0.26	1.51	1.77	5.48	63.23	68.71
11.	Kerala	0.07	2.16	2.23	2.00	43.31	45.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.04	0.94	0.98	1.05	50.17	51.22
13.	Maharashtra	0.13	3.52	3.65	6.00	178.47	184.47
14.	Manipur	—	0.42	0.42	—	9.45	9.45
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.13	0.13	—	8.75	8.75
16.	Mizoram	—	* 0.13	0.13	0.03	5.12	5.15
17.	Nagaland	*	0.18	0.18	0.01	10.46	10.47
18.	Orissa	—	2.01	2.01	—	24.97	24.97
19.	Punjab	—	0.95	0.95	—	47.46	47.46
20.	Rajasthan	0.63	3.01	3.64	5.58	149.56	155.14
21.	Sikkim	*	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.81	0.95
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.19	10.10	10.29	7.81	188.02	195.83
23.	Tripura	*	0.27	0.27	0.09	4.60	4.69
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.64	4.80	5.44	12.45	160.44	172.89
25.	West Bengal	0.29	2.78	3.07	3.29	36.54	39.83
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	*	*	—	0.54	0.54
27.	Chandigarh	—	0.04	0.04	—	1.36	1.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Delhi	—	0.15	0.15	—	11.81	11.81
29.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	0.03	0.03
30.	Podicherry	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.34	2.02	2.36
	Total:	3.12	40.65	43.77	76.94	1216.43	1293.37

*Less than 500

State KVI Board-wise Employment and Earnings-1998-99

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	State/UTs	Employment			Earnings		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.04	3.16	3.20	0.59	92.89	93.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	*	*	—	0.07	0.07
3.	Assam	0.14	0.96	1.10	0.39	9.08	9.47
4.	Bihar	0.11	1.02	1.13	1.28	24.95	26.23
5.	Goa	—	0.05	0.05	—	4.02	4.02
6.	Gujarat	0.46	0.53	0.99	23.87	33.48	57.35
7.	Haryana	0.06	0.36	0.42	1.18	12.09	13.27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	*	0.68	0.68	0.01	25.54	25.55
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	0.88	0.88	—	29.40	29.40
10.	Karnataka	0.28	1.81	2.09	4.88	69.89	74.77
11.	Kerala	0.07	1.92	1.99	1.92	39.80	41.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.03	1.08	1.11	1.36	55.79	57.15
13.	Maharashtra	0.13	4.20	4.33	6.99	243.12	250.11
14.	Manipur	—	0.42	0.42	—	13.64	13.64
15.	Meghalaya	—	0.11	0.11	—	6.67	6.67
16.	Mizoram	—	0.15	0.15	—	5.76	5.76
17.	Nagaland	*	0.18	0.18	0.02	9.33	9.35
18.	Orissa	*	1.82	1.82	0.06	21.57	21.63
19.	Punjab	—	0.96	0.96	—	51.61	51.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Rajasthan	0.56	3.22	3.78	4.76	189.61	194.37
21.	Sikkim	*	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.85	0.90
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.02	10.11	10.13	2.56	190.51	193.07
23.	Tripura	—	0.23	0.23	—	3.73	3.73
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.59	5.04	5.63	1.72	183.65	185.37
25.	West Bengal	0.08	3.20	3.28	4.32	48.29	52.60
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	*	*	—	0.28	0.28
27.	Chandigarh	—	0.04	0.04	—	1.85	1.85
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	0.10	0.10	—	12.11	12.11
31.	Lakshadweep	—	*	*	—	0.10	0.10
32.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.01	2.43	2.44
	Total:	2.58	42.32	44.90	55.97	1382.11	1438.08

Vizag Steel Plant

3205. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vizag Steel Plant has been compelled to drop one steel melting shop and one of the rolling mills due to financial crunch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the implementation of the project, one steel melting shop and one of the rolling mills had been dropped from the project due to fund constraints.

(c) RINL (VSP) had submitted a comprehensive turn around proposal for its revival which *inter-alia* included waiver of losses. The Disinvestment Commission has recommended writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity in RINL to a strategic buyer. No final decision has yet been taken on these recommendations.

UN Initiative to put an end to Child Labour

3206. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr UNICEF has taken initiative to combat child labour with pilot programme aimed at providing schooling to millions of children presently forced to work full time;

(b) whether in developing countries there are 250 million children aged 5 to 14 years who are working and have no facilities for schooling;

(c) if so, the total number of such children in India;

(d) the initiative taken by the Government to implement these schemes in India; and

(e) the help being extended by UNICEF in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the information

received from UNICEF, within its commitment made in the Master Plan of Operation (MPO 1999-2000), UNICEF will focus its activities in support of prevention of elimination of child labour in 25 districts where the major thrust of UNICEF supported interventions will be social mobilization for hundred per cent enrolment in elementary schools.

(b) As per the information received from UNICEF, most recent ILO estimates indicate that an estimated 120 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 years work full time in developing countries. The number rises to 250 million if secondary activities are also included.

(c) As per 1991 Census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

(d) Government is implementing two schemes, namely, National Child Labour Projects and Grants-in-Aid for withdrawal of children from work and their rehabilitation.

(e) As given at (a) above.

Promotion of Small Scale Industries

3207. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Union Government for promotion of small scale industries in North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years; and

(b) the plan of Union Government for promotion of small scale industries in the region during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Besides the ongoing programmes/schemes implemented by Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), etc. for promotion of SSI sector in the country, during the last three years Central Government have introduced a comprehensive new industrial policy for the entire North-Eastern region, including Sikkim. The salient features of the policy are as under:

(i) Funding pattern (sanction of funds) for Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme has been changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI to 4:1. The Government's share is in the form of grant.

(ii) IID Centres and Growth Centres become tax-free zones for income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years. Certain high growth potential industries have also been given the tax-free status in the North-East.

(iii) Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% of the investment in Plant & Machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is allowed under the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme.

(iv) An Interest Subsidy @ 3% on the working capital loan is provided to the new units in the NE Region for a period of 10 years from the commencement of production.

(v) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for Industrial Units set up after 24-12-1997 has been put in place.

(vi) The validity of Transport Subsidy Scheme 1971 has been extended for a period of 7 years up to 31.3.2007.

(vii) Specific relaxation has been provided for the North-Eastern region, including Sikkim, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, which is aimed at providing self employment to educated unemployed youth. This includes, age relaxation (40 years under general category as compared to 35 years in other parts of the country), higher family income limit (Rs. 40,000/- per annum as compared to Rs. 24,000/- in other parts of the country) and higher subsidy component (up to maximum of Rs. 15,000/- as compared to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- in other parts of the country).

(viii) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Management Development Programme courses are conducted regularly by the offices of Small Industries Development Organization located in North-eastern region without charging any participation fees from the participants from North-Eastern region.

(b) During the next financial year also the ongoing schemes are proposed to be continued for promotion of SSI Sector in NE Region. Besides, a new Tool Room and Training Centre is in the process of being set up at Guwahati at a cost of Rs. 13.28 crores.

[Translation]

Protection of Labourers

3208. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to frame rules to protect the interest of labourers and raise funds to provide training re-employment and voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such facilities are likely to be created and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government have already framed rules for protecting the interest of the labourers and providing training/re-employment and voluntary retirement under National Renewal Fund (NRF). However, resources under the NRF have not been sufficient to meet the cost of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) for those PSUs which are sick and cannot be revived. With a view to protect the interest of workers, the Government has made a Provision of Rs. 100 crores for Voluntary Separation Scheme in the Union Budget 2000-2001. In addition to this a sum of Rs. 270 crores has been provided for grant-in-aid to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The VSS will be funded by unbundling assets of sick and non-revivable PSUs and by putting in place mechanisms to raise resources from the market against the security of these assets.

Employment for SCs/STs Women

3209. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the employment opportunities generated during 1999-2000 as a result of new economic reforms and the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes women benefited therefrom;

(b) the employment opportunities likely to be created in the next financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities for the above mentioned communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment are obtained on the basis of Quinquennial Surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Therefore, annual employment data is not available.

(c) The special employment programmes implemented by various Ministries have components for SCs and STs. Schemes like Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana etc. all have special provisions for persons from SC/ST communities.

[English]

Growth Rate

3210. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present growth rate of small scale industries in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the present growth rate is low compared to the growth rate achieved during last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the growth rate of small scale industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The estimated growth rate of small scale industries in the country for the year 1998-99 was 7.7 per cent over the previous year. These data are computed centrally for the whole country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The slowing down of the growth rate is primarily due to slackening in aggregate demand for manufactured goods, both domestically and internationally.

(d) The Government has been running a large number of schemes for promotion of the SSI sector; these include technology upgradation, market development, infrastructure development, entrepreneurship development and creation of IT infrastructure. In addition, several measures have been announced in the Union Budget 2000-2001 to improve the supply of credit to this sector. These include raising the limit of loans without collaterals from Rs. one lakh to Rs. five lakhs, doubling the quantum of single window composite loans (both term loan and working capital) from Rs. five lakhs to Rs. ten lakhs, extending the operation of Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme by another three years and the Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans upto Rs. ten lakhs to the tiny sector entrepreneurs.

Fertilizers to Farmers

3211. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for organic fertilizers is much more than chemical fertilizers in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fertilisers units are finding it difficult to meet the demand of organic fertilizers;

(d) if so, steps being envisaged to meet the demand;

(e) the measures taken to ensure easy supply of fertilizers to farmers at low cost;

(f) whether our PSUs are competent to produce both organic fertilizers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The organic manures are considered useful sources of nutrients. However, being low nutrient containing products they can meet only a small part of crop requirement. The demand for organic manures is not being assessed as these products are locally prepared and used as they are in un-organised sector. High yielding varieties of crops need high amounts of nutrients which can be supplied through chemical fertilizers only. The consumption of fertilizers expressed in terms of nutrients (NPK) was 167.98 lakh tonnes during 1998-99. The estimated consumption during 1999-2000 would be about 183.0 lakh tonnes of nutrients (NPK).

Under a Central Sector Scheme on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilizers, Government of India is giving grant in aid upto Rs. 20 lakhs for setting up/strengthening of bio-fertilizer production units of 150 tonnes capacity per annum by State Governments/Public Sector Companies and others. Till date, 63 bio fertilizer production units have been approved. Government of India is also encouraging the establishment of compost plants for which grants upto Rs. 10 lakhs per compost plant of a minimum of 100 tonnes per day capacity is being given to convert urban waste into compost.

(e) The demand of chemical fertilizers for different States is assessed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in biannual meetings which are held before Kharif and Rabi seasons. The State Governments, Fertilizer industry and other concerned Union Ministries participate in these meetings which are traditionally called as Fertilizer zonal conferences. The urea is a major source of nitrogen supply. Its price and movement is statutorily controlled. Its supply is ensured throughout the country as per assessed demand. Phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are though decontrolled with respect to price and movement, to ensure their supply at affordable price to farmers, Government of India gives concession on sale of these fertilizers according to the quantities consumed in different States. The availability and supply of fertilizers is periodicly monitored by the Government to ensure that there is no shortages in the country.

(f) and (g) Our PSUs are competent to produce both chemical fertilizers and organic fertilizers. Among organic fertilizers, some of them are producing only bio-fertilizers. These are 16 bio-fertilizers production units owned by PSUs.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges

3212: SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed to provide employment during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of persons actually provided employment;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target; and

(d) the total number of persons registered with Employment Exchanges as on date and figures in comparison to last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per projections

made by Planning Commission, 8-9 million employment opportunities were to be created per year during the Eighth Plan, against which it is estimated that an average of 7.3 million employment opportunities were created between 1987-88 to 1993-94. This is based on National Sample Survey estimates. Similar estimates for the beginning and end of 8th Five-Year Plan are not available. As the economic growth did not take place as per projections, there were short falls in employment opportunities.

(d) Number of job seekers, (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) registered with various Employent Exchanges in the country at the end of the year 1997, 1998 and 1999 was of the order of 391.4, 400.9 and 403.7 lakhs respectively.

Ban on Pesticides

3213. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Raman to ban the use of pesticides and insecticides used in the country, which are banned in advanced countries;

(b) if so, the terms and reference to this Committee;

(c) the recommendations made by the Committee and accepted by the Government;

(d) whether several Multi-National Companies (MNC) are manufacturing these banned pesticides;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government to ban the manufacturing of these pesticides;

(g) whether in addition to Dr. Raman Committee the Union Government have appointed another Committee in this regard;

(h) if so, the details of the recommendations of this Committee; and

(i) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Government had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. K.V. Raman, to examine the safety, toxicity and persistency aspects of 15 pesticides under Indian conditions and to make appropriate recommendations for the ban or otherwise in the country.

(c) to (f) Based upon the recommendations made by the Committee, the Government has banned manufacture and use of the following pesticides:

(i)	Phenyl Mercury Acetate	with effect from 26-3-99
(ii)	Methomyl 24% L	
(iii)	Methomyl 12.5% L	with effect from 26-3-2000
(iv)	Phosphamidon 85% L	

No pesticide which is banned under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder, is allowed to be manufactured after the date of its banning.

(g) to (i) Another Expert Committee was appointed to review the continued use or otherwise of 28 pesticides in the country. This Committee has recommended banning of 7, phasing out of 4, restrictions on the use of 6, and the continued use of 11 pesticides. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Government.

[English]

Use of Harmful Chemical

3214. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that farmers are using harmful chemicals to change the colour and size of vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to light during the last three years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to check the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Use of chemical pesticides for change in colour of vegetables and fruits is not recommended by the Government. However, some of the plant growth regulators meant to increase the size of grape berries and pineapple fruits are approved for use under the Insecticides Act, 1968 after considering all possible parameters of safety.

(b) to (d) The Government is taking several steps to ensure that farmers follow the recommended practices for use of approved chemical pesticides:

(i) Popularising Integrated Pest Management and use of non-chemical pesticides by promoting bio-pesticides and bio-control agents;

(ii) Banning and restricting use of chemical pesticides, from time to time which are hazardous to human health and the environment;

(iii) Organising Farmers' Field Schools to demonstrate effectiveness and safety in use of recommended control measures including judicious use chemical pesticides;

(iv) Organising Krishi Melas before Kharif and Rabi seasons to create awareness among the farming community for promoting use of recommended chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticides, chemical plant growth regulators, etc. and also to avoid misuse of such chemicals, thus avoiding their harmful effects, if any;

(v) Creating mass awareness among farming community through electronic media, posters, leaflets, pamphlets etc. about promoting the IPM practices and do's and don'ts in use of chemicals.

Match Industry at Shivakasi

3215. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by match industry at Shivakasi in Tamil Nadu regarding acquiring of raw materials;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the match factories which were functioning as villages industries are facing the threat of closure;

(c) whether the hundreds of workers have lost their employment as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revamp matches industry with a view to protect C and D section in matches industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. As per the information given by the Government of Tamil Nadu & Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the required raw materials for the match industry are freely available in the market.

(b) and (c) KVIC and State Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that there is no threat of closure in village industries manufacturing matches and the workers are not facing unemployment.

(d) Does not arise in view of the above.

[Translation

Funds Allocated for SSI

3216. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government for the development of small scale industries in the country, State-wise, particularly in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the small scale industries provided assistance by the Government so far during the year 1998-99 and year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In the Ninth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 4304.00 crores has been allocated by the Union Government for development of small scale & cottage industries sector in the country, including the State of Bihar. Funds are allocated scheme/programme-wise and not State-wise.

(b) The small scale industries in the country who sought for assistance from the Union Government during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 so far have been provided with assistance in techno-managerial field, consultancy, project profiles, extension services, quality control, export

promotion, human resource development, technology upgradation, credit, etc. in addition to the general package of assistance announced by the Government of India from time to time for development and promotion of this sector, through respective Government institutions/offices/agencies. Besides these, institutional support in respect of Research & Development, infrastructural support schemes and tax benefits have also been extended to the Small Scale Industries Sector.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Khadi and Village Industries

3217. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governent have received any proposals from State Governments for providing financial assistance to KVIC;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pak Occupied Kashmir

3218. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise the issue relating to return of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to India at U.N.O.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Khadi and Village Industry

3219. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Khadi and Village Industries Boards in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of blocks selected under different programmes to establish a large number of Khadi Industries in the country particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are 30 Khadi and Village Industries Boards in different States/Union Territories in the country. The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The KVI programmes are being implemented in all the States of the country. Khadi and Village Industries can be set up in any block.

Statement

List of Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) working in the country

Sl. No.	KVI Boards in States/UTs
1	2
1.	Uttar Pradesh, KVIB,
2.	Madhya Pradesh, KVIB
3.	Orissa KVIB
4.	Bihar KVIB
5.	Sikkim, KVIB
6.	West Bengal, KVIB
7.	Andaman & Nicobar, KVIB
8.	Gujarat, KVIB
9.	Maharashtra, KVIB
10.	Goa, Daman & Diu, KVIB

1	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir, KVIB
12.	Punjab, KVIB
13.	Chandigarh (UT)
14.	Haryana, KVIB
15.	Himachal Pradesh, KVIB
16.	Rajasthan KVIB
17.	Delhi, KVIB
18.	Assam, KVIB
19.	Meghalaya, KVIB
20.	Tripura KVIB
21.	Nagaland, KVIB
22.	Mizoram, KIVB
23.	Manipur, KVIB
24.	Arunachal Pradesh, KVIB
25.	Pondicherry, KVIB
26.	Andhra Pradesh, KVIB
27.	Karnataka, KVIB
28.	Kerala, KVIB
29.	Tamil Nadu, KVIB
30.	Lakshadweep, KVIB

O.B.C. Candidates

3220. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are lots of aberrations and violations in sponsoring the names of eligible O.B.C. candidates by both the District Employment Exchanges in Kirbi Place, New Delhi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of all such employers whose vacancies have been received by both the Exchanges since June, 1999 onwards and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the information furnished by Government of NCT of Delhi the names of eligible O.B.C. candidates are sponsored as per the instructions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 92 employers have notified vacancies during the period.

ESI Schemes

3221. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of ESI corporation often falls short of their due share, year after year in the ESI Schemes being operated in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of prescribed share of contribution between the ESI Corporation and the State Government; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government of Maharashtra in respect of ESI-Schemes as on December 31, 1999 over and above the State's due share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is shared between the ESIC and the State Governments in the ratio of 7:1 subject to a ceiling prescribed by the ESIC in this regard. As per the agreement between the ESIC and the State Government and because of health being a State subject, any expenditure in excess of the ceiling is required to be borne by the State Government. Based on the audit report, the entire contribution of the ESIC as admissible under the ESI Scheme has been released to the Government of Maharashtra for the years up to 1995-96. The Corporation has also made "on account" advance payment of Rs. 35.60 crore for 1996-97, Rs. 44.90 crore for 1997-98, Rs. 54.37 crore for 1998-99 and Rs. 63.98 crore for 1999-2000 to the Government of Maharashtra. The balance payment if admissible under the Scheme will be made as and when the audit certificates are received from the Government of Maharashtra. According to available information, during 1995-96, an expenditure of Rs. 6.34 Crore was incurred by the Government of Maharashtra under the agreement over and above 1/8th of the expenditure.

Administrative Structure

3222. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to curtail the administrative structure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government has been alive to the need for curtailing the size of the administrative structure and taking steps in this direction. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc., in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions, *inter alia*, envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) in compliance with the across-the-board 10% cut ordered in January, 1992 were asked to fully implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, about 1.6 lakh posts in various categories have already been abolished as a result of this exercise.

[Translation]

Processing Capacity for Pulses

3223. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment regarding annual processing capacity for pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the available capacity is being fully utilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) No Sir. Government have not made any assessment regarding the processing capacity in view of the fact that no licence is required for milling the pulses. The information is not maintained Centrally as most of pulse mills are in small scale/cottage sector. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 pulse milling units scattered all over the country having on an average milling capacity of 1.0 MT/hour each. These mills generally work for 8 hours a day for 200 days in a year. Therefore, the total approximate installed capacity of all mills in the country works out to 16 million tonnes per annum. The production of pulses for the last many years has been stagnant at about 14 million tonnes per annum and the milling capacity is therefore considered adequate to process the entire pulse production in the country.

[English]

E.S.I.C.

3224. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees State Insurance Corporation has a standard design for a 50 beded hospital;

(b) if so, how much land is required by ESIC to set up a 50 beded hospital;

(c) the medical facilities likely to be provided in such hospitals;

(d) the approximate cost likely to be incurred to set up such a 50 beded hospital, excluding the cost of the land;

(e) whether State Government are also to make contributions in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 5.5 acres (approximately).

(c) The Medical facilities provided in such hospitals along with OPD relate to Obst. & Gynae, Opthalmology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics general & Pulmonary Medicine, Pathology, Radiology, Dentistry, Surgery, Family Welfare, critical care Services etc.

(d) Rs. 4.00 Crore (Approximately).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

National Dairy Development Board

3225. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed on February 28, 2000 between National Dairy Development Board and the Government of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of MOU are as follows:

(i) The outlay of the MOU is about Rs. 500 crore.

(ii) The MOU broadly covers the areas of dairy development, animal husbandry, horticulture, oilseeds and revegetation.

(iii) The areas of activities in dairying proposed for funding are in fact an extension of the project funded during Operation Flood and thereafter.

Incentives to Small Scale Industries

3226. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain incentives for opening of small scale industries in the backward district in form of sales tax exemption, tax holidays, etc. are proposed to be given by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government propose to help other countries of the world in sharing its expertise it gained in promotion the small scale industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken to set up small scale industries training institutes in various districts of Tamil Nadu especially in Pudukkottai district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has proposed to give incentives for opening of new units in the backward districts, by way of giving a five years tax holiday to undertakings, including small scale units set up in industrially backward districts upto 31.03.2002 as proposed in the Union Budget 2000-2001. All SSI Units set up till 31.03.2002 as proposed in the Union Budget 2000-2001. All SSI Units set up till 31.03.2002 in backward idstricts or otherwise, shal be eligible for a deduction of 25% of the profits (30% for companies) for a period of 10 years under the amendment to Section 80-1B of the Income Tax Act as proposed in the Finance Bill 2000-2001. Sales Tax is levied by the States, keeping in view their economic and financial priorities and any exemption in this regard is to be considered only by the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has been sharing its experience with other countries by providing specialized consultancy to various countries for speeding up their industrialization process. Special exposure programmes are also conducted for the prospective and existing entrepreneurs from various countries. Expertise available with us in the field of formulation of industrial development policies, preparation of project profiles for identification of opportunities, selection of technology, training, infrastructure development and general consultancy are made available to the countries who approach us for this purpose.

(e) The Government has set up various small scale industries training institutes in Tamil Nadu which include Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), Chennai, Branch SISI at Coimbatore and Tuticorin, Regional Testing Centre at Chennai, Central Footwear Training Institute at Chennai and Small Industries Testing and Research Centre at Coimbatore. In Pudukkottai District, there are three approved Institutions to impart training to beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

Policy for Small Scale/Tiny Sector

3227. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining the possibility of formulating a separate policy for the Small Scale and Tiny Sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Small Scale Industries and Tiny Sectors are not properly encouraged by the Government to boost their products etc.; and

(d) if so, extent to which the new policy is likely to help Small Scale Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Policy measures already exist for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises. The Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the small & tiny sectors in the country.

(c) and (d) Promotion of Small Scale Industries and Tiny Sectors has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. A large number of schemes are being implemented for their promotion, these include technology upgradation, market development, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure development and creation of I.T. infrastructure. SSI Credit comes under the priority sector lending of the banks. 60% of the priority sector credit going to SSI Sector is reserved for tiny units. In addition, several measures have been announced in the Budget 2000-2001 to improve the supply of credit to this sector. These include raising the limit of loan without collaterals from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs, doubling the quantum of Single Window Composite Loan (both term loan and working capital) from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, extending the operation of Technology Development and Modernization Fund Scheme by another 3 years and the Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs to the tiny sector entrepreneurs. Besides, several fiscal concessions have been given to this sector.

12.24 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information Technology for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1542/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1543/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1544/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1545/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1546/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year, 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1547/2000]

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts* of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation for the year, 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1547/A/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Department of Disinvestment for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1548/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Vishakhapatnam for the year, 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1549/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, 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 Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) 8th Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 396 in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1999.

(ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 21(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2000.

(iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay)Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 22(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2000.

(iv) The Indian Police Service (Cadre) First Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 34 in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2000.

(v) The Indian Police Service (Pay) First Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35 in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2000.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1550/2000]

(2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1551/2000]

*Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation were laid on the Table of the House on 1st March, 2000.

(3) A copy of the Madhya Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 136(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No.* LT 1552/2000]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I have to make a submission. If you go through the entire list, every paper is being laid after a delay of two years, and you just have an explanation for delay. Is it becoming a routine to lay all the papers on the Table of the House after that much long period, and just giving a statement would suffice? Is that the way the Government should function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) S.O. 66(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(ii) S.O. 67(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(iii) S.O. 174(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.

(iv) S.O. 175(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

(v) G.S.R. 147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.

(vi) Ad hoc exemption Order No. 13 dated the 25th January, 2000 together with an explanatory morandum seeking to exempt the basic Custom Duty as well as the whole of the Additional Duty leviable on import of 15,000 woollen pullovers for distribution to cyclone victims of Orissa.

(vii) Ad hoc exemption Order No. 75 dated the 5th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to all goods imported into India for donation and relief for rehabilitation of the victims of cyclone in the State of Orissa from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1553/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

(i) G.S.R. 213(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow credit of special duty of excise paid on CKD kits and chasis of Motor vehicle classified.

(ii) G.S.R. 220(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting aerated waters prepared and dispensed by vending machines.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1554/2000]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 149(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 2000 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 22/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999 under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1555/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1556/2000]

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1557/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1558/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1559/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of The All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of The All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1560/2000]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Heavy Engineering Co-operative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Heavy Engineering Co-operative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1561/2000]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Co-operatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Co-operatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1562/2000]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Limited, New Delhi for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Co-operatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1563/2000]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1564/2000]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1565/2000]

MR. SPEAKER: Last week, you did not have any Question Hour. So, it seems, the Ministers are not serious about their replies and other things!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Plan for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions) of the Planning Commission.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1566/2000]

(2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants, (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1567/2000]

(3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1568/2000]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, as my colleague, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, pointed out, this matter should be referred to the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table because the Annual Report of the National Cooperative Development Corporation is being laid after a delay of two years.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Lakshadweep, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited Lakshadweep, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1569/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Lakshadweep, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Lakshadweep, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1570/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Dairy Development Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1571/2000]

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explanining reasons for not laying the Annual Audited Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year, 1998-99 within a stipulated period of Nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1572/2000]

12.26½ hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the "Financial Committees (1998-99)—A Review".

12.27 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Report

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.27½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

First and Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports

(Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto:—

(1) First Report on Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education)—Reservation in services including reservation in admission and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Universities.

(2) Second Report on Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs—Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Judiciary with special reference to the appointments in Supreme Court and High Courts.

12.28 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

First Action Taken Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (1999-2000) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 4th Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1999-2000.

12.28½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statement on Action Taken

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statement on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 3rd Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on the recomendations contained in the First Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1998-99.

12.29 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

First, Second and Third Reports and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Janjharpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution:—

(1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Eighth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) relating to the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Sugar and Edible Oils).

(2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) relating to the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Public Distribution.

(3) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Tenth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) relating to the erstwhile Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.30 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

First and Second Action Taken Reports

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and

English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare:

(1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Labour—Demands for Grants-1999-2000.

(2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment-Demands for Grants-1999-2000.

12.31 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Reports

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

(1) Fifty-seventh Report on the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 1998; and

(2) Fifty-eighth Report on the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

12.31½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on (i) the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 1998; and (ii) the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

12.32 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Pramod Shirvalkar, MLA and others of Chembur, Mumbai requesting to allow passenger traffic on existing railway line between Kurla and Mahul area of Eastern Mumbai (Maharashtra).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up 'Zero Hour' *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present in the House...*(Interruptions)* removal of subsidy has resulted in 15 per cent hike in Urea prices...*(Interruptions)* and I would like to convey the feeling of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Yes, Shri Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, dalits have been burnt alive in Karnataka *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call everyone. I have got the list.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will get chance to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the question of urea. I would like to apprise the Prime Minister about feelings of the Members. The prices of urea have increased by 15% due to reduction in subsidy. I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister to

look into this matter in view of such feelings of the Member...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a general item. Madam, please take your seat.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Umaji, I am raising your point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Dasmunsi.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): He is raising the same issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, want to draw attention of the Prime Minister towards an important issue cutting across the party lines. The amount of Rs. 2 crore being provided to the Members for development work in their area is not sufficient. We demand to increase it to Rs. 4 crore. The Member of Parliament has to face bureaucracy and red tapism to get done development work in his area. I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister to look into this matter as leader of the House so that the Members can get an opportunity to do development work in their areas. He should increase this fund in the interest of the public. I have to say only this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important matter and 7 dalits have been burnt alive in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will call you later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue, dalits have been burnt alive in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will the Government give the reply to the matter raised by Dasmunsiji regarding MPs?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: The Government are not providing any security to dalits in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of privilege motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, the Privilege Notice given by you has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for obtaining the factual position.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have to say something about this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The matter is under my consideration.

[Translation]

I am not ready to listen now. I cannot speak more now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Uma Bharati.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given me time.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the House towards the matter regarding burning of 7 dalits alive in Kolar district of Karnataka. The manner in which they have been killed shows that police knew about it before hand. If police had taken action on time and controlled the situation this incident had been averted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, killing of dalits has become common thing in Congress ruled States or other States where Congress supported Governments are functioning...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except Kumari Uma Bharati.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Government to conduct a CBI inquiry in this case and compensation should be given to the families of deceased. The orphan children or widows of those families must be given Government jobs or other means of livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, deputy leader of the Congress is sitting here. The Congress removed its Chief Minister in Orissa when two children were killed barbourously.

The seven dalits have been killed in Karnataka, now will the leader of Congress consider to remove Chief Minister of Karnataka?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I call Shri Muniyappa to spek. He represents this constituency.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should give a statement in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident had taken place in my constituency Kolar. It is a heinous crime committed and the whole country is shocked about it...*(Interruptions)*... This issue is not relating to any particular party or Government. It is concerning the whole nation. It should also be the concern of the whole august House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. He is representing the same constituency. Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, this incident should be condemned by all and everybody cutting across the party line.

Our Karnataka State is a peace loving State where people have been living for centuries together with peace and harmony. In comparison to other States, our Karnataka is far ahead in regard to education and economic development. But this is for the first time that such a heinous crime has been committed which is very unexpected, unfortunate and shocking. In that caste violence first, a person of one community was stabbed and killed. Following that killing, a group of persons got enraged and set ablaze the huts of *dalits* in which seven people were burnt alive on the spot and one succumbed to death the next day...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): They have been killed by the people of their own caste and not by the Congress. You talk about dalits but first of all scrap the system of castism...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, immediately after the incident took place, I rushed to Bangalore. But that time, the hon. Chief Minister and the Home Minister of Karnataka had already reached the spot. In the early morning, I along with the hon. Chief Minister visited the spot and assessed the situation. The SP and other senior officers were present there. We came to know that police had immediately arrested 16 persons after enquiring the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...The *dalit* leaders came to meet the hon. Chief Minister on the spot itself and requested him to order a judicial inquiry in the matter...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Chief Minister, on the spot itself, had assured them that a judicial inquiry would be conducted and it has been ordered also. I want to inform the august House that the Karnataka Government is taking all preventive measures to protect the poor people of Kolar district and maintain peace and harmony at all costs. The State Government has also assured the construction of huts damaged in that incident. Sir, the State Government has also announced a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to the victims' kin...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Manuvadi persons have killed them and action should be taken against them. The persons who have attached them and killed them, must be punished...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.H. Muniyappa, please conclude now. It is not a discussion.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, within a few minutes I am finishing my submission. This issue is a very serious issue concerning the whole nation.

Sir, it has been reported in the national daily *The Hindu* of today that the National SC and ST Commission had recommended to the Government about the reservation of SC/ST people in the Defence services. They had also recommended that the Act dealing with atrocities on SC/ST should be made more effective by giving stringent punishment to the culprits, maybe the life sentence, if required. But I am very sorry to point out here that the Central Government has rejected the proposal made by the National Commission on SC and ST...*(Interruptions)*...My friends on the Treasury benches are talking about atrocities on SC and STs only as lip sympathy.

I, therefore, appeal to the Central Government to follow the Gandhian ideology and principles in order to have proper coordination between the upper caste people and the SC/ST people. In this regard we should have peace committees set up at every village level in every State. We have to enlighten and educate the people of very society for their awakening. Everybody is equal, and nobody is above law. So, I urge upon the Central Government to please direct the State Governments to form such peace committees consisting of all sections of people and maintain peace and the caste and communal harmony in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that the Congress is indulging in politics in the matter of killings of dalits. Seven dalits have been burnt alive in Karnataka. It is a fact that the Government of Karnataka failed to save the dalits. Therefore, the Karnataka Government has no moral right to remain in power even for one minute. We cannot leave dalits on mercy of such State Government. I request the Union Government to interfere in the matter and conduct CBI inquiry into it and made a statement in the House in this regard. We cannot leave dalits on mercy of the Karnataka Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: This shows that you are not concerned about the dalits. You are offering only lip sympathy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the hon. Minister to respond.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Sir, you have called the Minister to speak. He is about to make a statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seat. The Minister is going to respond.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody should condemn such incidents despite one's party affiliations. My submission is that we should take such matters seriously above the party lines and take such measures which help to check recurrence of such incidents. Such incidents can occur in the States ruled by our party or by your party...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know whenever an incident occurred the Congress people made hue and cry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of any party. It is not a question of Congress Party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. It is not proper to speak like this standing in aisle.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the atrocities being committed by Manuvadi persons should be checked irrespective of party affiliations. It is necessary to check such incidents...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, the Minister is giving a reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Manuvadi people have committed this act. The atrocities being committed by Manuvadi persons are required to be checked...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action against you. You are repeatedly disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATIOIN TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that all members of this House agree to this point that in which ever state killings of dalits or atrocities against them occurred, it is a crime against humanity. All the Members of the House condemn such incidents. The occurrence of such incidents in any state is shameful for all of us. I am not replying with political motivation. Such incidents occur in various States and this reflects our sick mentality which is still prevailing in our society. It is our responsibility to curb this mentality. I agree with the sentiments expressed by all members regarding Karnataka incident. I would like to urge the Home Minister to take information from the Karnataka Government and give a Statement in the House before adjournment of the House tomorrow for recess.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the hon. Prime Minister through you to what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni said about the MPLADS funds. At present, Rs. 2 crore is the allocation given to MPLADS funds. This is not sufficient because the cost of the projects is increasing. Also, if at all we see some development, it is only through the MPLAD Scheme. *...(Interruptions)* This Scheme has to be given a quarterly allocation of Rs. 1 crore each or an annual allocation of Rs. 4 crore. I hope, the entire House joins me and Shri Dasmunsi in this demand.

Sir, from 1st April 2000, it has to be increased to Rs. 1 crore per quarter or Rs. 4 crore annually. This will help in having a lot of progress in the villages. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this Madam? I have called Shri Murthi to speak. What are you doing now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It will help in the development of the villages. India lives in the villages. Prosperity of the villages is being done through MPLAD funds. I request you to kindly convey the feeling of the entire House to the hon. Prime Minister. Thank you very much. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. The Minister is going to reply. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Sir, I would like to add something to this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa, please take your seat. Now, the Minister.

[Translation]

Bangarappaji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the feelings of the Members to provide more funds for development in their areas...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): This is the feeling of the entire House.

* Not recorded.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I associate myself with the entire House. I can understand this as a member of the House. I will apprise the Prime Minister about this and he will take proper decision...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Ministerji, the Committee has sent a proposal to you also...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually a joint effort was made in this regard by all the hon. Members, cutting across party lines. The representation was given by all the people concerned, representing all the sections, to the hon. Prime Minister. It was given personally to him.

Sir, you are also in the know of these things. I am just reminding you. We had brought it to your kind notice so that you could pass on our request to the hon. Prime Minister and also to the Government. We hope that you have done that. But we are hearing the same answer from the Government side.

Actually, when the Budget was presented, we wanted to hear something from Shri Yashwant Sinha, the hon. Finance Minister, if he touches this aspect. Of course, it may not be proper to express it in the Budget because I was told that money is drawn from various Departments and is being allotted. This is what I was told and I do not know the details of how it is being worked out, etc.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Government, through you, Sir, to take up this matter with the hon. Prime Minister and then make a statement before we rise tomorrow. Can they do that before we rise tomorrow? Can I expect that statement from them?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I can take up this issue with the Prime Minister before we rise tomorrow!

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on this point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has replied this, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The Minister had given assurance to provide relief on interest for funds meant for development of areas of Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Abul Hazmi, President of Mumbai Samajvadi Party made an anti-national statement in a public meeting on 25th February in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* I would like to apprise the House in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is a common statement if Indian divides then let it be...*(Interruptions)* I am not concerned with it...*(Interruptions)* The President of Samajvadi Party who is in power in Maharashtra giving such a statement if the country divides I am not concerned with it. He has given anti-national statement in a public meeting in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)*

12.55 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

The opposition in Maharashtra demanded his arrest for this statement. He has provoked the persons of particular religion and caste through this statement. Today in Maharashtra law and order situation is not good. Therefore, I would like to demand through you to arrest the person who has given the statement. A legal action must be taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now nothing will be said.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.57 hrs.

At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

2.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

2.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AGAINST BODO LIBERATION TIGERS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this august House is aware of the history of militancy in Assam.

Activities of various militant groups in the State have seriously disturbed the public order resulting in loss of life and property, besides thwarting the economic development of the State. The people are fed up with violence and yearn for peace.

The Government of India are committed to the restoration of peace. The Government of India have also extended an invitation to all the militant groups to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution.

In pursuance of the said offer, the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) has suspended its operations against the Army, Para-Military Forces and State Police. The BLT has also agreed to completely abjure the path of violence in both letter and spirit and not to indulge in any unlawful activities in case the Government of India announced suspension of operations against it.

In order to create an environment conducive to talks for finding a solution to the Bodo problem, Government has decided to suspend operations against the BLT with immediate effect.

Efforts are continuing to convince other militant groups in the North East to suspend their violent and unlawful activities and come to the negotiating table.

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to provide uniform pay scales to the Readers in all Universities.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): As per the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission dual pay scales had been prescribed for the post of Professor and Reader in various universities in the country. As per the report of the Rastogi Committee under the Fifth Pay Commission dual pay scales were scrapped for the post of Professor from 5th November, 1998 and they have been provided pay scale of Rs. 16,400 to 22,400 from 1st January, 1996 but dual pay scale is still existing for the post of Reader. Therefore, gloomy scene is prevailing in educational field due to this discrepancy.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to scrap dual pay scale for the post of Readers in all universities of the country like Professors and make it is 12000 to 18300 from 1st January, 1996.

(ii) Need for early start of work on Indira Gandhi lift canal in Rajasthan.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, five rivers flow in my Parliamentary Constituency Swai Madhopur (Rajasthan). The problem of soil erosion is very serious. The efforts for water conservation scheme proved totally failure. Rameshwar Ghat the confluence place of Chambal and Bnas rivers comes under Khandar tehsil of Swai Madhopur district where water resources are in abundance. It has been said that initial survey was conducted regarding Indira Gandhi Lift Canal Project in 1986 and it was sent to the Union Government also. The agricultural land of about 225 villages in my Parliamentary Constituency will get

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* Not recorded.

[Smt. Jas Kaur Meena]

irrigated by completion of this project. The drinking water can be supplied to Dausa and Jaipur cities. The Union Government are making special efforts for water management. Sometimes Rajasthan comes in grip of drought. The crop gets dry and cattle and human beings do not get drinking water. The rainy water flows into sea in absence of water management.

Therefore, I would like to request the concerned Minister through you that orders should be issued to start work on Indira Gandhi Lift Canal Project immediately.

(iii) Need to give ownership rights to the people residing in cantonment areas particularly in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, people in the cantonment board area falling under my Parliamentary Constituency have been living there in Sadar area before Independence. Earlier, this area was far away from the city but due to the increasing development of the city over the last fifty years, Sadar and city have merged today. Near the railway station, the city is located on the one side of nullah and sadar is located on its other side where even after collapse of a house, its owner cannot even change its window without permission of Cantt. Board. Cantonment areas used to be planned at a place away from city keeping in view security and law and order aspects but today, the increasing population has put this question before us as to how accommodation arrangement should be made for the expanded families. Almost all the Cantt. areas and Sadar areas in the country have same condition.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that areas of civilian population in all cantonment areas including Sadar area of Sagar should be included in municipal corporation or municipal committees and people residing there should be given ownership rights of houses and revenue land meant for army should be transferred to them.

(iv) Need to formulate comprehensive plan for all round development of North Bengal

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A senior Member is also encroaching upon the right of junior Members!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Right is equal to all, Sir.

Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda in North Bengal region are exposed to severest drought and flood on every occasion without having any master plan to manage the flood. Specially in Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and South Dinajpur, the drought situation in every summer since the Sixth Plan has almost crippled the economic base of small cultivators due to lack of minimum irrigation facilities. Since the villages have not been electrified, several agriculture measures, irrigation facilities through pump and electricity are not in existence. The road infrastructure of North Bengal is really not good. Health is the main casualty at this stage in this region where critical patients either have to go to Vellore, Bangalore, Chennai or at least to Calcutta. Siliguri Medical College, district hospitals of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Raiganj, Balurghat and Malda have been handicapped for not having any dialysis centre, blood bank, heart operation theatre, modern paediatric unit and any cancer detection or treatment centre. Industrial growth centres are not in existence and the Teesta Canal Project is now a dream because of the slow pace of work.

Deforestation has hit the Duars and the rest of North Bengal. The railway infrastructure between Eklakhi and Belurghat and Barsoi-Radhikapore is further receiving a set-back due to lack of budgetary support to such Railway projects.

I, therefore, call upon the Government through the Planning Commission to prepare a comprehensive white paper on North Bengal to fight out the regional imbalances, to manage the flood, to resist the river erosion and to accelerate the economic growth of this region failing which people will be left with no other option except Mass Action Programme. Kindly let the Government take it up with all seriousness in the remaining part of the Ninth Plan on this issue.

(v) Need to pay adequate compensation and allot plots to the Land owners whose land has been acquired for development of Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, while the prices of plots of developed land sold by the Chandigarh Administration continue to soar and are repeatedly hiked, the land owners whose land is acquired for the purpose are paid only a pittance. A very large number of them have sacrificed immensely for the development of Chandigarh. However, their gesture has not been reciprocated. They have not been allotted alternative plots. To cap it all, the latest awards under the Land Acquisition Act show a vast disparity and discrimination in grant of compensation regarding pieces of land even in the same revenue estate, which otherwise have no relevance in view of the urbanisation of most of

the area of the Union Territory and the prices of land having been risen extremely high.

Accordingly, I urge the Government to intervene and dispense justice to the land owners in Chandigarh and develop the new Sectors without any profit motive.

(vi) Need to recognise Third Travel Circuit for development of tourism in Kerala

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, the Government of India have so far recognised only two travel circuits in Kerala under the National Action Plan for Tourism. Kerala is waiting for the recognition of the third Travel Circuit, namely, Mangalore-Bakel-Kappad-Kazhikode-Vythiri-Sultan's Battery-Mysore. The proposed travel circuit is in the northern part of Kerala and will connect Kerala with Karnataka on both ends. This has great potential for intensive tourism development and over all development of that region.

In 1996, during the World Tourism Market in London, the then hon. Minister for Tourism had specifically announced this Travel Circuit as the third circuit recognised for the State of Kerala. But so far, the Government of Kerala has not received the formal orders to this effect. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government, especially our hon. Minister for Tourism to issue orders to recognize this Travel Circuit in addition to the two circuits already recognized.

(vii) Need to send a Central team to Maharashtra to look into the problem of polluted underground water used for drinking purposes in Nanded district.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the polluted underground water and drinking water in the whole area of district Nanded, Kinwat taluka of Maharashtra. Most of the people in this area suffer from diseases of bones because water here has excess quantity of fluoride. It is a matter of concern because polluted water has made lives of almost all people living in Nanded district miserable as they suffer from diseases of bones.

I request that Central Government should send its team to Nanded and it should test the polluted underground water and drinking water and issue guidelines for cleaning water and it should allocate sufficient funds to the Maharashtra Government for this purpose immediately and adequate steps should be taken to assist patients affected by polluted water.

(viii) Need for creation of a separate State of Bodoland

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the longstanding, very legitimate and justified demand of several millions of the struggling indigenous Bodo people of India with regard to creation of a separate State of 'Bodoland'.

Now, under the overall situation and circumstances, the indigenous Bodo people cannot make any compromise on their demand for a separate State of 'Bodoland' at the cost of their survival and existence along with their distinct ethnic self-identity, at the cost of their safety and security, their all-round growth and development, the reason being the Bodos have already been completely alienated in all respects from both the Assam Administration and the Assamese society as well. The Bodo people should be allowed to go out of Assam, *i.e.* in the best interest of ensuring their survival and existence, their safety and security and also their all-round growth and development of their own genius and thereby to strengthen the bond of national unity, integrity, fraternity and security as well in the trouble-torn North Eastern Region.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps and effective action plan to introduce a requisite Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2000, in the Parliament during the ongoing Budget Session itself to create the much long-awaited separate State of 'Bodoland' without any further delay.

(ix) Need to declare backward areas in the country particularly of Bihar as a unit for providing basic amenities there.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Hon. Speaker, Sir, steps have been taken to develop infrastructure facilities in all regions of the country for economic development during the last decade. But Bihar has proved most backward in this regard. Bihar cannot be compared even with Orissa which is considered a backward State. Total area of Bihar is 1.7 lakh square Kms. whereas Orissa's total area is 1.6 lakh square Kms. and their population is 863 lakh and 215 lakh and villages are 79,208 and 46,989 respectively. But there is much difference in basic facilities like roads and telephones Orissa has 2,10,238 Kms. long roads and Bihar has 85,565 Kms. long roads. 20 per cent villages in Bihar

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

have telephone connection whereas 34 per cent villages in Orissa have telephone connections.

Therefore, I request the Government that backward areas in the country be declared as a unit and a target should be fixed to provide basic facilities there. Immediate action should be initiated to execute this responsibility at national level so as to ensure balanced development of the country.

(x) Need to declare Giriyar area in Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled Tribe Area

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, I draw your attention towards an area in Giriyar of Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh, which is dominated by Hati tribe. Sir, Government of India has declared Jounsar Babar area of Uttar Pradesh situated on the other side of Girinadi as tribal area but the problems in this area of Giriyar are not different from Jounsar Babar area. We are still awaiting the decision of Government of India in this regard so that this area is also declared as tribal area. These two areas have similar problems and traditions so they should have been declared tribal area simultaneously but it is the misfortune of residents of Giriyar that this area could not be declared as tribal area by Government of India. If I call it irony of destiny of these innocent people it would be quite appropriate. Common people of this area are following their own custom, they still are feel hesitated and are innocent and reflecting their joint family practice, they are living in adverse conditions.

This community has full faith in the Constitution of India and even today, the disputes are resolved in 'Khumli' panchayats of their villages. This decision of 'Khumli' is obeyed by both parties.

Jounsar Babar of Uttar Pradesh and area of Giriyar in Himachal have common features in every respect, then why this area of Giriyar in Himachal has been declined this status of scheduled tribe.

I request the Government of India to remove this discrepency and declare this Giriyar area as 'scheduled tribe area'.

(xi) Need to release early the outstanding amount under Employment Assurance and Jaldhara Schemes to Ranchi district in Bihar

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): The Central Government have not released the outstanding amount in Employment Assurance and Jaldhara schemes during the financial year 1999-2000 to Parliamentary Constituency Ranchi district. Payment of only few instalments has been made. During the financial year of 1998 also, insufficient amount was released under Jaldhara scheme due to which works are lying incomplete and irrigation system has been affected adversely. Ranchi is a tribal dominated area and it is economically very backward. In this regard, I had talked to the concerned officers three months ago and they had assured to send the aforesaid amount within three days.

I request the Government to take strict action in this regard and ascertain the reasons for delay in releasing this amount and guilty officers should be punished and the outstanding amount should be released immediately.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister is sitting here. He should tell the House about his Mauritius visit. He should have informed the House about the gains achieved in the bilateral relations as a result of his Mauritius visit.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): I will speak about it tomorrow.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: O.K. It does not matter.

14.25 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION *DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—GENERAL AND *DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion on Item Nos. 29 to 31 together.

Motion moved.

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on *account*, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2001 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28, 30, 31, 33 to 59, 61 to 93, 95, 96, 98 to 103."

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2000-2001 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

Sl.No.	No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	994,39,00,000	22,56,00,000
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	234,09,00,000	—
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	66,18,00,000	2,40,00,000
4.	Department of Food Processing Industries	5,97,00,000	2,67,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers			
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	24,16,00,000	33,89,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilizers	1565,89,00,000	74,75,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation			
7.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	122,80,00,000	7,54,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
8.	Department of Commerce	185,12,00,000	13,96,00,000
9.	Department of Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	91,28,00,000	—
10.	Department of Supply	16,01,00,000	—
Ministry of Communications			
11.	Department of Posts	875,74,00,000	14,84,00,000
12.	Department of Telecommunications	11,75,00,000	—
13.	Department of Telecom Services	3577,34,00,000	2669,00,00,000
Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports			
14.	Department of Culture	70,38,00,000	—
15.	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	43,02,00,000	31,00,000
Ministry of Defence			
16.	Ministry of Defence	618,05,00,000	6,26,00,000
17.	Defence Pensions	1999,94,00,000	—
18.	Defence Services-Army	4923,90,00,000	—
19.	Defence Services-Navy	682,51,00,000	—

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
20.	Defence Services-Air Force	1353,46,00,000	—
21.	Defence Ordnance Factories	580,20,00,000	—
22.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	—	2985,49,00,000
Department of Disinvesment			
23.	Department of Disinvestment	69,00,000	—
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
24.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	144,83,00,000	2,66,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs			
25.	Ministry of External Affairs	409,75,00,000	67,50,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
26.	Department of Economic Affairs	213,46,00,000	60,67,00,000
27.	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	175,20,00,000	124,82,00,000
28.	Payments to Financial Institutions	98,56,00,000	173,78,00,000
30.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Govts.	2357,37,00,000	—
31.	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	—	133,33,00,000
33.	Department of Expenditure	3,86,00,000	66,00,000
34.	Pensions	644,17,00,000	—
35.	Indian Audit and Account Department	145,70,00,000	2,83,00,000
36.	Department of Revenue	165,29,00,000	1,60,00,000
37.	Direct Taxes	156,41,00,000	18,33,00,000
38.	Indirect Taxes	198,99,00,000	52,85,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution			
39.	Department of Public Distribution	1355,24,00,000	4,88,00,000
40.	Department of Consumer Affairs	3,64,00,000	37,00,000
41.	Department of Sugar and Edible Oils	64,27,00,000	37,48,00,000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
42.	Department of Health	370,71,00,000	58,30,00,000
43.	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	23,92,00,000	1,00,000
44.	Department of Family Welfare	728,41,00,000	—
Ministry of Home Affairs			
45.	Ministry of Home Affairs	189,97,00,000	3,10,00,000
46.	Cabinet	21,85,00,000	2,32,00,000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
47.	Police	1252,69,00,000	96,94,00,000
48.	Other Expenditure of the Min. of Home Affairs	96,91,00,000	110,39,00,000
49.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	74,33,00,000	56,33,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
50.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	955,71,00,000	—
51.	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	1189,27,00,000	1,00,000
52.	Department of Women and Child Development	251,97,00,000	3,00,000
Ministry of Heavy Ind. and Public Enterprises			
53.	Department of Public Enterprises	50,00,000	—
54.	Department of Heavy Industry	17,92,00,000	225,74,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
55.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	199,62,00,000	31,08,00,000
Ministry of Information Technology			
56.	Ministry of Information Technology	55,83,00,000	8,20,00,000
Ministry of Labour			
57.	Ministry of Labour	161,42,00,000	5,00,000
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs			
58.	Law and Justice	72,45,00,000	—
59.	Election Commission	1,78,00,000	—
61.	Department of Company Affairs	6,52,00,000	48,00,000
Ministry of Mines and Minerals			
62.	Department of Coal	76,05,00,000	98,94,00,000
63.	Department of Mines	66,19,00,000	35,67,00,000
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources			
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	55,49,00,000	18,93,00,000
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
65.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	80,00,000	—
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
66.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	31,23,00,000	48,00,000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
67.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1,26,00,000	—
Ministry of Planning			
68.	Ministry of Planning	6,84,00,000	1,49,00,000
Ministry of Power			
69.	Ministry of Power	201,82,00,000	361,55,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development			
70.	Department of Rural Development	3200,67,00,000	50,00,00,000
71.	Department of Land Resources	150,15,00,000	—
72.	Department of Drinking Water Supply	807,56,00,000	—
Ministry of Science and Technology			
73.	Department of Science and Technology	127,30,00,000	3,45,00,000
74.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	160,65,00,000	92,00,000
75.	Department of Bio-technology	22,68,00,000	—
Ministry of Small Scale Ind. and Agro & Rural Industries			
76.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries	127,21,00,000	7,32,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			
77.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	300,35,00,000	11,16,00,000
Ministry of Steel			
78.	Department of Steel	7,71,00,000	2,92,00,000
Ministry of Surface Transport			
79.	Department of Road Transport and Highways	400,83,00,000	794,72,00,000
80.	Department of Shipping	82,07,00,000	95,83,00,000
Ministry of Textiles			
81.	Ministry of Textiles	104,26,00,000	97,29,00,000
Ministry of Tourism			
82.	Ministry of Tourism	25,53,00,000	1,48,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
83.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	13,47,00,000	60,00,000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Urban Development			
84.	Urban Development	108,45,00,000	70,74,00,000
85.	Public Works	100,13,00,000	42,87,00,000
86.	Stationery and Printing	28,88,00,000	29,00,000
Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation			
87.	Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	39,00,00,000	27,50,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
88.	Ministry of Water Resources	105,88,00,000	6,04.00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
89.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	203.34,00,000	31,23,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
90.	Atomic Energy	240,20,00,000	161,88,00,000
91.	Nuclear Power Schemes	272,72,00,000	149,00,00,000
Department of Ocean Development			
92.	Department of Ocean Development	25,93,00,000	40,00,000
Department of Space			
93.	Department of Space	277,66,00,000	59,45,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
95.	Rajya Sabha	8,56,00,000	—
96.	Lok Sabha	20,20,00,000	—
98.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	16,00,000	—
Union Territories without Legislature			
99.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	93,69,00,000	38,98,00,000
100	Chandigarh	112,05,00,000	15,44,00,000
101.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38,77,00,000	5,09,00,000
102.	Daman and Diu	33,34,00,000	4,21,00,000
103.	Lakshadweep	33,33,00,000	4,37,00,000
	Total Revenue/Capital	37583,80,00,000	9308,85,00,000

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2000 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5 and 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 16, 23 to 25, 27, 29, 34 to 42, 44 to 49, 51 to 54, 56, 58, 66 and 67, 69 and 70, 73 and 74, 76 to 81, 83, 85, 87 to 89, 91 to 93, 95, 99 to 103."

I would like to inform that four hours have been allocated for this discussion. Now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia will initiate the discussion.

Supplementary Demands for grants (General) for 1999-2000 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

Sl.No.	No. & Name fo Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture			
1.	Agriculture	100000	44300000
2.	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	—	100000
3.	Deptt. of Agricultural Research and Education	228500000	—
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers			
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	—	40700000
6.	Department of Fertilizers	—	100000
Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs			
8.	Department of Consumer Affairs	24300000	—
9.	Deptt. of Food and Civil Supplies	10000000000	—
10.	Deptt. of Sugar and Edible Oils	—	226000000
Ministry of Coal			
11.	Ministry of Coal	—	200000
Ministry of Commerce			
13.	Department of Supply	5800000	—
Ministry of Communications			
14.	Department of Posts	4779400000	—
15.	Department of Telecommunications	100000	100000
Ministry of Defence			
16.	Ministry of Defence	—	100000
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
23.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	200000	13300000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of External Affairs			
24.	Ministry of External Affairs	249700000	150000000
Ministry of Finance			
25.	Department of Economic Affairs	1794100000	100000
27.	Payments to Financial Institutions	4711100000	200000
29.	Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments	5374600000	—
34.	Audit	783800000	—
35.	Department of Revenue	100000	—
36.	Direct taxes	340000000	200000
37.	Indirect taxes	355200000	—
Ministry of Food Processing Industries			
38.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	100000	76600000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
39.	Department of Health	200000	—
40.	Deptt. of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	200000	5000000
41	Department of Family Welfare	2250200000	—
Ministry of Home Affairs			
42.	Ministry of Home Affairs	417900000	10000000
44.	Police	5504100000	100000
45.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	200000	—
46.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	2240000	12100000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
47.	Department of Education	400000	7500000
48.	Deptt. of Youth Affairs and Sports	100000	—
49.	Department of Culture	159000000	—
Ministry of Industry			
51.	Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	102900000	—
52.	Department of Public Enterprises	200000	—

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
53.	Department of Heavy Industry	246400000	400000
54.	Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries	100000	—
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
56.	Broadcasting Services	178100000	—
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs			
58.	Law and Justice	31600000	—
Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation			
66.	Planning	19200000	100000
67.	Department of Statistics	100000	—
Ministry of Power			
69.	Ministry of Power	649400000	—
Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment			
70.	Department of Rural Development	200000	—
Ministry of Science and Technology			
73.	Department of Science and Technology	300000	100000
74.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	32500000	—
Ministry of Steel and Mines			
76.	Department of Steel	24700000	30000000
77.	Department of Mines	100000	520000000
Ministry of Surface Transport			
78.	Surface Transport	125900000	46400000
79.	Roads	10000000000	—
80.	Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	843500000	—
Ministry of Textiles			
81.	Ministry of Textiles	200000	190800000
Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment			
83.	Urban Development	—	144300000
85.	Public Works	100000	200000
Ministry of Water Resources			
87.	Ministry of Water Resources	300000	45200000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
88.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	100000	—
Department of Atomic Energy			
89.	Atomic Energy	313500000	—
Department of Electronics			
91.	Department of Electronics	100000	100000
Department of Ocean Development			
92.	Department of Ocean Development	100000	—
Department of Space			
93.	Department of Space	863800000	—
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
95.	Rajya Sabha	13900000	—
Union Territories Without Legislature			
99.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	540400000	803000000
100.	Chandigarh	506100000	101400000
101.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34600000	—
102.	Daman and Diu	11400000	—
103.	Lakshadweep	246000000	—
	Grand Total	51787600000	2468700000

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two years ago, we got the first taste of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha's skills of budget making. Such was the recipe that whether it be the *Swadeshi* lobby or the *Videshi* lobby, everyone howled in protest.

[Translation]

It was such a hodge podge which was savoured by none.

[English]

The industry and trade, big and small farmers, the economically weaker sections, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the middle class, no one knew what had hit them. There was so much confusion all around that, I think, the hon. Finance Minister also had to have a rethink and he tried to make some sense out of what he had done. But it seems that finally even the hon. Finance Minister could not convince himself.

Shri Yashwant Sinha is a very very responsive person. He is so responsive that he quickly tries to undo a lot of what he has attempted. He came to make his mark as a 'rollback Finance Minister'. In this particular Budget, I will venture to say that the Finance Minister - the rollback Finance Minister - has rolled this nation back many many years. He has tried to take one step forward but the exercise has culminated in him taking alongwith the nation ten steps backwards. We seem to be riding a roller-coaster and history seems to be repeating itself.

The first time Budget-making was a tragedy. Looking at this Budget, trying to look at it from all angles, trying to eke out whatever positive one can attempt to find in it, one ends up with an impression that the Budget last time was a tragedy but this time, the Budget is a farce. No section is happy. If you search for a section which has responded positively to this Budget, you will find that the search is entirely futile. The farmer feels crushed.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

The salaried worker feels burdened. The smiles on CII, FICCI and the big inudstrial lobby no longer exists. The trade looks grim. The exporter is bewildered. I have warned the Minister of Finance that in these days of women's empowerment, the housewives may end up chasing him with a roller-pin in their hands. Perhaps we could have accepted this. It is not a question of tightening of the belt. We faced a similar situation in 1991. IF one takes the country into confidence, the country responds. If there is a crisis, the country will support. But the country must be told that there is a plan of action. The country will tighten its belt provided you show the light at the end of the tunnel. But there is so much confusion in this Budget that one does not know where this tunnel is leading to and when that flicker of light will be seen and when that light at the end of the tunnel will appear. Even if the present seems depressing, the nation is built of a metal where people are prepared to sacrifice. But they must be assured of a brighter future especially our economically weaker sections. There are still millions who live below the poverty line. Those millions can never be lost sight of.

Let us see what are the priorities that the Finance Minister has laid down in his Budget speech. Let us see how his Budget measures up to those priorities. One of his priorities says: "Establish a credible framework of fiscal discipline without which the other elements of our strategy can fail." But what are the figures as far as our fiscal deficit is concerned? There is no evidence that we have taken a direction to make this nation financially viable. And bankruptcy is staring us in the face. Since 1997-98, there has been a steady decline in the nation's finances. This Government inherited a fiscal deficit of 4.7 per cent. I read a newspaper item quoting the hon. Prime Minister addressing his party in which he seen to be throwing up his hand and saying, 'it is not our fault, this fiscal deficit is something that we inherited.'

Sir, respectfully, I would like to remined the hon. Prime Minister that the fiscal deficit that he inherited was a steadily diminishing one and it stood at 4.7 per cent. This year his target was four per cent and let us see the fiscal deficit under his new yardsticks. Because those yardsticks were changed last year. But even if we take just the new yardsticks, his fiscal deficit against the target of four per cent is ending up at 5.6 per cent, 45 per cent off mark. I would like to know where is the financial monitoring, where i he financial guidance, where is the light that would illuminate the path to financial and economic progress.

This is the result, if you keep juggling with figures. You cannot make a fool of everyone all the time. Last year, when he set his target at four per cent, many of us on these Opposition Benches had said that he had fudged his figures and that he had juggled with them. If I remember rightly—I may be wrong by a couple of percentage point and I stand to be corrected—he had based his fiscal deficit at four per cent on an increase of revenue receipts of between 17 and 20 per cent. When actually historically revenue receipts have been going up by between 8 to 12 per cent. On the other side, that four per cent fiscal deficit was based on containing expenditure increase to approximately 9 or 10 per cent, when historically the expenditure is rising at 17 to 18 per cent. So, both sides, those figures would be attacked by the realities of the situation.

I can understand that his intentions were good. But the intentions have to be based on certain realities. He could have told us that, 'look, I am going to try and increase my revenue receipts over a period of so many years, and I am going to try to contain the Government expenditure over a period of years.' We would have accepted it, but to tell us that he was going to half the rate of increase of Government expenditure and double the rate of his revenue receipts and then end up at four per cent, is really stretching your credibility, Mr. Finance Minister. We, therefore, feel that the nation has not been taken into confidence. It is a sleight of hand type of operation.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, look at the other parameters. In the last two years, our borrowings have gone up from approximately Rs. 73,000 crore to approximately Rs. 109,000 crore. In two years, Rs. 37,000 crore is the increase in our borrowings. Our revenue deficit has exploded from approximately Rs. 46,000 crore to the present figure of Rs. 73,000 crore. Our interest payments have gone up from Rs. 65,000 crore, in these last two years, to Rs. 91,000 crore. After this, this year's Budget again is promising us a fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent. Who is going to believe this? His borrowings in the last two years have gone by 50 per cent. His revenue deficit, in the last two years, has gone up by 60 per cent. His interest payments, in the last two years, have gone up by 40 per cent. and he expects us to believe that at the end of the year he is going to turn the whole thing around and his fiscal deficit is going to remain at 5.1 per cent.

Well, I wish I could share your optimism.

Sir, expenditure norms are being totally thrown to the winds. In fact, if you project the same trends that are being witnessed, Mr. Finance Minister, in the last two years; then next year, the fiscal deficit will end up not at 5.1 per cent but at 6.5 per cent, if it was on the old series of GDP, it would have been eight per cent. This is almost the same level as the fiscal deficit that Dr. Manmohan Singh inherited in 1990-91 when we were

almost facing bankruptcy. It is coincidence that he inherited those figures also in some measure from the Finance Ministers of that time which included a gentleman by the name of Shri Yashwant Sinha.

Sir, given this performance, by the next fiscal year, one fears that the Government borrowing is going to go up to Rs. 125,000 crore, revenue deficit to Rs. 85,000 crore, and interest payments may kiss the level of Rs. 110,000 crore. Sir, this is a matter of great concern, of great worry. We all share the concern for the nation's future but we are fast approaching bankruptcy if expenditure control is not properly instituted; if unproductive expenditure and the way sometimes people splurge are not reigned in. The hon. Prime Minister is creating new Ministries and new Departments every day. I know that the political situation sometimes makes him helpless but those new Departments, those new Ministries are politically convenient to him. He has to accommodate 24 allies in his Government. I understand his helplessness but do not let the nation suffer. If he wants to create new Departments, economically speaking, or new Ministries which may be more relevant today, then he must rationalise and examine those Ministries or those Departments which are obsolete today. There are many that can be phased out. He can bring in a more modern concept but not as an additionality, but as a replacement but he will not do that because he has too many people to look after on those benches. We know what the BJP model is. We have seen the BJP model constructed after splitting, in a shameless manner, two parties in the State of Uttar Pradesh. And I remember, the hon. Prime Minister's speech when he said:

[Translation]

Bharatiya Janata Party has never been or would never be in power taking resort of immorality or compromising with corruption. I am not in habit of passing personal comments on an individual and I do not need to tell as everybody is aware how two parties were made to divide and disintegrate in Uttar Pradesh and what sorts of people were sworn in as Ministers in that State...*(Interrutpions)* And definitely in the Guinness Book of World Records. ...*(Interrutpions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): However, what took place is still better than what Congress has been doing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Bihar has not yet been discussed and nor our Congressman is the Chief Minister of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): Who was given a Rajya Sabha ticket in Madhya Pradesh and later on he was replaced.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, ver respectfully that the Guinness Book of Records has an entry of the largest Ministry in the world.

It is the honour of India that our name features there because the Uttar Pradesh Ministry has not 10, not 20, not 50 but 93 Ministers. I am very sorry that the country's Prime Minister has failed us. You have ended up only at 74. You are far short of your Uttar Pradesh colleagues. But, hon. Prime Minister, can the country afford such a vast number of Ministers? I do not say that if an extra two or three Ministers will be added it is an earthshaking exercise, in the national budgetary exercise. But it is the question of what sort of message you want to send? What is the example you are trying to set? Your Minister with two other people travels in first-class all the way to Australia to attend a five-day Seminar in November last year. Seminar on what? It was a five-day Seminar on 'the effect of drugs on Athletes'. Now I ask you, Mr. Prime Minister that if you want the nation to tighten the belt, the first example must be set by you, hon. Prime Minister and by the hon. Finance Minister. Take a strong stand. I think the whole nation will appreciate, if you speak out to it. The nation always responds. But they do not respond if they feel that somebody is trying to play last one. They respond to sincerity and honesty.

So, Shri Sinha says that his Budget aims to establish a credible framework of fiscal discipline without which other elements of our strategy can fail. Obviously, that is going to fail if the Government is blissfully unaware of the rise in consumption expenditure, if Government's borrowing rises at the rate that it is rising whilst our domestic saving rate is falling. In 1997-98, the rate of savings was 24.7 per cent of the GDP. In 1998-99, this rate has fallen to 22.3 per cent. The main reason for the sharp fall is the fall in savings of the public sector. This is enumerated in *the Economic Survey* where for the first time in history, you have created a record of sorts. In 1998-99, the savings of the public sector for the first time in India's independent history, stood at 0.0 Now, this is an abysmal performance. So, if this sort of situation continues, what is going to happen? I do not have the figures for the last year but maybe the rate will have gone into negative. But if the public sector units and the public sector savings reach a mark of 0.0, then what happens? The programmes of Government and their entire borrowing have to be financed by somebody else's funds. Whose savings can they be? When you cannot save in the public sector under you, where is this fund going to come from? You are going to dip your hand into the kitty of the people's savings. Instead of encouraging the people to save, you are giving them a disincentive by reducing the Provident Fund and the small savings rates, which is a total disincentive to the middle, lower middle and the

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

salried classes. So, your saving rate is falling. Your public sector savings is zero. In any case, your savings rate is falling, thanks to your policies. But you are not satisfied with that. You want to further accelerate the fall in the savings' rate of the private individuals, and therefore, you cut interest rate, so that they have a greater disincentive towards small savings or towards Provident Fund. I do not understand the logic of this.

When the Government starts absorbing the bulk of people's savings then what happens? The private sector who wish to invest must tap the same pool of savings. So, now, you have got the Government tapping from the same pool; you have got the private sector tapping from the same pool. If the Government borrowing crosses Rs. 120,0000 crore this year, little is going to be left for the rest of the economic sector. The competition between private and Government for a share of these savings is going to shoot up and make interest rate shoot up. If interest rate shoots up, I cannot see how you can put us on a fast economic growth path. These are basic economic principles.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance in one of his priorities has said:

> "To strengthen the foundations of growth of our rural economy, especially agriculture and allied activities..."

So, let us see what he has done with the agriculture and rural economy. He says that he is going to strengthen the foundations of the rural economy and immediately to strengthen the foundations of the rural economy, he imposes a tax or an increased price of 15 per cent on urea. Now, how is this going to strengthen the rural economy? The farmers are already suffering from many handicaps. Their income is falling. The water table in this country is falling. There are major power problems. They do not get power on time. Their cost of production is rising and here you increase the urea price also by 15 per cent. So, you are increasing their cost of production all the time. What do you want to do to them? That is why the growth of the farm sector has fallen. In 1998-99, it was 7.2 per cent and this year in spite of a normal monsoon, it has fallen to 0.8 per cent.

I do not have to say that it was late Shrimati Indira Gandhi who launched the 'Green Revolution'. I remember, I was a very young person in the 60s. I was in the University and I rember well when an hon. Union Minister had to go to the West and had to bring PL-480 grain to feed our country. It was then that the hon. Prime Minister of that time, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, took a pledge that that would never again be repeated in the country. The farmers rallied and the farm labour also rallied. Today, we can hold our heads high, Mr. Prime Minister can walk with his head high, I can walk with my head high anywhere I go in the world because I am self-sufficient in food because of my *annadata*, which is the farmer and the labour who has worked on those farms, toiled and sweated. Today what is happening to them?

I remember in 1988-89, I had the privilege of being a Member of the Council of Ministers then. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi gave a fillip to agricultural production, the new technology missions were also brought in and, for the first time, we hit a record agricultural growth of 16.3 per cent which has never been rivalled in this country. That is the only time when the Indian economy grew in double digit figures. Why I am saying this is because the growth of the farm sector is critical to the growth of the country. 16.3 per cent was our agricultural growth in 1988-89 when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister. This immediately reflected in the general economic growth which touched double digits, for the first time, in this country.

The Finance Minister has announced an enhanced allocation of Rs. 4,500 crore from the banking sector for the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. He mentions in his Budget Speech that the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), managed by NABARD, has emerged as a popular and effective scheme for financing rural infrastructure projects. Now, let us examine this popular and practical scheme. He has said that he has enhanced it by Rs. 1,000 crore, and when he said it, everyone clapped. But if you look at the figures, I am afraid, one cannot end up but by being a little disappointed. The latest *Economic Survey* on page 56 shows the progress that was made under RIDF. The cumulative sanctions and disbursements out of RIDF amounted in November, 1998 to an impressive figure of Rs. 12,109 crore. These were the cumulative sanctions. The total corpus after the five tranches was, of course, Rs. 13,500 crore, which is an impressive figure. Out of this, Rs. 12,109 crore was the figure of cumulative sanctions by November, 1998. And how much was spent! Till November, 1998 out of the cumulative sanctions of Rs. 12,109 crore, all that was spent was Rs. 4,639 crore. So, the Finance Minister's popular programme has succeeded in mobilising, utilising and spending only Rs. 1,000 crore per annum, which is certainly unimpressive. This is not an isolated example. The Government says that they are going to strengthen the rural economy. But if you read the expenditure budget from page 1 to page 4 in Volume-II, it tells a different story. Let us see some of these heads. Let us see the very positive, the very effective measures that the Finance Minister has taken to "strengthen" the rural economy. Seed Schemes allocation - very important for the farmers -

has been slashed by 33 per cent. The Foodgrain Development Programme, which covers wheat, rice, coarse cereals, maize, etc., has been slashed by 75 per cent. The promotion of commercial crops, which is the development of oilseeds, cotten, watershed development—extremely important for the farmers—has been slashed, Mr. Prime Minister, maybe you have not had time to go in great depth in these figures because it is a huge, voluminous document. The development of oilseeds and the production of commercial crops has been slashed by 40 per cent; the promotion of horticulture and vegetable crops has been slashed by 50 per cent, the programme of Crop Husbandry has been slashed by 30 per cent; agriculture marketing, where the middle man is making hay - it is very important to strengthening the marketing infrastructure for the middle level and small farmers especially—has been slashed by 25 per cent. In the Soil and Water Conservation Programme to develop dryland, where the poorest of the poor farmers take out an existence because their productivity is so how, they are exposed to the vagaries of weather, they are vulnerable to drought, what does the Finance Minister do to the poorest of the poor farmers! He is strengthening the rural economy, so the Soil and Water Conservation Programme is slashed by 65 per cent!

15.00 hrs.

You take cooperatives and credit programmes. There is a crying need to revive farm cooperatives. It will thereby improve facilities for farmers by providing better marketing outlets, better supply of inputs. I am glad that Government has recognised the importance of this particular head because you have proposed a Bill on cooperatives which gives a recognition to the need which is something to be praised. But what do you do Mr. Prime Minister in your Budget or allow the Finance Minister to do? On one side you are moving this Bill; you are giving the recognition for the requirement and on the other side, the cooperatives and credit programme is slashed by 60 per cent.

Animal husbandry is down by 30 per cent. Dairy development is down by 35 per cent. Fisheries are down by 15 per cent and the overall agriculture programme, thereby, remains static at where it was. These are the measures that are intended to be taken to strengthen the rural economy. The Finance Minister expects all of us here to be so enamoured of his programme that we willingly come-forth to give the Finance Minister our support. These are certainly not farmer-friendly gestures.

Public investment is very critical for the development of the rural sector and this is specially important for the small and marginal farmers, the small fishermen, the small dairymen and those who belong, as most of them belong to the *Dalit Warg;* most of them belong to the tribals and most of them belong to the economically weaker sections.

But the Government is turning a blind eye to this. Instead, you are creating your new Departments and you are financing those new Departments and your non-Plan expenditure by cutting plans meant for spending on the farmers and the marginal farmers, and on these economically weaker sections of the society.

And the Finance Minister does this at a time when growth and earnings from the farm sector is falling. As if this is not enough, you persist with greater import.

This is an issue which we have raised very often. How did the Government allow the import of 1.6 million tonnes of Pakistani sugar in 1998 when the domestic sugar production was a record 15 million tonnes? The farmer who was producing our sugarcane did not get his payment on time. Sugar mills were in trouble. They were not paying the farmer. The farmer was burning his crop. And what was the Government doing? They were importing sugar even from Pakistan. As much as 1.6 million tonnes came in. Pakistan dumped their sugar in India because this sugar earns subsidy to the Pakistani exporter to the extent of 4.5 to six rupees per kilogram. I would not like to name as to who was the main beneficiary. I think there has been enough in the Press about it.

It was not because of Kargil that this export stopped or this import stopped from our side. It was because Pakistan ran out of stocks. There was no more sugar left to export into India.

Industry and the farmer were crying hoarse, 'Please put a protective duty' and finally the duty was raised to 27.5 per cent. But not till this year did yout think it fit to raise it to 60 per cent? That is the protection that the farmers should have got right at that first stage.

What would the other countries do? Why are you so reluctant to protect your farmer? In the United States the duty on imported sugar is 130 per cent. In the European Union, it is 200 per cent. In Thailand, it is 104 per cent and in Bangladesh, it is 200 per cent and in Columbia, it is 130 per cent. Why are you reluctant to give protection to your farmer in this country? And from where are you importing sugar? It is from Pakistan. I do not understand this. I cannot make a sense of this.

Of course, the hon. Finance Minister has been talking about private trade.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

[Translation]

I need not remind that the conflict was going on here. Our brave soldiers were shedding their blood on snow covered peaks at an altitude of 17000 feet while our Government was importing sugar from Pakistan and it is said that it was none other than the Pakistani agency which was exporting the sugar to us. It has just been told as to what was the reply of Finance Minister. Even hon. Prime Minister had then replied and also Finance Minister had replied that the Government can take no step since the import of sugar fell under OGL. The issue was quite irrelevant that it was put under OGL some year ago. But that was a different scenario. The situation had worsened. The conflict had intensified and people were agitated. It was a horrible situation. Why did the Government permitted the import of sugar. The reply of the Government was quite disappointing that it was not the Government but they were the traders who made imports of sugar. The Government shrugged off its responsibility and said that the Government did not make import of sugar. While it was committed that the Government would import sugar, the data available at Amritsar tell that the import was made. I would like to remind hon. Prime Minister and Finance Minister that there was a time when India under the leadership of Indira Gandhi raised a strong voice against the policy of apartheid world over and even then South Africa did not support our stand. We had even cautioned and alerted them but they did not heed to our point. We demanded that if South Africa continue to stick to this stand, we must decide not to have any trade relation even on private level with South Africa. We should impose a ban on them. But why did they not impose any ban on them.

[English]

Why did they not stop it? Why did they not ban trade between Pakistan and India when our jawans were spilling their blood at a height of 17,000 feet? They were in the Government and they had to see the overall situation. This is not an excuse.

In April, 1999, when it was clear again that there was going to be a record harvest of over 74 million tonnes and that our FCI godowns would be full of wheat, yet the Government persisted with zero import duty on wheat and one million tonnes of wheat was imported. Only in December, 1999, the Government wake up and put a 50 per cent duty. These late responses will not do because it does not cost the hon. Finance Minister, it does not cost the hon. Prime Minister, it does not cost me, but it cost the nation. They were in the Government and it was their responsibility to be alert. It was their responsibility to show a higher state of alertness than what they displayed when that hijacked aircraft landed at Amritsar.

Sir, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had started technology missions. They were very important. If you see today the revolution in the field of communications that every village has a public call office, if you see the revolution today in village health, it is the result of his Technology Missions. One of his Technology Missions was 'oilseeds'. Why? There was some logic because import of oilseeds was a big drain on our foreign exchange reserves. So, he diverted the farmer into production of oilseeds and the production of oilseeds went up by almost 85 per cent. All I can say is that this Government seems to be again killing the farmer who responded to the policy of the Government in the interest of this nation and went into producing oilseeds as there was an increase of 128 per cent in the import of oilseeds made by this Government in its first year.

It was 2.4 million tonnes in 1998-99, which may touch three million tonnes this year. What is the sense or intention? I do not want to cast doubts on this. What will happen to that farmer who is producing *sarsaun*, Soyabean and groundnut? His backbone was broken. He is crushed. Today. mustard oil production has fallen by 27 per cent, and groundnut oil by 12.2 per cent. You are killing all those inspired directions that were given in the interest of this nation a decade ago by the late Rajiv Gandhi. Now, you have gone and signed a pact with the United States, which will free a number of imports of many farm commodities. Let me tell you, Sir, that they are going to come in, in a very heavily subsidised form. Virtually, it is going to be dumping in India, and they will threaten our farmer again from the 1st of April, this year.

If there is sustained growth in the farm sector, then there will be a sharp fall in the poverty ratio. The prosperity of the farm sector, therefore, is critical to poverty reduction.

Sir, I would like to go on to food subsidy. Sir, please do not look at me that anxiously. It is an important occasion, and we are prepared to sit up to one o'clock or two o'clock at midnight.

MR. SPEAKER: We sat up to two o'clock yesterday also.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: But let us have our say.

As far as food subsidy is concerned, when the economically weaker sections are already under pressure, what does the Government do? I have already talked about the various sectors, which are under tremendous pressure. What does the Government do? Under the public distribution system, the prices of food grains have been increased from 60 per cent to right up to 80 per cent or 90 per cent. To sweeten that pill — actually, it is a sweet-coated quinine tablet, which the Finance Minister has tried to give — what did he say? He said, "We are allowing now the consumer to purchase 20 kilos instead of only 10 kilos." Big deal! Today, with your increased prices, it is going to be difficult for him to even purchase 10 kilos, Mr. Finance Minister. Then, you have

made the income-tax payees ineligible for PDS sugar. You have lakhs and lakhs of Government employees, who are totally going to be deprived of this facility. They certainly do not come from the rich classes. You are hitting the middle classes, the lower middle classes and the economically weaker sections. The rich classes and the industrialists may grumble for some time, but they have enough. Their smile will return. You are spending more time in their company, and I have seen in you five star hotels. Therefore, if they smile, you think that the country is smiling. But this is a big confusion.

[Translation]

Let me caution the hon'ble Finance Minister that the resentment would continue to mount.

[English]

The below poverty line individual is spending a greater proportion of his income on food.

[Translation]

About two thirds of their earnings are spent on purchaing foodgrains and daily meals.

[English]

Therefore, if the PDS prices go up, the ration-shop prices go up, it affects him proportionately much more than it affects other classes. The cost of living of the below poverty line man goes up by almost 40 per cent.

Let me then warn you that today if you feel that a certain section has lifted above the poverty line—there is that fragile five per cent, which is just above the poverty line—any such measure will bring them again underwater. Again, that five per cent wil go back below the poverty line. When you talk of five per cent, it seems to be a very small figure. But our country has 1,000 million people. So, if that five per cent is going to go below the poverty line, then you have 50 million people going below the poverty line again. This is certainly not a small number.

Sir, would you permit me to say something on Education—I had been the HRD Minister at one time—or would you like me to not to?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, sometimes you have to see the clock also. Always looking at the Chair is not good.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, the clock always ticks on ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, all I want to say is that the 1991-96 Government had pledged six per cent of GDP to education by the year 2001-2002. At that time the figure was 3.8 per cent. I understand the problems of the Finance Minister. It is because only 40 per cent of the Education Budget comes from the Centre and about 60 per cent to 65 per cent are the State Budgets. But there must be some lever which you must use to ensure that the State Governments stick to their plans and in that plan you must ensure that along with you there is a phased rise towards the target of six per cent which had been committed in Beijing; which had been committed in Copenhagen; and which had been committed in Bali. Quite frankly, no country can really develop without becoming a knowledge-based society and the weaker sections must not be deprived of that knowledge.

Therefore, our whole educational thrust must be certainly literacy, adult literacy with a special emphasis on female literacy and to ensure that every child up to the ago of 14 years goes to school with an emphasis on the girl child. I will not spend more time on this, out of deference to you, except saying that the Finance Minister has announced a programme called the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* which talks about enrolling all children by the year 2003. One of the incentives given for children to attend school and not be drop-outs was the mid-day meal scheme. What has the Finance Minister done? He has reduced the allocation on the mid-day meal scheme from Rs. 1500 crore to Rs. 1100 crore. How is this going to help your educational promotional programme?

Sir, I have a lot more to say. Budgets have been slashed on 'Operation Blackboard', on teachers' training, and on adult education, but over all, your Budget has gone up which is something which I do appreciate. That thrust must continue. But please ensure that you fine tune what you are spending your money on and that you take all the States on board because the States are not really inclined to come on board. Therefore, I feel that some instruments must be used, some coaxing and some urging is needed through, maybe, the Planning Commission.

Sir, as far as the commitment to weaker sections is concerned, alredy the Government has displayed a very deep commitment to weaker sections by raising the fertilizer prices by 15 per cent. These are very strange commitments. Your food prices have been raised; there have been cuts in the social sector. All these hurts that section to which you say you are committed to. We cannot accept your word, Mr. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

There is a great contrast between what you say and what you do.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

[English]

Sir, there are more instances. The Department of Child Welfare has less allocation this year. The allocation of the Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation has been slashed by 32 per cent.

[Translation]

Our hon'ble Members belonging to OBC's should listen to it.

[English]

There has been a slash of 32 per cent, in its allocation, for the Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation.

[Translation]

You people have to raise your voice. We appeal to all supperting parties.

[English]

Sir, the allocation for the Department of Women Welfare is less than last year. The allocation for employment, the *Swarna Jyoti Gram Rojgar Yojna* for the rural areas has been slashed by 30 per cent. The allocation for the Rural Employment Scheme has been less than last year. The allocation for the *Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana* has been slashed by over 30 per cent. The allocation for the Employment Assurance Scheme has been slashed by 40 per cent. The total outlay on rural employment has been slashed by 30 per cent. The allocation for Rural Housing is less than that of last year. Members must be wondering as what is going on. It is because your speech is saying something else. Unfortunately, these books have to be printed, published, and laid on the Table of the House. It is most unfortunate for you but when you look into these books, it is a total contradiction to what you are saying here. So, in his reply the Minister must tell us exactly what his objectives are.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I certainly will.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: People do not have a clue of what is going on! I would like to give a clue. The Finance Minister slashes the allocation for Social Assistance Programme. How is all this done? How is all this jugglery done? How does 'Merlin the Magician' work? He slashes the allocation for Social Assistance Programme from Rs. 725 crore to Rs. 643 crore. Then, under the same head, he introduces a new scheme called Annapurna with Rs. 90 crore. So, first he slashes the allocation and then, out of that money saved, he produces a new scheme called Annapurna. And then, hey presto! You have a new scheme at the cost of an older one. These sorts of things are not going to be accepted for too long. The Minister is doing it with great consistency. He is launching a new scheme; he is slashing its outlay next year; and he is producing a new scheme from the slashed outlay. This year, there is new scheme.

[Translation]

Hon. Prime Minister, it would bring credit to your name. Rs. five thousand crore has been allocated under Pradhan Mantri Gramodoya Yojna. It is praise worthy and I appreciate it that an amount of Rs. five thousand crore has been allocated for this Yojna however, the question is where this amount has came from?

[English]

Sir, if you look at the expenditure budget, it will again show you where this has come from. First there is an existing head called Basic Needs Programme.

[Translation]

This programme had a fund of Rs. 3700 crore. If you look at this year's column, it is zero. This amount of Rs. 3700 crore has now been diverted to Pradhan Mantri Gramodoya Yojna. Still Rs. 1300 crore is required to make up Rs. 5000 crore which has been allocated under the said Yojna. So at least Rs. 1300 crore should have been contributed. However, the same has not been contributed. The amount of Rs. 1300 crore has been curtailed from under Rural Employment and the same has been reallocated under. This new scheme called-Pradhan Mantri Gramodoya Yojna.

[English]

This is just a sleight of hand.

[Translation]

At the same time curtailment has been made under other schemes also.

[English]

This is just a sleight of hand. Curtailment has been made under other schemes also. These Hudini tricks are not going to work. I do not even know if the Prime Minister knows about all this jugglery that is going on and the schemes for poor and the weaker sections are

being reduced to a farce. In this Rs. 5,000 crore scheme, the Finance Minister has pulled another rabbit out of his hat. But this rabbit will soon die. It is because next year he will have to kill this rabbit to produce another rabbit. So, this sort of thing is going to go on.

I would like to just show another area on page 210 of the expenditure budget, Item No. 9. What is it called? It is called Rural Employment Generation Programme—Implementation of Recommendation of High-Power Committee. This is the title. This is on page 210 of the expenditure budget. Last year the budget promised was Rs. 140 crore under this programme. It was headed by a very mysterious High-Power Committee. But somewhere along the road, this Committee disappeared. All that was spent out of these Rs. 140 crore in the whole year was, Rs. 11 crore. This year, that Committee has reappeared and the Finance Minister has promised that through this Committee he will meet again this year the great promise to the weaker sections; and that this Committee which has suddenly reappeared after spending Rs. 11 crore out of Rs. 140 crore will meet again this year, a great promise, but will spend only Rs. 110 crore less than what it had planned to spend in the current fiscal year.

Sir, exports and small industry are also suffering greatly just when exports have turned positive. In the times of the Congress Government under Shri Rajiv Gandhi, I remember, exports have touched 20 per cent growth rate.

In the last couple of year they had become negative, and for the first time they turned positive again. I congratulate the Finance Minister for that. But the moment they turned positive to 12 per cent, he had suddenly again banged a tax on them. What is the sense of this? He could have encouraged them and nudged them along.

Our exports which are basically small scale, 40 per cent of our manufactured goods exports come from small-scale industries. This is a labour-intensive industry which plays an important role in job generation both urban and rural. Therefore, this would have encouraged job generation too, it would have encouraged the small producers too, but instead, this tax is going to kill them. Sir, even in the small scale sector programme under the Ministry of Small Scale and Agro and Rural Industries, there is a cut. It is less than last year. It is down by about Rs. 90 crore.

Sir, how do you strengthen the economy; how do you strengthen the rural sector with all these measures? It baffles me, it beats me completely. There are 700 items which are coming to enter India inviting duty of not more than 25 per cent. He must try and see that there is some protection, maybe even 'use the exchange rates' but somewhere our small-scale industries must be protected because about 171 lakh people have jobs in their small-scale industries and they cannot face competition. They are too small to face competition. They suffer from a low level of technology. They need time to adjust. So, you must plan a programme that aids them to upgrade themselves.

Ironically, these programme outlays are being cut when they are needed the most. Obviously, there is no coordination in Government as import liberalisers are obviously not talking to the concerned sectors so as to minimise the adverse impact. Therefore, Sir, I do feel that certain coordination has to take place within Government. The right hand has to know what the left hand is doing.

The textile and leather industries are the oldest industries in this country and 20 per cent employment in manufactured sector is in the textiles alone, and a good part of this is in the small-scale sector. They have made substantial contribution to the export drive.

Mr. Finance Minister, you know as well as I do that in 2005 the Multi-Fibre Agreement is going to come to an end, and this will give us tremendous opportunities. Our textile industry can grab those opportunities. But are we preparing this sector to be able to grab this opportunity? If we are not preparing, then the reverse will happen; others will grab this opportunity and our textile sector will greatly suffer. And I do not believe that this Government really believes in forward planning. Therefore, I beseech you to have a look at this and to prepare the textile sector for 2005.

Sir, unemployment is increasing day by day. By 2003, we will have six crore unemployed people. The public sector is not generating additional employment, that is what the *Economic Survey* says on pages 52 and 53. The private organised sector has limited scope. Since 1997, job opportunities in organised public sector and private sector have come down. Agriculture is not generating new jobs. Exports, small-scale industries, services, Government policies are only reducing jobs in these sectors. I am very happy that in the Service sector you are promoting the Information Technology area. But it is still a very small sector. It is a sector of the future. It is a good move. But it is still a very small sector. So, let us not lose sight of the priorities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to say a very brief word.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, there are another 15 Members from your party who want to speak on the General Budget.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I have just got two pages of notes more. Now, I will have a very brief word on disinvestment. I do not want to go to all the cases of disinvestment, the way disinvestment has taken place, the way gilt-edged companies have been thrown to the winds. All I would like to say is that disinvestment should be a very selective process.

There should be a market strategy when that disinvestment is undertaken. It should not appear to be a distress sale, which it appears to be. When disinvestment takes place, it should only take place after an adequate safety net for the workers is established.

When I was the Minister of Railways, we had five thousand steam locomotives. Over five years, we phased out four thousand steam locomotives but not a single person was thrown out of his job. There was re-training and redeployment. We switched on to diesel and electric locomotives but no one lost his job. You may also have a similar exercise when you go in for disinvestment. That safety net is not adequate and that safety net is not utilised and joblessness grows and workers feel insecure. The funds and the resources that come in must not go into financing your Ministries and your new Departments and first class air travel of Ministers to Australia to attend seminars on drug effects on athletes. They must go into building infrastructure; they must go into reducing indebtedness; they must go into the sector of education and other social sectors; and they must go into other productive capital formation.

Sir, I will conclude shortly. You can breathe a sigh of relief.

How can this Budget promote growth? It cannot promote it by higher public investment because all crucial areas have been slashed. It cannot do it by encouraging private industry. You can alerady see that there is a tremendous slide in the stock market. In fact, many measures in this Budget will curb demand and therefore there will be a lower growth.

This Budget would reduce industrial and farm growth and shrink job opportunities. As I said by the year 2003, there will be six crore unemployed people in the country. This Budget would increase the burden on the marginal and the small sections: the farmer, the rural poor, mainly the *dalits,* the *adivasis*, women, children and youths. It is a patchwork Budget that will make the nation even more bankrupt. It is a directionless Budget, which epitomises a directionless Government. There is no light, as I said at the beginning of my speech, at the end of the tunnel. It takes one step forward and ten steps backward. It is only full of announcements and no measures. It is abounding in more confusion and more and more confusion. The only direction that this Budget has is that it is anti-people and anti-poor.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for quite sometime, sometime hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister had made public announcements that the ensuing budget is going to be a hard and stringent budget because of the circumstances as a result of wrong economic policies pursued during the past fifty years and to deal with the present circumstances such a budget was inevitable. However, the opposition parties were preparing themselves to wage agitation and register their resentment when the budget is presented. It is long when the budget was presented but no valid criticism has come forward. Scindiaji has made three points in regard to budget...*(Interruptions).* He has made mention of three points...*(Interruptions).* Scindiaji has repeated only those points which have been made here times and again. He has told that the import of sugar and oil seeds were made. But those imports took place when he was a Minister. The sugar and oil seeds were put under OGL. Lacs of tonnes of wheat and foodgrains was imported from Australia, Newzealand and Canada. Our own farmers were paid Rs. 250 while it was imported from those countries at Rs. 500/-. Even though they were under OGL, but after Kargil conflicit the import of wheat was stopped. It would have been better, had the budget been criticised. If the examples like that two persons travelled to Australia by first class and cabinet expenditure is increasing are not the proper examples. No doubt there are 74 Ministers in the Council of Ministers. But would it solve problems if expenditure on them is curtailed? I had been happy if Shri Madhavraoji had suggested as to where we can curtail our expenditure and under which head that amount can be reallocated. Had there been criticism of such things, we would have appreciated that our provisions are not proper. He did mention that less provision has been made under the head, there had been cut under certain head, more allocations should be made under this or that head. For total over all plan the amount has been increased from Rs. 77 thousand crore to 88 thousand crore. But that 11 thousand crore rupees has been allocated under which improper plan? Had it been pointed out, I would have endorsed his point and requested the Minister to re-examine that. But that did not happen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Madhavrao saw nothing good in this budget. I wish to point out which good things happened during the past one year. Kargil conflict took place, the Government had to step down because of a

single vote of Congress and caretaker and unstable Government was in power for 6 months and this what I want to tell that all these things are reflected in this budget...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: if you distrub the House in this way, how will the House be run. Please do not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: this is not proper. Hon. Members, please understand that it is not proper. What is this? This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Government was very much perturbed when there was super cyclone in Orissa. Then there was 'Kargil war' which lasted 50 days. Besides, monsoon was also not good. The economic conditions of the world, specially that of Asian countries were shattered but the present Government in our country lead the economic condition on the path of the progress. It is a remarkable achievement. I remember that there was price-hike after every war fought by our country. At that time, long queues and hoarding were common phenomena and the things of common man's use often disappeared. But this time 'Kargil war' continued till 50 days but during the last 50 weeks, the rate of inflation was less than 4 per cent and during the last February, it was only 2.1 per cent. Against in all these odds, the price-hike rate was only 2 per cent and consumer price-index was '0' per cent. Is it less important achievement of this Government? He did not mention this point. The poorman of the country suffered when the price-hike fluctuated between 14 and 24 per cent. The poorman suffered on that account.

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please address the Chair, do not look that side.

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Thank you for reminding me.

[Translation]

Even in these circumstances the price-hike was only 2 per cent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country at present has $36 billion foreign exchange reserve. No country in the world is powerful enough to impose sanctions on India or cast an evil eye on it. In their Government's tenure, the country had to sell out gold.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Forty eight tonnes of RBI gold were placed at the Bank of England by the gentleman who the Finance Minister who lost to Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. This is the fact, you can go and verify.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): It was supported by the Congress also. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the industrial growth between April and February was 7.2 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Will you please tell us where this $36 billion came from?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: That I will tell you without asking.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: That is a form of loan and not our income...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shyama Charan Shukla, please sit down. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for increasing Rs. 13,000 in Defence Budget for the first time. It is around 28 per cent. It was also necessary because we have paid utmost attention to internal and external security when the question of security of the country comes. Shri Madhavrao Scindia was mentioning with full might that our soldiers fought at the height of 17,000 feet and linked Pakistan with it. But when the country was fighting the war who were the persons trying to demoralise our army and in what way? When our country emerged as 'nuclear power', speeches were made that there was neither potable water nor electricity in the country. The leaders of their party visited the area where 'nuclear test' was carried out at the time of election and made speeches that when there was neither potable water

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nor electricity, what was the benefit of being a 'nuclear power'. Since India became a nuclear power, it won the Kargil war. Our 1000 years of salavery was the result of paying no attention towards our army...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You got the dividend of Kargil so you are on that side.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, that is why you are on other side...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): This discussion is not being delivered at Chandani Chowk. This speech is being given in the House...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I know it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to mention the point raised by Madhavrao Scindia. He admits that the reason for reamining slave for 1000 years was non-supply of good quality weapon to our own army. He mentioned about Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana under which 25 lakh houses will be constructed every year. Besides, Janshree Bima Yojana, about 30 new schemes have been introduced. He has not paid proper attention towards the provisions made under these schemes. There is Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Kosh and credit cards are likely to be issued to 75 lakh farmers. Under Janshree Bima Yojana, Rs. 20,000 is proposed to be provided for natural death, Rs. 50,000 for death due to accident, Rs. 50,000 for permanent handicap and Rs. 25,000 for temporary handicap. The poor persons in the country are getting insurance cover by paying Rs. 10. A provision has been made to provide compulsory education to all by 2003. A subsidy of Rs. 2500 crore for foodgrains has been provided to the persons living below poverty line. The post-matric scholarship has been raised from Rs. 72 crore to Rs. 130 crore. Additional exemption of Rs. 5000 in income tax has been given to women and aged persons.

Such schemes are about 30-35 in numbers and I do not want to go into them. I am surprised to hear that these schemes are jugglery of the Finance Minister. I agree with him on two points. Our country is under heavy debt. He mentioned only that we are taking a loan of Rs. 1,08,000 crore. It is correct that we are taking such a big amount as loan. Mr. Speaker, Sir, he mentioned it rightly that our debt service is of Rs. 91 crore. We have to pay interest of Rs. 91 crore. We do not have to pay only this amount as interest but we have to pay instalments also. If we add those instalments and debt service it comes to Rs. 2,25,000 crore. Our total revenue is less than that. We have to find a solution to this problem that how to reduce this debt and debt service charges. Our Finance Minister does not want to take new loan of Rs. 1,08,000 crore to pay old loan because it will not be good situation. This situation does not arise in one or two days but it is the result of policies adopted during the last 30-40 years. The main point is how to pay this loan and to solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel very sorry that four points are being raised repeatedly here. When the question comes to reduce subsidy then everybody opines against it. Everybody opposes the disinvestment. If economic measures are adopted and recruitment of Government employees banned then everybody oppose it. Everybody opposes introduction of new taxes. From where money will come? Please tell about an alternate, besides these four options. How we can get money without adopting economic measures, put ban on Government employment, reducing subsidy and doing disinvestment. I am surprised to listen the views of the Chief Whip of the Congress party that the Congress would reconsider its policy. He said that he is ready to do 'Shirashasan' but disinvestment should not be done. Dr. Manmohan Singh ji started disinvestment in 1991 and the Congress Party has been taking credit for it for the five years. It was said that a new era had come, liberalisation era had started. Shri Madhavraoji has not mentioned about the next Government of Shri Narsimharaoji and he mentioned about Shri Rajiv Gandhi only. I fail to understand why he has not mentioned his name although he was a Minister in his Government and took credit for that policy. Rs. 2,04,000 crore is involved in disinvestment and Rs. 9000 crore have come by this option and Rs. 61000 crore have been invested therein. What is the solution if we do not do investment. Shall we allow the public sector to become sick or to close them. If such a situation comes what will happen to the country. The public undertakings are worth Rs. 7,00,000 crore today. This amount is of public, paid as tax. We can pay loan by this amount and can save Rs. 1,00,000 crore in a year. That amount can be utilised in social sector. But what is happening. I am the Chairman of the Committee on Public Sector Undertaking. Earlier, I was the Chairman of a Standing Committee. I have seen the State of employment in Public Sector Undertakings. There are one thousand employees against a demand of one hundred. This is because of the fact that whosoever became the Minister, he exploited these undertakings and the number of employees went on increasing. As a result, these undertakings are suffering losses and they are on the verge of ruination. We can see the facts case by case. It is argued why there is a proposal for disinvestment in Indian Airlines. I would like to say that Indian Airlines has no fleet. There are approximately 700 people per plane, whereas other airlines have 125 people per plane. We have no option except disinvestment. Indian Airlines have no money to buy more planes. Should

we invest the funds meant for social sector in this airline? Is this Government there to do business only? It is no business of the Government to make bread and butter and run aeroplanes. We cannot overburden the common man at the expense of the comforts of one per cent population of the country. We should rather spend the money of the poor people on their welfare only. There was a mention of disinvestment. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav too was a part of the United Front Government which had carried out disinvestment of three 'Narvratna' companies. But when we talk of disinvestment, a hue and cry is made there. Please tell me which communist nation not resorting to privatisation. Today, there is maximum privatisation in Russia and China. I think there has not been as much privatisation in any state of India as in West Bengal. But, today it is being criticised here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards disinvestment, I agree with the views of Shri Madhavrao Scindia that we should take care of the interests of the employees. There should be scheme like 'golden handshake' for them. The hon. Finance Minister has said that no bank will be wound u The employees will not be allowed to wander on s.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): What is the view of the RSS?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I will tell you. We want foreign companies to enter in infrastructure sector. After all, we have to construct 9000 km. long roads. How will we be able to do so? There are no roads and drinking water in the villages. We should invest the Government money on big project in infrastructure sector.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: Why shares of companies like BHEL are being sold in global market? It is because your income will go down...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would submit that this Government would not do anything which would be a blow on the interests of this country. We are in favour of disinvestment, construction of roads, airports, sea-ports, generation of power and investment by private sector of this country as well as foreign investment. Besides, the benefits of the money invested by the Government should reach the poorest person. It could be possible only through disinvestment. I think the views expressed by our colleagues in the opposition are not justified.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention three points. There are non-performing assets worth fifty thousand crore rupees, income tax and corporate tax dues worth fifty thousand crore rupees of banks and about eighty thousand crore rupees of non banking institutions which must be recovered. It is hard earned money of the common man and every step should be taken to recover it. It is not fair that the capitalists and industrialists run away with the money and they continue to get loans on easy terms, neither they be black listed, nor brought before the public. I hope that with the passage of this new law, the Government will take stringent steps to recover the money from such people. I am in favour of stringent steps and we should not hesitate in this regard.

Sir, I also want to mention one more point. It has been said that Rs. 64 thousand crore have been spent on tackling ISI activities. I have been told that ISI has launched a covert war in the country. It was mentioned in a report presented last year.

[English]

ISI sponsored terrorism and proxy war has resulted in deaths of 29,151 civilians and 5,101 security personnel. The ISI is also responsible for 2330 explosions in which property worth crores of rupees is damaged. It has also been stated that 43,700 kilograms of explosives, mostly RDX has come into the country.

[Translation]

Thus, we had to spend Rs. 64 thousand crore in this regard. We should take stern action to counter it and crush it and other related activities. I doubt how ISI activities can be crushed because TADA meant for countering terrorism has been scrapped. The new law which is being formulated has been facing protests from the very beginning. Whenever the issue of arresting and penalising the ISI agents and murderers, who shot down hundreds of people, is raised, Human Rights Commission and people belonging to minority sections become a hurdle and make hue and cry.

Sir, unless terrorist outfits are uprooted and murderers moving scot free after committing murders are arrested, it is not possible to control them and their activities. For this purpose, strict laws are needed to be formulated. In my opinion, opposition of such laws is not proper. It pains me when my friends sitting in the House call for 'Zehad' against patriotic organisations like Sangh. For this purpose, proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are installed. The Sangh which was appreciated by Mahatma Gandhi and whose help was sought by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri during wars...*(Interruptions)* when help was sought, it was extended by them and ...*(Interruptions)* they are being attacked in such a way. But you should

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help it...*(Interruptions)* I request you to fix a day for debate on ISI also in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Hon. can he make an allegation against minorities?

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): What is its relavance to the budget? It is a political speech.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You could have stalled the proceedings of the House one day on the issue of ISI activities and spread 5-8 hours for ISI and Pakistan sponsored proxy war in the House. Rs. 64 crore have been spent on it. I do not mean to say that it is our ideal budget but due to wrong economic policies of the last 50 years, our position has become worse. But there could not have been a better budget then this in the present circumstances. There are some trivial issues in this budget on which the hon. Minister should consult all parties and should implement it with consensus opinion.

Sir, I would like to conclude my speech after raising one more point. Sports has been mentioned in the House time and again. Normally, the entire House and the country as well are concerned over it. Whenever we return empty handed from the Olympic or after loosing in any international match, we ponder over it. Like national security, sports are also equally important for the name, fame and prestige of the country and after loosing in the sports, our prestige goes down. If the Government finds itself unable to enhance the amount for sports, it can provide 100 per cent tax exemption which has been extended to IOA only. If this tax exemption is given to all sports federations, sports sector would get more money and thus there would be more achievements. With these words, I support this budget.

15.58 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

RE: PERMISSION TO LAY WRITTEN SPEECHES ON GENERAL DISCUSSION ON GENERAL BUDGET

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation by the Chair.

Hon. Members, although the Business Advisory Committee had allocated four hours for General Discussion on the General Budget and passing of the Vote on Account today, it was agreed that the House would sit late as long as it was necessary to complete the discussion, including the hon. Minister's reply and voting and passing of the Vote on Account and the Appropriation Bill.

Some hon. Members have suggested that they may be permitted to lay their written speeches on the General Budget which may form part of the debate. I hope the House would agree to this.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Certainly this is something which we all permit seeing the exigencies of time. But let it not be treated as a precedent because it is not something which should be adopted as a norm.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): The whole pourpose of the debate will be defeated. I think we can sit for another six hours; it does not matter. But allowing written speeches on the Budget is not a healthy practice.

MR. SPEAKER: But the only problem is that the Speaker and the Minister only are sitting at the late hours. But the Members, after finishing their speeches leave the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It would be quoted in the future. It would set a very wrong precedent if you allow written speeches on the Budget. We can sit for one more day; there is no harm. But let us not have written speeches on the Budget.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): You have to see the condition this time. There is no time. There is no time available now. We discussed it and decided not to sit on Saturday because of various reasons. Therefore, there is no time. We agree that it should not be treated as a precedent. It is not a good thing.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Let us not start it. A Member is not even allowed to read out his speech.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It should not be treated as a precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: this is an exception only. This will not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Even yesterday it was permitted. I would request you not to allow this because it would set a very bad precedent.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): It is a very very unhealthy practice.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This will become a precedent. Just now yesterday's case has been quoted. So, for God's sake, please do not devalue the institution of Parliament. There is no harm if we extend the Session by one more day.

MR. SPEAKER: Many hon. Members are interested to submit their papers.

...(Interruptions)

16.00 hrs.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The other alternative is that every party leader can request their Members to exercise restraint and contain the duration of discussion within, may be, midnight or more or the deadline fixed. We would also see that our Members speak within that deadline. Our Members do not seem to have any objection to sit upto breakfast tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am having a list of 27 Members to speak from the BJP as well as six Members more, 15 Members from the Congress Party, four Members from CPI(M) and four or five Members from other parties.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We do not mind sitting right upto 5 a.m. or 6 a.m. in the morning.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): You can allot less time but there should not be a tradition of written speech. If written speeches are accepted, I and you will make speeches raising question on any issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to restrict your own Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): When there is no provision of reading out the speeches, how can the written speeches be laid...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you take much time.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the President's Address be taken for discussion or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow.

[English]

We are short of time. So I am asking the leaders to restrict their Members.

Now Shri Rupchand Pal may speak.

16.02 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET-GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT-GENERAL AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS-GENERAL—Contd.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget presented by the Finance Minister on the 29th February. I oppose the Budget on several grounds but the primary reason is that—the least that can be said about the Budget—it is a charter for economic destruction for India. This Government has failed in almost all the fronts. They have failed to contain the rise in fiscal deficit although promises have been made that they will limit it to a certain percentage. They had promised 5.6 per cent in the House and even before that, they had promised four per cent. Now, it has crossed their target. They are now saying that they are initiating the second generation of reforms.

My first question is, what does it mean? I have been trying to search out from the available global literature as to what it means for a country like India, at a time when the great advocates of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation are veering round a new thinking. There is a new thinking the world over that liberalisation process for the developing countries is a meaningless distorted exercise to destroy themselves. I am quoting from a German book which is recently translated throughout the world into different languages. I am just mentioning a small part of it.

> "Precisely because labour can and must be down-sized to boost profits, the current policies are twisted until they appear as they are opoposite. Thus, to stimulate growth is ultimately to produce

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

> unemployment and to cut taxes so that profit opportunities improve, might possibly also produce unemployment. The political and social paradoxes of transnational economy which must be lured and rewarded with the removal of barriers to investment meaning removal of ecological, union and welfare and fiscal constraints so that more and more labour can be shed and outputs and profits simultaneously increase, still have to be scientifically analysed and politically tackled."

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): There are hundres of books available like this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I think you must have heard the name of Mr. Paul Khrugman. You must have heard of many economists belonging to the World Bank. You know about the latest World Bank Report that has come out about India. This has been written by Mr. Ulrich Beck. He is a German economist. It is his definition in respect of globalisation.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I have not heard of him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You shall hear him from now onwards. I have presented it. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they are not satisfied with the German book.

[Translation]

There is no need of foreign book. Therefore, I come to Swadeshi.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): What is happening in Russia and China whose ideologies you follow.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Should I read this? This is the *Swadeshi* agenda of the BJP in the year 1998. It is about the first generation of reforms. They said it in 1998, just two years back. The heading reads like this: "Phony Liberalisation: A More Impoverished Economy." I quote what they said:

> "After four-and-a-half grossly wasted decades, the Congress Government of the day woke up to a bankrupt reality, but under the guise of correcting the past wrongs, actually surrendered to IMF conditionalities. Over 2100 companies were allowed to raise over Rs. 35,800 crore from the market mostly at unreasonable premia."

Then your manifesto is coming.

> "The last six years, when the much-touted reform has been under way, have been years of extreme difficulty for the common man" What did your Home Minister say right at that moment when he was in Washington? Do you remember that? Yes, You should remember. He said: "The Congress had hijacked our economic agenda." I think you do not believe the *Swadeshi* agenda. You know this picture. The title is "Atal Bihari Vajpayee—Forty Years."...*(Interruptions)* I will not disturb you much.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): I hope you would have read the story of Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa about six blind men describing an elephant...*(Interruptions)*

16.06 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I come to that.

[Translation]

That story is for blinds only. It is not for those who are not blind.

[English]

Of course, we should use foreign capital. But it should not come the Coca Cola way. Where is Shri George Fernandes? He is not here. It should come the heavy industry way. About the heavy industry way, what has your best friend Shri Rahul Bajaj said about a fortnight back? He said that you are ruining the domestic industry; our capital goods industry is being ruined by you and you are bringing down the tariff in respect of customs and raising the excise duty. By implication, they are saying that it is a WTO Budget. This year, that way, you are complying with the obligation of WTO only. This WTO Budget would put its axe on the common man. Naturally, the fiscal deficit cannot be curtailed. For Defence, for the Kargil war, the holy cow, a sum of Rs. 13,000 crore has been given. A sum of Rs. 11,000 crore has only been given to the whole others areas like social development, industry, agriculture etc. I have no objection to Defence being given 13000 crore. How much of it will go to the development of our economy, our industry, our capital expenditure? This Minister owes an explanation to us. Not more than Rs. 5000 crore has been given to that. Even then Rs. 5000 crore would be mostly spent on importing components I am not referring to the kickbacks and all those stories that had come out. Many other things are there. It is not only about the T-90 tank. I will not go into that. How much have you provided to our Ordnance Factories?

Ichapur Rifles factory can produce the best quality weapons, which the Government had used in the Kargil conflict. But how much encouragement has the Government given to the Ordnance factories in our country? Out of the total allocation of Rs. 30,000 crore to defence, Rs. 8,000 crore will go to salary, pension and various other things and Rs. 5,000 crore will go towards capital expenditure, that too depending on imports. I have a point to make here. There are serious complaints in different levels of defence services that their just dues as per the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission have not yet been paid and there is a serious resentment among the defence forces in this regard.

Sir, we are not only on the threshold of debt trap, but we are already in the internal debt trap and about 49 per cent of our total expenditure has to be given as interest payment. Then, the committed allocations will have to be met in the defence sector and transfer of revenue to the States as per the Interim Report of the Finance Commission will have to be complied with. So, where can he lay his hands on? He can lay his hands on food subsidy and fertiliser subsidy and this is being done at a time when one of the architects of the Green Revolution has made a statement sounding an alarm about the food situation in the country. A report says that the father of the Green Revolution has raised an alarm over the impending shortage of foodgrains in the 21st Century. Then, what does the United Nations Population Fund says about India? It says:

> "Agricultural production has increased rapidly since Independence, foodgrains by 3.5 times, cereals by about three times and protein by 1.5 times. Yet, the increase in per capita availability is much less."

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: It is because of increase in population.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Is it because of increase in population? Well, I shall come to that. I shall come to the latest theories on human development index. When Dr. Amartya Sen met the hon. Finance Minister, I think, there was a discussion about how a country like ours can progress. At that time, the Kerala model was cited as to how literacy among women can contribute a lot towards controlling the growth of population. So, inspired by Dr. Amartya Sen's advice—you may call it advice or suggestion or whatever—in the last year's Budget there was a chapter on Human Development Initiative. This is about poverty reduction, more intervention in respect of literacy, primary health care programmes and other things.

Sir, I want to ask a simple question to the hon. Finance Minister. I can ask 1,000 such questions about last year's Budget. I am now asking a question which has been raised by the President of India on not less than two occasions very recently. According to Dr. Amartya Sen, if a country like ours, with so much of human capital, has to grow, make any progress, we have to emphasise on the human capital, literacy, primary health care, more shelter and more food security. This has been emphasised by the President on two occasions recently. The Education Guarantee Scheme was earmarked Rs. 3,035 crore, for setting up an elementary school in every habitation, which does not have one within a radius of one kilometre. The Minister is not here. But there is someone here. He must note it down. How much progress is there in respect of 1.8 lakh such villages? How much progress is there in respect of universal elementary education? Their target for the fiscal deficit has miserably failed. It has gone far beyond that. Even in this year's Budget, they are fixing it gloriously taking pride at 5.1 We know that that will go beyond that.

I think, Dr. Nitish Sengupta must have heard the name of Dr. Amiya Bagchi who is one of your friends. He has done a lot for the banking system. He is one of the very eminent, acknowledged and internationally reputed economists.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I do not agree with his views.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: All right. You may do that. You may not agree with the views of Dr. Amartya Sen also. That does not matter. You may not agree with the viewpoints of Dr. Paul Krugman. You may not agree with the viewpoints of many others. That does not matter because the Harvard economists are wearing down to a new concept, that is, reckless, desperate, *laissez-faire* policy will win the developing countries. And I do not know why and how the *'swadeshi'* people—*Swadeshi Jagran Manch* - wants to project their viewpoints. The BJP says, *"We are Swadeshi."* But at every stage, they are surrendering to the *'Videshi'*.

Let me come back to what Dr. Amiya Bagchi has said. The Budget does not say anything to address the Government expenditure or administration. The rate of capital formation is low. There is no concern as far as long-term growth is concerned. Dr. Bagchi cast aspersions on the foreign reserves. Today, the foreign reserves may be 31 billion or some such figure. He says about the NRi deposits which are interest-bearing and the cost of State Bank of India hopping around Rs. 330 crore. It is more than that. Day before yesterday, the Supplementary Budget was presented. It is more than Rs. 417 crore approximately as a result of change in the exchange rate. This was the apprehension expressed by this side

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at that point to time also and they were waxing eloquent. the Resurgent Bonds have so much of foreign reserves. What will happen? 23 billion but of 32-33 billion reserves belong to the SBI Resurgent Bonds held by the NRIs. Suppose it goes or there is a monsoon failure. The industry is not picking up. The export is negative. WTO conditions shall be imposed in 2001. We have started. More than 3,000 items have been put on OGL. Our small industry is in doldrums. We have been asked to compete with the multinational corporations. They say, "It is *Swadeshi.*" This is the warning given by one of the very eminent economists of the country.

Now, how will they manage the finances of the country? They bring down the interest rate in respect of small savings and provident fund of the salaried people, middle-class, poorer sections. The poorer sections of the people put their money in the Post Office because that is considered to be safe and because they have burnt their fingers by putting their money in the non-banking financial companies. More than 3,000 of them have vanished. The SEBI has no power authority or teeth at all to control them. They have virtually vanished, taking away hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees of small investors. What are they doing? They are forcing them to go to the capital market, that is, non-banking financial companies and Mutual Funds. You have to explain that. You cannot touch the multinational companies. I can name at least 10 of them who have not paid a single farthing in the form of income-tax. Multinational banks have not paid even a single farthing.

He says that the tax base has gone up from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore. It is the lowest as per the world standard. He is speaking about world standard. He is speaking about reforms. He is taking advice from WTO, IMF, rich countries, G-7, etc. I would like the hon. Minister to look at them. Who pays the tax? It is the corporations and not individual salaried people. The average is that 40 per cent are beneficiaries and he has brought it down further. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the compliance rate. What is the punishment? Since the 50s, we have seen umpteen number of amnesty schemes. This year also this is there.

I can go on quoting any number of times because Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had been here for the last four decades and he had made so many speeches on black money, Coca-cola, on what to do, what not do, foreign capital, foreign direct investment, etc. Now they have changed that. Even what the BJP people had said in 1998, they disown that.

One fine morning I read that the BJP people have come out with the idea that the tax base should be broadened. Yes, we fully agree with it. In the interest of national development and in the interest of the country, we can agree on some occasions. Why does not the hon. Minister lay his hands on the agricultural income? Why did he withdraw that the next morning?

I was going through a study of the Hindustan Levers Ltd. As you know, the capital market is very vibrant. I would tell you how vibrant it is. Out of the 30 scrips of Bombay Stocks Exchange, six are working. One is information technology, second is the pharmaceutical, third is the first in the consumer goods, namely, The Hindustan Levers Ltd. and two or three financial institutions. The bubble will burst. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that it must burst because there is no way but it will burst. What is information technology? Everyday, lectures are being given that information technology is independent of the manufacturing sector, independent of the serivce sector. It is nothing.

Azim Premji may be the richest man in this country. But what is his turnover in the world standard? One day he is the richest man, but next morning he may be the poorest man. It all depends on the capital market and world over, things are changing. New economy and many other such terms are coming and he is depending on that.

Sir, if there is a failure of monsoon or if the foreign speculators withdraw or if the NRIs discontinue to have their faith in our performances, what will happen? We shall face a BoP crisis of an unprecedented nature, surpassing 1991. In such a situation, he does not know the direction. This is an exercise in confusion and contradiction. Shri Yashwant Sinha is not here, but I would like the hon. Minister of State to communicate this to him. In one paragraph he says one thing and in the next paragraph he says another thing because he does not have any direction, because the BJP does not have any direction. They have been told this by their alliance partners.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): They do not have any programme.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No, I am not accusing them. They have their own programme. The Telugu Desam Party and the Trinamool Congress must say something. They joined the Government on the basis of NDA.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): We are here only to defeat you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, that you can do. But when we are upholding a national cause, defeating us may not be in the national interest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sorry for the interruption. I have a doubt. Shri Rupchand Pal is educating all of us with the help of theories and all that. I would like to ask one straight question to Shri Rupchand Pal.

In West Bengal, they have been in power for the last twenty years. Why have they not eradicated poverty in their State? That is my straight question. In spite of his theories, till today there are no basic minimum services for the common people, not only in West Bengal but in the whole country. Because of their experience and his education, people have given power to them, to one party.

Why have they not achieved all these objectives? That is my question. I am not criticising anybody. ..*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Now, in technology, West Bengal has gone from 2nd position to 16th position and in industry, it has gone from 3rd position to 18th position. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I want to reply. ..*(Interruptions)* I will say it in two sentences. I would not take much time. Two points have to be understood by them. One is the State Government and the other is the Central Government. Kindly read the Sarkaria Commission recommendations. Even the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended that 29 per cent of gross revenue should be transferred to the States. I do not know whether the TDP has objected or not; we have objected and said that a sum of Rs. 2,000 crore has been deprived to the States. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am also with you on this. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall take you on my line. ..*(Interruptions)* A study has been conducted about Andhra Pradesh. They have got information technology, laptop, and everything. Many important people will visit Andhra Pradesh. I want to know that in how many villages, the people have got drinking water, and in how many villages, the rural poor people have got access to information technology. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: It is much better in West Bengal. If you appoint a Committee and send it to Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, then I agree with you. It will be much better in Andhra Pradesh than West Bengal.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Twenty-three years ago, Andhra Pradesh was considered to be a backward State but now it is considered to be an advanced State. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The world over, one thing has been admitted that in West Bengal, land reforms hve been implemented in a way, which has contributed to the fastest agricultural growth in the country although West Bengal has less irrigation facilities, less quantum of arable land. Have they done it? I am referring to the speech of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He did not do what he had said but in West Bengal, we have done what we have said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I quote what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said. This is what he said:

> "Our first priority is to make the country self-sufficient in food; steps taken in the field of agriculture have to be tested against this criteria; Zamindari abolition and fixing the maximum ceiling of land holdings are necessary steps. We have to see that the person who takes personal interest in production from land and whose future is linked with land becomes the owner of the land. From this point of view, land reforms are necessary."

He has not done what he has said but we have done what we have said. There lies the difference between the Central Government and the State Government of West Bengal. So, repeatedly, in spite of so many conspiracies, objections, confusions and discriminations, we have come and we shall go on coming for several years to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am trying to help the partners of this Government and ask them to see what they proposed to do with regard to withdrawal of subsidy, and increase in the prices of fertiliser and urea. How can agriculture be developed? The capital expenditure and the Government expenditure for rural development are a must. Any study will tell you that if the Government does not invest in irrigation, if it does not invest in the social infrastructure and in the rural areas, then no rural economy can make any progress.

Here lies our objection. What is that they have said? I am happy that of late the Congress has taken a particular stand, rather, clarified their stand with regard to the disinvestment. I have seen an article written by Shri Narasimha Rao. It has come in *The Times of India*, on 5th of March. I am not wasting the time of the House by reading all these things. Only yesterday, the Chief Whip of the Congress Party, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, with all his authority in his command, has said that reform

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process should be pursued with caution, with a direction that it should be selective. It should not be reckless. Is it not reckless to dismantle the steel sector? Shri Chandra Shekhar has said yesterday very rightly that no one came forward when Pandit Nehru had been moving from one part of the country to the other. It was because of the then, erstwhile Soviet Russia, the Bhilay was set up.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Germany and United Kingdom also came forward.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: They came later on. Rourkhela came later on. Bhilay was the first one. Can you imagine, Sir? I was reading a book on 'Bharath Heavy Electricals Limited'. The world over it is admitted that it is really such a giant that it can compete with any multinational company worth the name. It has been put in a serious disadvantage. Its authority has been taken away. It has been attached to Europe and we condemn. Now, 20 per cent of such profit-making giants are being decided to be sold out to the multinational companies. Not only this, but there are others also in the power, telecom, coal and banking sectors. They have said that there would be 33 per cent reduction of Government equity and still the public sector character will be maintained. That is why, I have said that it is an exercise in confusion and contradiction. There is no direction. These allies should sit together and think about the country's interest..*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the subsidy question. I have touched the question of disinvestment. But I have a lot to say about the price rise situation.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, what had happened to the poor people of Bihar? It is a very puzzling thing that growth is taking place but the consumer price index and the price of food articles are going up and up. It is very amazing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Except in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, rural poverty is increasing. It has been admitted by many economists and even by the Planning Commission also that in the 70s and 80s, the poverty level had come down. But again, as a result of the reforms, the rural poverty is increasing. This is the question our President is asking that the benefit is not reaching the poor men.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude; you are not concluding.

..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am coming to that. On the eve of the 50th Anniversary of our Republic, on 25th of January in his address to the nation, he said that the reform has not benefited the poorer sections of the society.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is nothing in the Budget.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Even on 27th of January, he made certain observations which may not be to the liking but in the interest of the nation, he had to say that. Now, even in this year's President's Address, he had made mention to that..*(Interruptions)* I have kept it carefully to give it to you.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are showing a new paper again; Please conclude.

..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Minister is very preoccupied with his role as Ramakrishna in the drama. His performance is very well.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is very good. We must appreciate him. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I will not be taking much of the time. What I want to say is that the consumer price index is rising. In such a situation, the poorer sections, the people who are below the poverty line (BPL) will have to pay 68 per cent more for their cereals, rice and wheat.

What is APL? It means Above Poverty Line. Sir, you know, you have been coming from rural areas of Bihar. You were earlier the Minister of Food also. There are millions of people who are living technically above the poverty line. You are raising the level of APL also. As a result, the market prices are going up. Shri Madhavrao Scindia was earlier rightly mentioning that we do have a stock of foodgrains which will be rotten utlimately.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude please.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Our minimum demand is that the subsidy which was given for food should continue and it should never be withdrawn.

Secondly, the fertiliser subsidy should not be withdrawn.

Thirdly, the tax-base should be broadened and the corporate sector should have to pay the defaulters the money that is locked with the industrialists who have taken loans from the banks, NPA in the form of bad debts, etc. Black money will have to be unearthed in several ways. Several amnesty schemes were there, but what was the result? It did not work. Our industries have to be saved.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time allotted to you is over. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding.

Methanol is used widely in the small industries of the Eastern Region. In case of other things, the tariff has been reduced, but not in the case of methanol import. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has already written to the Minister of Finance. It should be looked into. Excise duties in respect of many other things have been raised. As a result, small industries are suffering due to rise in excise duties.

Sir, I am concluding with a remark. If they want to pursue the present disastrous path of decentralisation, anti-poor path, then they will be thrown away from their seat of power very soon.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the first Budget of this new millennium and this century. I felt that it should be super and excellent, but it is not like that. It is a tolerable Budget.

The allocations indicating the commitment of the Government's performance, particularly in the Plan for 2000-2001 focussed on public infrastructure. I am appreciating the hon. Minister of Finance. Sixty per cent of the total Central Plan outlay has been allocated for energy, transport and for communication, but social services are not much encouraging. They have enhanced 21.5 per cent this year for this. The policy of TDP, from the beginning, is that there should be a strong Centre and a strong State.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No. a 'State', but States.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Without strong States, there is no strong Centre. So, in that context, in various fora, we educated the people of this country. We are fighting since 1982 for transfer of resources from the Centre to the States, from late Shri N.T. Rama Rao and now the Chief Minister, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu. We assured 29 per cent resources transfer from the Centre to the States.

In this year's Budget, the Central assistance for States' Plan has increased from Rs. 33,000 crore to Rs. 36,824 crore. The increase is only Rs. 3,824 crore for 27 States and six Union Territories. This is nothing. How can the States function properly to meet all their commitments? Even the Central sector Plan outlay has increased from Rs. 1,03,521 crore to Rs. 1,17,334 crore. This also is not much. We should increase the Plan allocation. All these years, the Non-plan allocation has been increasing. It is an alarming situation. We should reduce the Non-plan expenditure and increase the Plan expenditure. We are in the Ninth Five-year Plan. Ten Finance Commissions have submitted their reports. But we know the development that has taken place in all these 50 years. In this country, 40 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line. In lakhs of villages, there is no safe drinking water. As a Rural Development Minister, I know that. Shri Somanth Babu had approached me. I had given Rs. 400 crore for providing drinking water in the Midnapore district.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he was a very helpful Minister. He was helping the States.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, thousands of poor people had been drinking water with arsenic contents. I had sanctioned one big project. This is only one area. In this country, there are lakhs of villages where people are suffering because of lack of proper drinking water. We should come out with innovative methods. Every year we are preparing the budget. It is only a routine budget. Andhra Pradesh is the pioneer in this country. We have changed all the systems. With people's participation, we are starting the schemes. Without people's cooperation,

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we cannot achieve anything in this country. We have seen what we have achieved without people's participation in the last 50 years. We have not achieved anything. So, people should be involved in any activity. I am quoting one example. There are so many Central schemes for rural development, but there is a lot of confusion. There is the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, there is the Employment Assurance Scheme, there is the Rural Development Scheme. All these schemes are there to help the unemployed people. So, you merge all the schemes into one scheme and pump the money through *Gram Panchayats.* I would appreciate the Government if they declare this particular year, no the next year, as the *Gram Sabha* Year. We are also strengthening the *Gram Sabhas* in Andhra Pradesh. Through *Gram Sabhas,* we can create confidence and transparency also. In the last fifty years, lakhs of crores of rupees we have pumped for the weaker sections, but the poverty ratio is still continuing to be at the same level. Why? Is anybody thinking in this direction? Whatever money we are providing in the Budgets, it is not reaching the common man. The late Rajiv Gandhi once siad: For every one rupee that we are giving, only ten paise is reaching the common man; 90 per cent of the money is eaten by the middle man. So, in Andhra Pradesh, we have provided that every programme for the common man should be selected by the *Gram Sabha* only. Pceple are the better judge. For any rural development scheme, for any housing scheme or for any other scheme, whatever benefit the Government - whether the Central Government or the State Government—wants to give to the common man, to the poorest of the poor, it should be decided in the *Gram Sabha* only, in the presence of the elected representatives - *Gram Panchayat Sarpanch,* MLA and M.P. - so that we achieve the desired results.

The hon. Rural Development Minister has also visited Andhra Pradesh twice or thrice. He has witnessed our programmes. So, he should also work in that direction. By implementing these schemes only in one State, we cannot achieve the result for the whole country. The Budget preparation should, therefore, be in that direction. We should educate the people. Now everybody is searching for money. The position of borrowings, as shown in this book, is alarming.

Every year we are paying crores of rupees for interest. We are going into a debt trap. We are borrowing money for paying the interest. That is the situation. I am not blaming this Government or the previous Government. That is the situation in this country. We should think in that direction. There is abundant money in this country.

In Andhra Pradesh, under *DWARKA* a self-help group programme, 30 lakh women have saved Rs. 700 crore. Under this programme every lady saves one rupee per day and in this way in the last five years 30 lakh women in Andhra Pradesh have saved Rs. 700 crore. Now we are starting individual women banks.

There is lot of money in this country. But nobody is taking interest. There is abundant money. We can get more money by innovative schemes and we can invest that money for the development of the poor and also for the development of that particular area. You prepare a Budget in that direction. I am requesting the hon. Minister of Finance to do so.

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE: They are not following his programmes. You should follow his Andhra Pradesh programmes. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, our Constitution has a federal structure. There is a State and there is a Centre. The people elected the State Government and the same people elected the Central Government. There are so many schemes in Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development and various other Departments. There are so many schemes helping the non-Government organisations. The non-Government organisations want to help the particular area to eradicate poverty, to give education to the uneducated people and they are approaching the Centre through the State Governments duly recommended by them.

It is because of decentralisation. Without decentralisation we cannot achieve anything. This is the history of the past fifty years. Without decentralisation we cannot achieve anything. The Centre should give powers to the State. The State should give powers to the Local Bodies. Otherwise we cannot achieve anything. This is the experience of the past 50 years. We should learn from our experience. Decentralisation is a must. We should strengthen the Local Bodies.

The common man in the village knows as to what are the priorities regarding the money to be spent. The priorities should be fixed by the Pradhan of the Village Panchayat. They should not be fixed by the Prime Minister in Delhi or the Chief Minister in the State capital. You should give money. If you give Rs. Five lakh, the Gram Panchayat only should decide as to what is to be the priority and nobody else. He should prioritise the schemes subject to the availability of the money and then he can execute the work or prepare a plan.

The Plans prepared by us here, the Ninth Five-Year Plan etc., are not achieving any desirable results. There is even now 40 per cent poverty and 50 per cent illiteracy. Planning should be from the ground level.

As a Minister I visited Kerala once. They started ground level planning. If the desired results are not achieved within the targeted time, we cannot achieve the desired results. We should agitate continuously to motivate them. In this country there are 175 million hectares of wasteland which is available. On the one side we are talking about poverty. We can provide more money for the wasteland development. There are weaker sections, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, O.B.Cs. and Minorities. We can develop this 175 million hectares of wasteland and give them to the poor man at the rate of two or three hectares. There is no poverty in this country. This will give sustainable development.

We should, therefore, provide more money for the watershed and wasteland development programmes. There are a lot of wasteland development schemes in this country. You go to any village. There is so much of wasteland there. You put more money for the development of wasteland. You select the beneficiaries in that particular village. You provide this land to those beneficiaries. With that he will sustain himself. It should be immovable property. If you provide movable property and expect him to get some money with that, after six months he will sell it away. You provide immovable asset and out of that the family members will work and they will get money and they will live peacefully.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, do not just nod your head. Do something. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, we should concentrate in that direction. I am requesting and appealing to them. We should not only do this but even more. We can combinedly put efforts.

That is why I am not criticising our CPM Government in West Bengal. The people of the State gave one Party power for more than 22 years. But the systems are like that and that is why we are not achieving much. I am not blaming the West Bengal Government.

In family planning, we are going in a big way in Andhra Pradesh. Without reduction of population, we cannot achieve anything. The grants for family planning were Rs. 3,120 crore in the last year's Budget, but we are proposing Rs. 3,520 crore this year. The allocation to Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 80 crore, but still, we are going in a big way in the field of family planning. The Centre has to pay us another Rs. 80 crore as we are going very fast, but their Budget allocation is very limited. They are giving allocations based on old norms. The allocation should depend on the performance of the State Governments. If we are doing very well, they should allot us more money. Some States are not doing anything, but they are allocating money to them on the basis of population. What is the use? They should give it on the basis of number of operations and the performance of the State Governments. The allocation under this Head is only Rs. 3,000 crore, but the policy of the Union Government is to distribute it to various States on the basis of their respective population. We are going very fast. Tamil Nadu is going very fast. Kerala is also going very fast. But the criteria for allocation of money is population. That is why, we are not able to achieve the desired taryets. States also have financial crunch. That is why, my request is that whatever allocation is there, it should be distributed on the basis of performance, particularly in the fields of education and health.

So far as human resource development is concerned, we are making our Andhra Pradesh a knowledgeable society. Without a knowledgeable society, you cannot achieve anything. That is why, we are providing more money for education and health. Sir, the Budget should be prepared in that direction. That should give more thrust to human resource development, wastelands development and reduction of poverty.

Now, I will come to PDS and fertiliser. A question was raised: for how long you will be giving subsidy? I will agree with it. We are also going for economic reforms in Andhra Pradesh, but we do not believe that all these are populist measures. There is also a social obligation as incorporated in the Directive Principles of State Policy. Even after 50 years of Independence, the common man, the poor man does not get three meals a day. We should think about them also. Somebody was saying that it is not a populist measure and we can reduce the subsidy. We can reduce subsidy, but in certain areas, in performing sectors, in sectors related to weaker sections, we should continue with the subsidy.

You take the example of farming community. In my village one farmer has 50 acres of land, but he preferred the post of peon, a class IV post because by joining that post, he can live peacefully. Even if he has 50 acres of land, he cannot live peacefully because natural calamities like drought, flood and cyclone keep on taking place. We have introduced a national insurance policy. It will cover all the crops, but it is very difficult to go in for operations. It is said that if the States come forward with 50 per cent matching fund, then the Scheme will be implemented. We are asking the Centre for ways and means to meet expenditure of salary etc. Is it possible for any State to

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contribute 50 per cent? So, whatever scheme they have announced is not practicable and implementable. The Centre should take care of 70 per cent or 100 per cent of the fund. Andhra Pradesh Government has written a letter to the Union Government. We are ready to share 25 per cent, but it is not possible for us to share 50 per cent. There are some States like Bihar. But we want to implement that scheme.

Whatever subsidy the farming community is getting is very reasonable. So, we are asking for the roll back of prices of fertilisers, urea and items which come under PDS.

Now, I come to credit flow to agricultural community through institutional channels. The allocation has been increased to Rs. 51,500 crore over last year's figure of Rs. 41,000 crore. In this country, only 20 per cent of the farmers get institutional credit. What about rest of the 80 per cent? I am asking this through this House, through you, to this Government. If there are 100 farmers, only 20 per cent of them are getting institutional finance. The remaining 80 per cent are getting finance from private moneylenders where the interest accrued on the principal on year to year basis runs into lakhs of rupees. So, they are committing suicides.

You have heard that the farmers have committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh, in Maharashtra, in Karnataka and in various other parts of this country. Is it not the obligation of the Union Government to provide credit finance to each and every farmer? Between 20 per cent and 100 per cent, there is a big gap, and the farmer is suffering. The moment we reduce the subsidy, the fertiliser prices will go up. The labour charges also will go up. My good friends on the other side are asking for more daily wages.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Is it wrong?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: It is not wrong. When we are asking for more wages, then how will the farmer cultivate his land? That is why, fertiliser and food subsidies are very essential at this juncture. The people who are below the poverty line are 40 per cent. So, in order to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, we should continue these things.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Seventy-five lakh more people will be issued with Kisan Credit Cards this year.

SHRI K. YERRANAIDU: Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, this Scheme and others are all good schemes, and I am not going into them. There are so many good schemes, but I am talking about the present situation in this country.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is one of the best steel plants in the country. It is located on the seacoast. The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, said that potentially viable public undertakings would be restructured and revived. This is more applicable in the case of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Eighteen thosand workers are working in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The Government of India appointed a Committee, and in the report that was given, it recommended restructuring. This report is pending with the Cabinet. In regard to SAIL, another Committee has submitted its report, and the Government of India has accepted it. But in respect of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, though the Committee had submitted its report, the same is pending with the Government. It is a prestigious plant located on the seacoast, and there is a bright future for this plant. It is the only one of its kind in the country. So, the Government should give support to it. The newspapers are reporting that it would be referred to BIFR. So, the local people led by Shri Tenneti Vishwanatham, he was a former Member of Parliament and a follower of Jayaprakash Narayan, have started a movement. During the times of Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy and Shri Biju Patnaik, this Steel Plant was started and it is a prestigious steel plant. So, it should not be privatised. It should be revived as early as possible.

Since there is no time left, and as I can understand the situation being one of the Panel Chairmen, I conclude my speech now. I will speak about the rest, when we have a full debate on the Budget. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to say that the Budget 2000-2001 presented by the hon. Finance Minister in the House is anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-young student. The hopes and aspirations of villagers have not been taken care of. Around 80 per cent people of the country live in rural areas and is directly linked with villages and farming.

17.00 hrs.

In the present Budget Rs. 29,444 crore only have been allocated for 80 per cent people residing in villages and doing farming and Rs. 9,760 crore only for rural areas which is far less than the amount allocated in the previous Budget. In the same manner, I would like to raise other matters also. Non-Plan expenditure has been

constantly increasing. There is no scheme or programme in the present to check non-plan expenditure. Like-wise, fiscal deficit has been constantly increasing. The hearts of villages broke when the Budget first appeared in the newspaper and it was read by them. The ration and milk became dearer and pepsi cheaper then the prevalent rate. Ayurvedic medicines and tooth-paste became costlier and the prices of daily consumable items were increased. Cellular phone became cheaper but who would be benefited by it, rural people or urban people? Price of urea a thing of common use in rural areas, has been increased. No relief has been given to salaried class people who pay maximum amount of income tax. Instead, surcharge has been reimposed. The amount taken as loan from the banks and not repaid so far, has increased to the tune of Rs. one lakh crore but no action has been taken against defaulters. This agriculture country dominated by farmers has suffered social inequality and the gap between villagers and cities has increased after the arrival of multi-national companies. Hopes of rural people of getting some help and relief in the new millennium have been crushed. In rich and developed countries, agriculture based industries get optimum subsidy, the same is being withdrawn in our country. Due to withdrawal of subsidy the poor farmer will be badly affected and will become more backward. The main problem in the country is unemployment. Youths living in villages or city or agriculture workers are bearing the burnt of unemployment. Nobody paid attention towards the imbalances and increase of unemployment in the country due to wrong policies or wrong education policies of the last 52 years and moreover policies were not formulated. As a result, today's youth is puzzled and agitated. No attention has been paid towards the problems likely to follow as a result of wrong policies. The amount allocated for rural development is very less. If this country has to be developed, attention will have to be paid on rural people, education and agriculture. It would have been better if more funds were allocated for such things in Budget. Such policies should be prepared which undertakes uniform development of rural areas and there should be development of employment oriented education. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are all aware of the economic condition which the hon. Finance Minister inherited while assuming the office of Finance Ministership. During the last fifty years after getting freedom, the economic condition of the country deteriorated, the country fell into debt trap and the people of the country went on agitating against the Congress party which was constantly in power due to many such irregularities and then came a time when there was a change of guard in the country.

For the first time in the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee a non-Congress ideologue became Prime Minister of the country. After the Prime Minister assumed the office, as a result of Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, there is constant improvement after industrial recession and the rising prices have also come down. The people of the country have felt a sigh of relief because it is a people friendly Budget which will lead the country to the road of development. In this Budget, many decisions have been taken in the interest of the poor. We all know that the country is facing the problem of food, clothing and shelter. The hon. Finance Minister has made efforts to make good provisions in this Budget to meet basic needs. There is provision for social security of the poor in the country. There are also provisions to provide more rights to women and there are also provisions in it to check the growth rate of population. Efforts have also been made to do a lot regarding environment. This Budget will certainly add to the national exchequer. With the help of this Budget, the Government will be able to provide for basic amenities like education, health, road, water and electricity to the people in better way. Praising this Budget, I would like to mention a special point that the country had constantly been reeling under danger before as well as after independence. After the country's independence due to wrong policies of the earlier Government, both internal and external danger increased. To save the country from the said dangers the hon. Finance Minister has made heavy increase in Defence Budget. The country disparately needs this increase because the neighburing countries resort to creating disturbances and war like situations more often. We have witnessed the victory of India in Kargil war. We have seen before it that whenever Pakistan and China attacked India, there was price rise and war-taxes were imposed. But no tax has been imposed by the hon. Finance Minister even after winning a great war like this. Instead, the Budget has been increased. It is a laudable job. I would like to praise the hon. Minister for it.

The amount fo scholarship for Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students has been increased by more than double in this Budget. I would like to add one more thing that the Constitution of India was framed under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Article 45 of the Constitution contains provision that the Government would make arrangements for free and compulsory education to all children below the age of 14 years. But unfortunately, previous Governments made no efforts to implement this article. The Government headed by Atalji has made provisions in this Budget presented by Shri Yashwant Sinha for free education to all girls upto graduation. I am sure that as a result of this provision, the condition of education in the country, the percentage of literacy which is 52 per cent at present and 16 per cent in women will

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

certainly improve. When there is increase in literacy, certainly the country will speed up on the path of progress.

I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to make efforts to improve the economy of the States also which was shattered in the past. There are States in the country which do not implement the annual plans chalked and sanctioned for them. You are requested to make active efforts or arrangements so that States implement annual schemes and extend co-operation to Union Government for speedy development of the country. There are Finance Commissions in the Centre as well as in States but the reports of Finance Commissions are not implemented. The hon. Minister should also look into it.

There is Devas Bank Note Press in my Parliamentary Constituency where notes of Rs. 20,50,100 and 500 denominations are printed. Expressing my concern over it, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that earlier there were two note printing presses in the country. One and half year ago two more note printing presses were built and these started printing notes but even today we get notes printed from abroad. Getting notes printed from abroad, affects our economy. The work of the minting of coins and printing of notes should not be got done from abroad. Not only this printing ink is being imported while the same ink used to be prepared in Devas Bank Note Press in India but the local officials stopped preparing that ink for the reasons known to them. Now, that ink is being imported. The demands made by RBI at present are fulfilled by them. The capacity of mint houses and note printing presses is not fully exploited. I presume that the circulation of fake currency notes in the country is the result of getting coins minted and notes printed from abroad. There is inflow of fake currency notes from abroad, be it Pakistan, Bangladesh or any other country. It is a cause of concern. The foreigner are destroying Indian economy. The hon. Finance Minister is concerned about it, but I would request him to stop getting notes printed from abroad and utilise full capacity of four printing presses meant for it and if necessary, these may be expanded. If it is done, the unemployed will be able to get employment. So far as I know the cost of printing notes in India is cheaper than getting the same printed from abroad. Due to it unemployment is also increasing and it is also affecting our printing presses. If the notes are printed abroad, printing presses in India will have no work which after all, destroy our economy.

The proposal of expansion of Devas Bank Note Press has been lying pending with the Union Government for a long time. The area is reeling under water crisis due to which expansion work was discontinued. Two and half years ago a 'Lakhundar' project was prepared by Dewas Bank Press Note and sent to Union Government. It was okayed in principle, by the Ministry of Finance but the detailed estimate is gathering dust here. The meeting of expenditure committee of Finance Ministry is not being held for a long time. As a result, we are not able to get approval, the estimate of the scheme was fixed at Rs. 8 crore which has now escalated to Rs. 14 crore. I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to accord immediate approval to the scheme so that the water problem at Devas Bank Note Press can be solved and the land and machine meant for expansion work can be utilised. The notes should be printed abroad. The requirement can be met through these presses.

I would like to make one more request. The employees of Devas, Hoshangabad and Nasik had gone on strike during 1992-93 regarding some problems. On the logic of 'No work, no pay' the employees were not given pay for the period when they were on strike. The Finance Ministry was requested to convert that period into leave. The then State Minister of Finance, Shri Dalbir Singh had converted the said period into leave for the officials and employees of Hoshangabad. But making it a political issue, the said period was not converted into leave since the Union related to Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh was located at Dewas. Therefore, because pay attention towards this side and convert the period of strike into leave by removing political anomaly meted out to them so that there may be no break in their service.

Kisan credit card scheme has been implemented but it fails to meet the demadns of the farmers. A target should be fixed for it and there should be arrangements to provide as many cards to farmers as they demand.

Last year, a provision of Rs. 850 crore was made for crop insurance scheme. But that scheme has not been implemented. Banks are incurring losses. In many cases, crores of rupees are written off. It should also be thoroughly enquired into. The losses of banks should be reduced. Millions of rupees are outstanding as tax to be realised. It should be strictly realised but soft measures should be adopted for tax realisation. The hon. Finance Minister has presented a good Budget. I praise the Budget and support it. I hope, the hon. Finance Minister will solve the problems raised by me. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I first express my gratitude to the Finance Minister for being personally present here at a time when the House is virtually otherwise empty, but because my remarks are really addressed entirely to him,

to my mind, his presence here makes this a completely full house. I thank you very much for being present.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I hope, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will be present when I am replying to the debate because the last time he participated in the debate, he had vanished from this House. I will expect that courtesy now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I assure the Finance Minister that I will be present on this occasion. On the last occasion, I had a previous engagement to leave town and so I just had to go. But on this occasion, I am not going to close my eyes until he has answered my questions.

Having thanked him for being present, however, I must assure him that the purpose for which I have risen to speak is to express my distress, my disappointment and my disillusionment with the Budget presented by him. I see that my distress is shared by virtually every commentator.

The Parliament Library—through LARRDIS—has produced for us a very interesting, if somewhat subversive document, photocopies of 'Features, Reactions and Analysis of the Union Budget, 2000-2001'. I see-through a perusal of this—that the Chambers of Commerce are quoted as 'Chambers united in their disappointment'. *The Financial Express* describes it as 'a missed opportunity'. *The Business Standard* says 'half-measures and growth uncertainties'. 'The adrenaline is missing', says *The Pioneer.* 'Directionless' says, *The Free Press Journal.* The unexcitable *The Hindu* says, 'non-exciting'. And commentator Sudhir Mulji sums it up saying that the Budget goes nowhere. I forbear from quoting what the RSS Chief, K.S. Sudarshan has to say about our Finance Minister because Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might rule it out as being unparliamentary.

Rarely has a Budget received such universal disapprobtation as this one has. Therefore, we have to ask ourselves why this distress, why this disappointment, why this disillusionment, right across the board, uniting a large number of sections of our society and public opinion makers who would otherwise normally have disagreed amongst themselves. Right across the spectrum—except for that small body of people which sits behind the Finance Minister—there is disillusionment, there is disappointment and there is distress in larger measure or in smaller measure.

I would submit that the fundamental reason for this widespread broad spectrum of disapointment with the Budget is that no one believes this Finance Minister any more. He is seen as a person who has no conviction, only conveniences. That is the fate that will overtake any one who begins as a socialist Finance Minister and then ends up as a BJP Finance Minister.

But here is a gentleman whom I have known virtually my entire adult life. We were civil servants together; we served abroad together under a great civil servant, Shri K.B. Lall. I want to thank the Government of India, through the Finance Minister for having at last recognised his services after 20 years of his retirement by giving him a Padma Vibushan. I thank you very much for that.

But then after that, one sees that the Finance Minister moves wherever power moves and with this lack of conviction, there is a lack of direction, there is a lack of purpose and there is a lack of sincerity about everything that is in the Budget. The truth will out and it has outed in this particular Budget. I regard the key sentence, the most important sentence in the Finance Minister's speech as the one in which he says, "I propose, ..."The Finance Minister proposes and God disposes!

The Finance Minister says, 'I propose to put India on a sustained, equitable and job creating growth path of seven to eight per cent.' He is proposing to put us on a growth path of seven to eight per cent which will be sustained, which will be equitable and which will be job creating. Let us take that promise apart word by word. I would first take up this proposal that he would put us on a sustained high growth path. I would draw his attention to Table 1.2 on page S-4 of *The Economic Survey.* If he looks at the Table, he would find that growth during the Eighth Plan, that is during 1992-97, averaged 6.6 per cent. It was reduced by his predecessor, Shri Chidambaram, to 4.9 per cent. So, it came down. Then, thanks to the statisticians for having come to his rescue, it apparently went up to 6.8 per cent, although in his Budget speech last year he told us that it was provisionally only at 5.8 per cent. Sometimes the gods bless even the evil. Now, we are back again at 5.9 per cent. Is there any element of sustainability in this? The post-Congress Governments inherited a 6.6 per cent growth path. They dropped it to 4.9 per cent; then they raised it to 6.8 per cent; then they dropped it again to 5.9 per cent. Where is the sustainability in any of this?

On the other hand, look at the performance of the Congress Government. I invite my colleagues on the other side of the House, particularly those of the BJP who have made a kind of religious *mantra* of saying that nothing happened during the Congress regime. You look at the record of the Congress Government in GDP growth rates from 1993-94 onwards. In 1993-94, the economy grew at 5.1 per cent; in 1994-95, it grew at 6.1 per cent;

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in 1995-96, it went up to 7.3 per cent; and in 1996-97, thanks to the momentum we gave, it rose further to 7.8 per cent. At no stage, during the years that the Congress was in power in the nineties, did the growth path dip. It rose from 5.1 per cent to 6.1 per cent; from 6.1 per cent to 7.3 per cent; and from 7.3 per cent to 7.8 per cent.

I would like to avoid being accused of partisanship, to compare growth only in the nineties, half of which was under Congress rule and the other half of which was under non-Congress rule. To compare this decade of the nineties which is also the first decade of reforms, with the decade of eighties, which history has shown as the last decade of socialism, oddly enough, the average annual rate of growth in the last decade of socialism at 5.8 per cent was exactly the same as the average annual rate of growth in the nineties, which is also 5.8 per cent. Where is the economic miracle? Has it just gone out of the window? Or is it that the Congress Government knows how to manage reforms but non-Congress Governments do not know how to manage reforms? I am putting this at the moment as a hypothesis. All my evidence in this regard is derived only from the document which had been placed on the Table of the House by the hon. Finance Minister—*The Economic Survey for 1999-2000.* According to this document, in the eighties, four years experienced a growth rate of above seven per cent. Four years out of ten, the economy grew above seven per cent under the socialism of the past, the socialism to which at one stage Shri Yashwant Sinha subscribed to and to which I continue to subscribe. These four years are 1980-81; 1983-84; 1988-89; and 1989-90.

For four years the growth was above 7 per cent. Indeed, the only time the Indian economy had ever exceeded 10 per cent, had a growth rate in double digits was in the last year of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Prime Ministership. In the last full year of his tenure as the Prime Minister, according to Shri Sinha's survey, our economy grew at above 10 per cent. What has happened in the nineties? In the nineties out of ten years there have been only two years when the economy had grown above 7 per cent. One of the years was 1995-96 and the other was 1996-97. In the other eight years the growth rate was less than 7 per cent, whereas under bad old socialism, out of ten years there were four years when the economy grew at above 7 per cent.

Since the BJP took over the Finance Ministry, the GDP average growth rate has dropped from the high of 7.8 per cent to an annual average, if you take both the years together, of just about 6 per cent. He has brought down our growth rate by two per cent compared to what he inherited and it is lower than the average that has been recorded for the period of the Eighth Five Year Plan. So, whom are you kidding about putting us on a sustained high growth path? Why should any of us believe that this Finance Minister and his Government are capable of fulfilling the promise of taking us in a sustained manner to a high growth path? There is nothing in the past that gives any evidence of their capacity to do so. All that we have to rely on is their promises.

I now take the Finance Minister's next and I think favoured buzz word, 'equity'. He says that he will put us on an equitable growth path. What is the picture of the past? I would like to ask the Finance Minister, has he seen Gaurav Dutt's article in *The Economic and Political Weekly* of the 11th to the 17th December 1999 titled, 'Has poverty declined since economic reforms'. If he has not seen it, I think it is shocking, and, if he has seen it, I think it is even more shocking because the Finance Minister has succeeded in talking in his Budget Speech about equity without saying anything as to what happened to poverty reduction in the 1990s as compared to what was happening before. Sir, Gaurav Dutt is probably not just India's but the world's most important expert on poverty reduction. He works with the World Bank. He is a statistician of high ranking. He shows in this article - which if the Finance Minister has not yet seen it, I will be very pleased after my speech to cross the floor and hand it over to him - that between 1973 and 1990, the poverty ratio in rural India declined from above 55 per cent to below 35 per cent. If you look at his graph, it is virtually a straight line descending like a steep hill downwards. Every year, Shrimati Indira Gandhi followed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi brought down the rural poverty ratio, except in the middle of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, when there was a severe drought in the country, it was levelled off. But the reaction of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to this levelling off is so determined, so pointed, that immediately after the drought we attained the lowest level of the poverty ratio that we have ever attained in free India. In terms of the kind of statistics they used to have then in the eighties, the poverty ratio went down to 25 per cent. The successor Government could not stomach the fact that we had really halved poverty in this country.

We had brought it down from somewhere near 60 per cent, which is more than the original calculation to below 25 per cent in the new calculation. They changed the basis on which they would calculate poverty. It is an extraordinary situation that in the Economic Survey, there is no table or graph that relates to poverty reduction. The reason why they do not have this is that all our statistics are handled by the Central Statistics Office. But the immediate predecessor of Shri Yashwant Sinha Mark One had said no because the CSO statistics would show the Congress as having reduced poverty dramatically, he changed the basis. So, today I am willing to accept this

new basis. It makes no difference to me. On the new basis, the late Indira Gandhi had inherited a rural poverty level of 60 per cent and by the time of late Rajiv Gandhi, it had been brought down to below 35 per cent. Let me just read out the three concluding sentences of Gaurav Dutt's article. He says:

> "For the rural sector, there was a significant trend decline in poverty up to mid-1991. The rate of decline since then is not significantly different from zero."

We are as poor in rural India today as we were 10 years back. Whereas if you look at the previous 20 years, there was a continuous decline in the poverty ratio. Why is this? It is because, says Gaurav Dutt:

> "Rural mean consumption grew at a significant 1.45 per cent per annum rate up to 1991 as against a zero growth rate since then."

The poor of India in rural India—80 per cent of the poor of India live in rural India—have had no decline in their share of being part of the total population under poverty in all of the 1990s. Gaurav Dutt further says:

> "Rural poverty reduction in the 1990s was choked of by the lack of rural growth."

That is the ugly situation which we face today. It is this situation that one would have hoped the Finance Minister would answer. I want to give a final quotation because that should really be for all patriotic Indians like a stab in our hearts. He says:

> "The 1990s appear to have been a decade of missed opportunity as far as poverty reduction is concerned."

It is heart breaking. But what have we done about it? As I pointed out, the Economic Survey has no table or no graph of poverty reduction and its entire discussion on poverty eradication is limited to two sub-paragraphs, paragraph 10.8 and 10.9, in which claiming that the Natioinal Sample Survey has only very thin samples, they have not allowed themselves to tell themselves the truth or to tell this country the truth that in fact rural India has been stagnating. When you look at it a little more carefully, there was some element of rise when the Congress was in power. For, in the year Shri Yashwant Sinha left North Block and was succeeded by Dr. Manmohan Singh, there was a sharp increase in poverty in the first year, *i.e.* 1991-92. But immediately the Government got hold of it, reduced it sharply, and we were just above the late Rajiv Gandhi level through all the remaining four years. We tried to do something about it. Yet Shri Sinha says—and I want to know the basis on which he says it -in this speech:

> "Our Government stands fully committed to ensure that the fruits of economic reforms are shared by all sections of society."

Are the fruits of economic reforms being shared by all sections of our society? Are they being shared somewhat more by those gentlemen in five star hotels with whom the Finance Minister is photographed almost on a daily basis.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What about the hon. Leader of the Opposition? Does she not attend those meetings?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have no objection whatsoever to your or her attending those meetings. What I want to see photographs of you is in rural India, talking to rural people, somewhere other than when you are politicking in Bihar.

I want to see a repetition of the fact that after the greatest Budget speech that Dr. Manmohan Singh ever made, which was in March 1993, the first place he visited was my rural, backward, and poverty-stricken constituency of Mayiladuturai. I would like to avail of this opportunity to invite the Finance Minister to come and meet the poor of my constituency. We will give him a very very warm welcome. We will honour him. We will shower him with shawls and we would want to hear from him as to what he is going to do for the poor of India. Why is it that only Shri Rahul Bajaj manages to pull a chair for the Finance Minister and get himself photographed? I am only too willing to pull twenty chairs for him, if he comes and sees the poor of my constituency.

There are two types of inequity. There in inequity between people, between classes and there is also inequity between regions. What is the position with regard to regional disparities? In the 90s as a whole, including the Congress period, but more particularly the last two years, there is no information on this disparity. There is no information is such a big book about what has been happening to regional disparities over the last one decade and over the last two years. But, we have a fascinating answer from the Minister of Programme Implementation. This is his answer to Unstarred Question No. 2092 which was replied to last week in which he has said this. I must mention here that the Minister concerned is

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Shri Arun Shourie, the greatest *guru* of the English language on their side. He says:

> The newspaper reports have said "Prosperous States have proposed further while poor ones have become poorer."

Then what is his own comment on this? He says:

> "The available data precludes us from ruling out the possibility that disparities have widened."

This is a long bit of *angrezi* in order to say something very very short and sweet that those States of India which have been doing well have done much better; those States of India which have done badly have been doing worse. And the Finance Minister's interest in this matter is so limited that in his entire Budget speech he does not once refer to the widening disparities between his dark State of Bihar and my bright State of Tamil Nadu. Nowhere in the *Economic Survey* has he cared to look into what is the state of regional disparities. Why should we believe this Government when they say that they want to put us on a high growth path that is also equitable?

I now come to the third adjective used by Shri Yashwant Sinha in describing the growth path that he proposes to take this country to. It is job creation. My evidence is derived from page 168 of the *Economic Survey*. It is an adverse comment on the Congress Party, so please listen. The *Economic Survey* says:

> "Growth rates of employment declined continuously till the mid-80s."

There is a very curious syndrome in India if you look at the 25-30 years spectrum that whenever our GDP growth rates are higher, the employment growth rates are lower and when the GDP growth rates are lower, then the employment growth rates are higher. This was the situation faced by Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the beginning of the Seventh Plan. He immediately took corrective action and according to the *Economic Survey* itself the highest rate of growth of employment ever recorded in the history of India was in the seven years between 1987 and 1994 when employment in this country grew at 2.37 per cent per annum.

This was what he inherited. Now, I do not know, if he has done well, why he does not want to tell us. So, there is nothing mentioned about employment after 1998 in the Budget that has been presented for 2000-2001. He stops at 1998. All we know and they can see this in this Survey is that employment growth fell between 1997-98. We know that 2.37 has not been retained. It had collapsed in 1998 and since growth rates are so unimpressive for the year 1999, especially because the agricultural growth rate is down to below one per cent — it is just 0.8 per cent—there is no reason why, for us, to believe that employment growth rates have gone back to the level of the Rajiv Gandhi and Narasimha Rao Governments. That, I think, is a shame.

Infrastructure is stagnating. The public sector is packing up. The small scale sector is howling. The Government is allegedly down-sizing. So, can the Finance Minister please tell us where his job creation has taken the nation? Where are we going to get jobs from? Everything that generate jobs, that is, agriculture, rural development, the small scale sector, construction, micro enterprises, tiny enterprises, self-employment all that is declining and the only thing that is going up is the level of the Finance Minister's rehetoric and we cannot have jobs on the basis of hot air. Sir, there is no 7-8 per cent growth path. There is not sustained growth path, there is no equity, and there is no job creation. All that the Finance Minister has is illiteracy about the past and illusion about the future. That is why there is no credibility to his claim that he proposes to raise the economy to a 7-8 per cent growth path on a sustained, equitable and job creation basis.

Let us move to the specifics in this regard. I want to deal with agriculture because I am an Indian and this is an agricultural country. I want to deal with agriculture because I come from a constituency where there is virtually no activity other than agriculture-related activity. I would refer to the *Economic Survey*, Table No. 16 at page S-10. I am quoting from Shri Sinha's own Survey. I am not inventing these things. They are all here. I am giving the table number and page number so that his officers can check on the veracity of these data. In the 1980s, according to Shri Sinha's Survey, agriculture and allied activities grew at an annual average rate of 4.8 per cent. In the 1990s, they are down to 3.1 per cent. There is a total collapse from socialism to the market. We have gone from an agricultural growth rate of five per cent to an agricultural growth rate which averages just above three per cent. Should we not be concerned or is he concerned? He has brought down the annual average growth rate of agriculture from the 1990 average of three per cent to 0.8 per cent. Congratulations!

I ask you to turn more carefully to Table No. 1.9 at page S-13, as I have given a broad figure. It is about foodgrains. In the 1980s, the output rose by 40 per cent and in the 1990s, the rate of growth of foodgrains has been slashed down to 25 per cent. From 1996, when we demitted office, to 2000 when we have been presented

our first millennium Budget, this Finance Minister and his immediate predecessor have taken our foodgrains output up by just three per cent in four years time. Our foodgrains output has gone up by only three per cent. I compare what they got in 1996-97 with what they think that they are going to get in 1999-2000.

This Finance Minister is threatening our food self-sufficiency. He is threatening the nation's food security apart from the fact that he is dismantling the food security of the poor. In respect of coarse cereals like *jowar, bajra, makki* and things that the real by poor of India eat, the performance is even more disgraceful because in the 1980s, the output of coarse cereals rose by 15 per cent. In the 1990s, it has only risen by 5 per cent.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): You would agree that the agricultural output depends totally on monsoon. If there is a monsoon failure, can the figures that you are quoting really have an effect on it?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am very deeply grateful to the hon. Member for this question because it gives me an opening to answers. In the 1980s, we had some of the words droughts that independent India has seen. Whereas in the 1990s, we have such a string of good monsoons that one is really frightened that the run of good luck will not last. I am very frightened about that. But I hope that it does not happen. But the performance in the 1980s was not withstanding some of the worst droughts...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Due to heavy rains and floods also, it may happen.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes. Sometime we do have it and the damage to crops come out of that. I agree with you. I am asking you one thing. I am not making a partisan statement. The point is that after all we were responsible for the economy for the half of the 1990s. I was just drawing your attention to that fact...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): The growth rate on a weak and narrow base is always comparatively more and from a broader base, it is naturally smaller. This is the arithmetical truth. In the statistical jargon, you are giving a wrong direction in a wrong way. In the 1980s when there was drought, it became a weak base. After a good monsoon, it had a big jump. When the base was broader, then the growth rate naturally became smaller. It is about growth percentage. I am not talking about quantum growth but I am talking about percentage growth.. That is the arithmetical truth.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have deliberately taken two decennial figures because within the decade, the bad years equal out with the good years. That is why, I took a decade where we had several droughts and pointed out that if you take the average of what was the output growth in bad years as also the output growth in good years, we get an average in respect of not only agriculture as a whole but virtually every commodity group where the performance in the 1980s was better than the 1990s and the performance in the period 1996-2000 is worse than the performance in the period of 1991-96. This is the point that I am trying to make.

With regard to coarse cereals, when I was interrupted, I wanted to say that in rspect of coarse cereals, between the production in 1996 and the production in this year, there is a decline of two million tonnes. We have produced less *bajra* less *jowar* and less *makki* in this year than we did in the years where the Congress left power. That is very sad. It is a national concern. It is not a statistical illusion.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: It is the shift to the cash crop that is responsible.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am really grateful to the hon. Member because he keeps giving me the opportunity to shoot at him. Thank you very much. I was just about to move to the commercial crops. First and the most important point is about the oilseeds. Is it not a big commercial crop? No. In this document before us, oilseeds are included under commercial crops. I have given you the table to look at. In 1980, oilseeds output increased by 85 per cent. In the 1990s, the rate of growth has collapsed to 30 per cent. Why? It was because there was then a forty-year-old Prime Minister who could not stick Delhi, who would jump into any vehicle, any passing jeep and just drive around every single drought-affected part of this country talking to villagers on the way. And in consequence of that, he produced the Oilseeds Technology Mission which was primarily responsible for the increase in our output by 85 per cent.

If you were present in the Question Hour this morning, you would have seen that, in the answer given to a question from this side of the House, the Government of India has confessed that out of Rs. 109 crore allotted for the Oilseeds Technology Mission in 1999-2000 they have been able to release—I do not even know whether they have been able to spend it—only Rs. 77 crore. They have not been able to send 33 per cent of the money that they themselves have appropriated to promote oilseeds production. They do not also know whether the States have spent the money sent to them properly. They are doing this in a year when oilseeds output is coming

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

down, when there is a flood of edible oil into this country and when the farmers in the poorest parts of the country who grow oilseeds are suffering and their cries are being heard all the way up to Parliament. From 1996 to 2000 — I want to stress to my friend over there — the oilseeds output has decreased by one million tonnes. When we compare it with the figures which were there four years ago, from 1992 to 1996, that is in the four years of Congress rule in this decade when the output of oilseeds increased by 33 million tonnes, it decreased by one million tonnes after that and they keep asking us: What people you have done. We did not make empty promises. That is the difference between them and us.

Sir, I now come to pulses. The output of pulses in the 1980s rose by 35 per cent, and in the 1990s, we put a decimal point between 3 and 5. The total output rise in pulses in the 1990s is 3.5 per cent, as against 35 per cent under Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. And if you look at the index figure for all agricultural commodities in the 1980s, the index went up by 46 per cent but in the 1990s, but it has slumped to just half that figure now.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want to know how much time has been allotted to Congress Party because MPs of my party are also to speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Members of your party are being invited to speak but nobody is present in the House.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Go on speaking, I shall listen.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will you be present in the House to listen us?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I promise, I'll sit here.

[English]

Against this background of this very disturbing scene on agriculture, how has this Government—I am talking about Shri Yashwant Sinha's Finance Ministership—treated development expenditure on agriculture and allied matters? Here, I want to compre the Budget Estimate of 1999-2000 with the Revised Estimate of 1999-2000, because that is the only basis that I have. We do not know the actuals; we will not know them for some time. But when I compare Shri Sinha's own Budget Estimate with his own Revised Estimate, I find that during the course of this year, his deep concern and his Government's deep concern for agriculture, the rural sector and the poor has been so intense that the Plan Outlay on agriculture and cooperation is down by Rs. 500 crore. On animal husbandry, it is down by Rs. 600 crore, on village industries it is down by Rs. 100 crore and on rural development it is down by Rs. 300 crore.

Sir, I am quoting these figures from the Demands for Grants of the Central Government for 2000-2001. On all these sectors, we gave them the money. We asked them to spend it. But they are running such an incompetent Government, such a Government lacking in humanity that what the people desperately need goes down—I am sorry, Shri Yerrannaidu is not here, but I would request his TDP colleagues to please carry this message to him—and the worst shortfall in the Department of Rural Development has been the shortfall in Grants-in-Aid to the States for Rural Development.

18.00 hrs.

I refer to Major Head No. 3601 of the Demands for Grants. The shortfall in grants-in-aid to the States is of the order of Rs. 392 crore. They asked and we gave them Rs. 400 crore to send as grants-in-aid to the States. They spent 'seven'. That is all. His Revised Estimates ask for only Rs. 7 crore compared to his Budget Estimates of Rs. 400 crore. How can you have the gall to imagine that we trust him when he says that he believes in participative grassroots development?

The other extraordinary thing is how often the word 'gram panchayat' appears in his speech for this year compared to the number of times that he used the word 'gram panchayat' in the last speech. I must say that I am probably the most avid reader of the Finance Minister's speeches because I took a pencil and counted. And I find that the word 'gram panchayat' appears in this year's Budget speech exactly once compared to his having used the word 15 times last year. What has happened to his interest in the panchayats? Where did it go? What I really want to know is that in his last speech in March, 1999, it was so impressive to listen to all the different schemes that he had. I was not a Member of the House, but as I remember, I avidly listened to it on the Television outside. I want to read out to you the number of schemes that he announced last year, namely, the National Movement of Watershed Development, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the association of Water Users' Association, the Management of Degraded Wastelands with Gram Panchayats, the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation, the National Human Development Initiative, the Involvement of the Gram Panchayats in the Targeted PDS Scheme, the Involvement

of the Gram Panchayats in the running of Primary Health Centres, the National Level Education Guarantee Scheme with Panchayat participation, the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme with Zila Parishad Implementation, the Opening of Live Employment Registers in each Gram Panchayat, the Swarn Jayanti Swayam-rozgar Yojana and the Samagra Awas Yojana.

What became of all these schemes? His annoucements of last year and in the speech this year, he fails to reveal details of their implementation. Is this a serious Government? Does he think that Sanskritising names and rechristening others' initiatives amounts to rural development? About all, what became of the 'Year of the Gram Sabha'? You announced it with so much fanfare. The least you could have told us is what became of the Year of the Gram Sabha. Do not think that he can get away with fooling the people. If your announcements remain unimplemented....

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, conclude please.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, please give me some more time.

[English]

I am putting the Finance Minister and the Government on notice that with respect to all these schemes, in the Standing Committee of Rural and Urban Development under the able leadership of Shri Geete, we will review your work and reveal the truth of your deception to the people.

I would request you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to kindly schedule a full discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development when the Budget Session resumes. We will then expose the hollow professions of this Government about their concern for the poor. They are concerned only with industrial fat cats and friends of the son-in-law—industry..*(Interruptions)*

I now turn to other sectors of the economy. There is a revival. I go back to my friend's question: 'from what depths'. I draw his attention to Table 1.32.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, conclude please.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me some more time. I have told that I would sit here till breakfast. Therefore, please let me speak, what I want to. Please give me some more time to speak because I have to listen with utmost care the speeches of Shri Yashwant Sinha and his colleagues in response to my speech..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a long list of hon. Members who want to speak.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I shall sit here and listen..*(Interruptions)*. Why is he afraid of me..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Will you ring the bell at 2. a.m. ..*(Interruptions)* will you remind in the night to finish the speech within two minute..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every party has been allotted certain amount of time. Please take your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, will you please give me 40-45 minutes to speak?..*(Interruptions)*. This is not the way..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Please tell me, will you give me 40-45 minutes to speak..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you speaking?

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will you not provide me 40-45 minutes to speak..*(Interruptions)*. After two minutes, you will request me to take seat..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How are you speaking then?

..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In the 1980s, the industrial output was more than doubled the index rose from 100 to 212. In 1993-94, the base was changed, so I cannot exactly compare the ten years of the 1980s with the ten years of 1990s. I have to compare the ten years of 1980s with seven years of the 1990s and I find that compared to the increase in the index of 112, the increase since 1993 has been only 43.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, there is so much to tell you. All right, I will try to really rush through this instead of trying to go through it in detail.

In the field of industry, we have suffered a serious deterioration. In small scale industries, it is even worse. It used to be 21 per cent under us. It has declined to 15.8 per cent in Shri Chidambaram's first year, to 12.7 per cent in Shri Chidambaram's second year.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: A brief speech is better.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a serious discussion is taking place here. There is no deviation from the main issue..*(Interruptions)* He is a very senior Member and he is coming to those facts which make the actual position clear..*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Congress Party has been in power for forty years and it is the repercussion of economic policy adopted by the Congress which has led the country to the brink..*(Interruptions)* They are presenting jugglery of figures..*(Interruptions)* There is no truth in them..*(Interruptions)* These are not real figures. It is only jugglery of figures..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: You are not able to digest it..*(Interruptions)* The comparative figures will follow..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that we are speaking on the economic resolution and the budget..*(Interruptions)* Whatever is being spoken here is based on facts and stress is being laid on a single line only. Nothing is being said here which lacks facts. If there is a need to sit for a little more time, say two hours, four hours, five hours or a couple of days, we must sit...*(Interruptions)* If we do not speak on economic resolution, what else we will discuss?..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is alright but an hon. Member cannot be allowed to speak for an unlimited period. Every party has got a certain period of time and there is a long list of Members from every party. All Members are keen to speak on this subject and therefore, they should also get a chance to speak.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are discussing the economic resolution..*(Interruptions)* You want it to be discussed in one day..*(Interruptions)* We are having a discussion on the economic resolution of India..*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Who is responsible for this?..*(Interruptions)* You were not concerned about it so far..*(Interruptions)* Today, you are speaking on it..*(Interruptions)* But where were you at that time?..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If one has to oppose the speech of a Member, this is not the way..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I would request the hon. Members sitting on treasury benches to present their figures in two hours. We would hear them. There is no question of objection in this regard..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Sir, the hon. Member from the Opposition who is making a flavoury speech will not be present when we speak at 12 o'clock and when the hon. Minister gives his reply..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I promise you that I will be present at that time. I touch my heart and tell you that I will be present at that time. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I would not go. I promise you, I would not go..*(Interruptions)* I would try to finish my speech as early as possible..*(Interruptions)*

I was saying that the growth in small industry sector during Congress regime was 21 per cent, whereas it came down to 15.8 per cent when Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister. Thereafter it slumped to 12.7 per cent. Now, Shri Sinha has pushed it upto 13.4 per cent. But, when small industries are reviving, they are threatening these industries of dereservation. Multinationals are enjoying many facilities, which are being denied to indigenous small industries. I hail from Tamil Nadu. I specially want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the memorandum sent by South India Small Scale Soft Drinks Manufacturers' Association. Coca Cola and Pepsi dominates the entire North, but whatever our people are doing in South is being ignored there.

Regarding export, the Minister of Finance says—there has been a remarkable turn around. I want to tell him the facts. Pardon me, when he tell us about all these things in which there is no truth, we are left with only one option *i.e.* to draw the attention of the House. You please refer table 7.1A at page S 81.

[English]

In the 1980s, we exceeded export growth of 20 per cent in four years. In the 1990s, we have also exceeded export growth of 20 per cent in four years. So, all those eight years—four years of the 80s, and four years of the 1990s have been under Congress regime.

In the 1980s, we exceeded 30 per cent export growth in one year. That was 36.7 per cent in 1989-90. That was Shri Rajiv Gandhi's last year as the Prime Minister. In the 1990s, we have exceeded 30 per cent export growth in one year, that was 35.3 per cent in 1991-92. That was Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's first year as the Prime Minister. Now in the 1990s, when you compare export growth for the five years of Congress rule with the five years of non Congress rule, the Congress average works out to 26.8 per cent per annum, whereas the non-Congress average works out to less than half of that, that is 12 per cent per annum. So, how can he call this a remarkable turnaround?

Sir, the situation is the same with regard to Capital Account and with regard to savings and investment. I am going to put these aside and give them to my colleagues so that they will be able to speak but I have to say two words about the subsidies before I sit down.

Sir, the Finance Minister's proposals on food subsidies and fertilizer subsidies are unacceptable to us. The food subsidy has been referred to at page 11 of the Expenditure Budget Volume I, in which it is said that the food subsidy amounts to Rs. 8,100 crore. This is a non-plan outlay. If you take the total non-plan expenditure of this Government, it is Rs. 2.5 lakh crore. Out of Rs. 2.5 lakh non-plan expenditure, only a sum of Rs. 8,000 crore goes into the food subsidy, and it is just three per cent.

Sir, the Finance Minister is kicking the poor in their bellies. He is kicking the fifty crore of the poor, the poorer and the poorest, just to save himself from the excesses of his own poor governance.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am going to conclude..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The Congress will not permit this. We will oppose these proposals tooth and nail. There will be no cooperation from us in this heinous crime against the innocent poor. Nor will we go along with the cut in the fertiliser subsidy at a time when agricultural output has slumped to under one per cent, and where the need is to step up rural capital formation and increase our output of all agricultural products..*(Interruptions)* I will just finish it. Sir, the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech said, "It is my firm belief that sustained and broad-based growth of agriculture is essential." What is original about this thought? There is nothing exclusive about this belief. Everyone knows it to be true that in a country like ours, we have to have sustained and broad-based agricultural growth. But if there is an opportunity of mumbling a truism, our Finance Minister is not the man to miss it. His is the most unoriginal, unimaginative and uninspiring mind we have ever had in North Block. If you do not believe me, ask Shri K.S. Sudarshan.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am coming to the conclusion. It is literally last. This must be Shri Yashwant Sinha's last Budget. He must go. His Government must go. We will fight you every inch of the way. We will not let you rob the poor..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to finish.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, is kicking in the belly parliamentary or unparliamentary? I want a ruling from the Chair.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You ask the Speaker.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Such a slanderous word should not be used by a person of your stature.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You also take time.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I promise you that this is my last sentence..*(Interruptions)* It does not matter. We will check it. If he wants, let the Speaker decide whether it is parliamentary or unparliamentary. Sir, I have never made a speech in the House..*(Interruptions)* If it is something else, let it be taken out.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, we are listening to you for the last one hour. We are expecting a positive speech from an intellectual person like you and not a negative speech.

[Translation]

You did not mention how wrongs can be corrected. Please also throw some light on it.

[English]

Such an intellectual person should guide us what we should do. We know what we are not doing. But he has not given a single suggestion in his speech as to what to do. There is nothing.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I pledge that if I, happen become the Finance Minister, I would not only speak on the facts but also give the results.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: You can never become Finance Minister in your life.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have only one sentence to add.

[English]

I say you just listen to one last sentence and then you will be rid of me. ..*(Interruptions)* I see from this reaction that they can do nothing except shut me up. I want them to answer me. I will be very, very happy if you prove what I said is wrong. I am for the poor of India.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): You don't worry, you will get a reply. You can raise these points during the reply.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I plead for your protection to say my last sentence.

[Translation]

Please listen it carefully.

..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): He is positive to the people of India.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Not at all.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): He has come here well prepared. Let him speak his last sentence.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have come here well prepared. I have alone it for you. However, it is regretting that your colleagues are not ready to listen. Whatever I have to say, I was allowed to vent. Before concluding my speech, I only want to say that

[English]

The Minister of Finance has failed Mahatma Gandhi's litmus test. He has forgotten Mahatma Gandhi's talisman which was to ask the qustion as to how do your actions affect the poorest person you meet. The Minister of Finance has not worshipped *Daridra Narayan.* Therefore, he must go.

18.21 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget. It is a good budget. It has a blend of sweetness and sourness. When Shri Yashwant Sinha took over as the Finance Minister, he inherited economic problems. Besides, flood, cyclone and drought also brought down the production. The menace of terrorism continued unabated. In spite of this, he has brought a good budget. He has tried to lead the nation to the right path. In the midst of new economic policy, globalisation and the second phase of reforms programme at the dawn of a new millennium, he has come out with a good budget. He has strived to raise the share of tourism, software and hotel etc. upto 48 per cent in the service sector under Gross Domestic Product. Likewise, he has also made efforts to raise the contribution of India in the field of foreign trade. This budget encourages export besides giving some concessions.

Our nation is an agricultural country. It is a nation of villages. Five main infrastructures are - road, health, primary education, drinking water and housing. In order to strengthen these infrastructures, the hon. Prime Minister has introduced Gramodya Yojana in the first year of new millennium. A provision of Rs. 5000 crore has been made in the budget to strengthen the infrastructure of this programme. The more it is praised is less. It is correct that the hon. Finance Minister has made efficient efforts to bridge the budgetary deficit and deal with the debt trap and economic difficulties.

Our country has the strongest democratic system. This Government is for the welfare of the people. The issue of food security is uppermost in its mind. It is not good to reduce the subsidy given under the Targeted Public Distribution System. The subsidy on fertilizers has also been reduced, which is not a good step. Earlier, the subsidy was to the tune of Rs. 23504 crores. Now, it has been reduced to Rs. 21491 crore. As a result, the prices of urea and fertilizers have increased by 15 per cent. The problems of farmers have also increased. Similarly, a provision has been made to save Rs. 3663 crore in the food subsidy. The price of wheat is proposed to be raised from Rs. 2.50 per kg. to Rs. 4.20 per kg. There is also a talk of raising the price of rice from Rs. 3.50 per kg. to Rs. 5.79 per kg. The arrangement of subsidy for the people living below the poverty line should continue. I would say that the hon. Finance Minister has done his best to bridge the deficit and improve the economic situation. The poor will be worst affected by reduction in subsidy in the fertilizer and food sector. I, through you, would appeal to the Government that in order to make up the shortage of funds in these sectors, all Government expenditures under the non-plan head right from the officers and employees at central level to lower level as well as luxury expenses may be reduced. As regards food security for the poor, targeted period and increase in the prices of essential commodities meant for the poor under PDS, these may be looked into. Government expenditure should be curtailed in order to continue subsidy at its present level. The 15 per cent increase in the prices of fertilizers should be withdrawn so that the problems of the farmers and the poor could be mitigated.

I hope the hon. Finance Minister would come out with a proposal in his reply to the discussion on the budget. I also hope that he would cut down expenditures in other areas to continue subsidy and look into the problems of the poor farmers.

Recently, Orissa was hit by a severe cyclone. This was debated in the whole country. The whole House and the nation was concerned over this natural calamity. Discussion on drought and floods also take place in this House regularly. I hail from Bihar. The rivers flowing in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and also the rivers originating from Nepal are included in the budget. If a Government works towards strengthening of infrastructure for developmental works and that infrastructure it gets washed away by floods or cyclone, it takes several years to recover from such destruction. As a result, the whole balance gets disturbed. There is a long-pending proposal to build high dam on the land of Nepal, and also produce electricity by storing water of rivers like Pancheshwar, Karnali, Agwara, Baghmati, Kamalawalan, Kosi, Brahmaputra, Ganga, Barwe, Hardi, Jamra, Khilonri, Ghone, Laxmana, Lakhandevi in order to face the fury of floods. The Union Government has been taking up this

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

issue with the Nepal Government through State Governments. When I was elected to this House first time, the discussion between Nepal and India was underway. Since then, the discussion has been held up. As a result, northern belt of Uttar Pradesh, two-third of Bihar and West Bengal is facing the fury of floods. The hon. Finance Minister hails from Bihar. He visits there and see the situation himself. He is also concerned but no solution is found. I would like to request the hon. Minister to give an assurance to us as well as the nation that he would hold talks with Nepal and resolve the problem of flood. There were proposals for construction of dams in Nepal on Sisapani, Baghmati, Adwara-Damoh, Ram Nagar-Ramaiya, Pancheshwar-Karnali and Kosi rivers. The work on Kosi dam had started but it has been discontinued. It may please be taken up for further construction and the work be completed during this financial year itself, so that there is no danger of flood in future. Rivers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have become shallow. These can be deepend to avoid floods. Further, if arrangements for irrigation are made through these rivers, it could bring about improvement in our economic development. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister will announce his decision on this issue today itself.

Secondly, I would like to mention about cyclone. The discussion on weather takes place here, but I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the condition of forests. A provision of Rs. 1000 crore has been made for the conservation of forests but it is not sufficient. Geologists of the country are of the view that 35 per cent area of the country must have forest cover, then only we can have control on weather and there would be no cyclones. Thus, our problem will be solved. When India become independent, 32 per cent of the area was under forest cover, but it went on depleting and we could do nothing to increase it. Without criticising anybody, I want to submit that as per Government's report, 18 per cent area is under forest cover. But, I can assert that only 13 per cent area is under forest cover. Once, a committee on forests was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the recommendations of that committee. According to a survey, a revenue of Rs. 40 thousand crores is earned by public and private sector through forest wood. But, it has come down to a very low level. As per the opinion of the geologists and scientists, we face cyclone due to deforestation. As a result, there is no rain and whatever rain is there, is not normal. Thus, our problems aggravates. While drawing the attention of the Government towards the recommendations of Mohan Dharia Committe, I would like to submit that if the public sector as well as private sector spend Rs. 20 thousand crore annualy on afforestation, we would be able to raise the forest cover upto 33 per cent of the area in next 20 years. It would help in checking natural calamities.

Madam, I am the first speaker of my party and I would like to take a little more time. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to put forests under special category and pay attention towards rising the area of forests.

As regards agriculture some hon. Members have mentioned about it. In this regard, I want to submit that we would have made progress in this direction but the cost of production is increasing day by day. India is an agricultural country. I would suggest the hon. Finance Minister that the research allocation in agriculture sector should be increased so that the cost of production could be reduced. Unless we bring down the cost of production, we cannot make progress in the field of agriculture.

Regarding health sector, the Government has given a commitment that it would strengthen primary health sector. These things need to be included in Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana. Sir, I through you, would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister toward public health care scheme introduced in 1977 when Late Rajnarain was the Health Minister. This scheme was started with an honoraium of Rs. 50 and medicines worth Rs. 50. Today, after 25-30 years, that scheme still exists. The hon. Minister should develop this scheme according to present needs and should appoint public health visitors in such villages where there are no visitors. In this regard, State Governments may be taken into confidence and the honorarium, medicines and training be provided as per present needs.

I also want to say something on PDS. The Government has increased the foodgrains quota from 10 kgs to 20 kgs under PDS. The Tata Economic Contingency has submitted a report to the Government that 35 per cent of foodgrains under PDS are diverted to black-market and the people do not get sufficient grains. Sir, in Bihar, 80 per cent foodgrains under PDS are diverted to open market and there is no agency to check it. In fact, 'Red Cards' have not been issued to all the poor people. Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal are very poor States. Therefore, the Union Government should keep these States in a special category and take the distribution of red cards under PDS in its hands. About 56 per poor people are there who have not received red cards. They may be issued these cards. The people resorting to agitation for getting red cards have to face bullets. I hail from Sitamarhi. People must be aware of this place where agitationists had to face bullets for resorting to 'red card' movement and I had a narrow escape in that firing incident. Hence, the Government need to pay special attention towards it.

While concluding my speech, I would like to point out that the Government of India provide funds for villages under Accelerated drinking water supply scheme for the development of infrastructure and to fulfil their basic needs. Funds are also provided under Assured Employment Scheme for strengthening infrastructure. Grants are provided for irrigation and to deal with drought situation under DPAP. Under watershed management, funds are provided for rural development. I have already spoken about PDS...*(Interruptions)* Similarly, funds are granted under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for the development of infrastructure and fulfilling basic needs. Now I wish to talk about Northern India. Neither DRDA is working nor public representatives are taken into confidence in this regard. For all willingness of the Government, Panchayat elections have not been held in Bihar for years...*(Interruptions)* They are put off time and again. I request that the participation of hon. Members in the decision making process be ensured in every scheme, be it assured employment scheme or Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana or Accelerated drinking water supply scheme or DPAP or for that matter any other scheme. Such procedure need to be adopted which ensures participation of all the Members willing to do work for the poor people so that Collector alone cannot take any unilateral decision...*(Interruptions)* A Lok Sabha member should have a say in such decision making process. The guidelines set forth should make it necessary for the State Governments to include Member of Parliament in such decision making process. Hence, the guidelines relating to participation of Member of Parliament in the decision making process in the schemes like assured employment scheme, DPAP, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana must be complied with. The Government must, therefore, address to this point and ensure that all Central Government Schemes should have a participation of Member of Parliament so that irregularities taking place in such schemes can be well monitored and the guidelines can be adhered to. With these words, I support the budget. I am thankful to the hon. Chairman and appeal to the hon. Minister on my behalf and on behalf of my party to nullify the curtailment of subsidies made on foodgrains and fertilizers so that poor farmers in the villages can be benefitted and this condition is improved.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (Palani): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2000-2001.

At the outset, I must say that this Budget is a disappointment. Our former Chief Minister and AIADMK General Secretary, Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha, has said that the cut in subsidies and the increase in the prices of essential commodities, like wheat, rice and sugar distributed through the PDS, would only strangulate the common man.

Without exploring the known traditional sources of revenue, the Government have gone in for a huge deficit Budget. There is no positive note about bridging the gap in future.

From every angle, this Budget seems to have taken care of the elite classes in this country. The huge concession on cellphones, electronic and computer parts are not going to help the poor section of the society.

The retail price of urea is being increased by 15 per cent, and the prices of decontrolled fertilisers like DAP and MOP are being increased by 7 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. The hike in the price of urea would not only affect the farmers, but would also affect the masses of the country because the prices of food grains and pulses would go up. So, this will only increase the poverty.

Now, I come to Sethusamundram Canal Project. This Project has been put in cold storage for over a century. This Project would not only reduce the distance between the East and the West Coast Ports, but would also pave the way for foreigners to go through the Tuticorin Port as it would become a shortcut for them. This will also earn foreign exchange and help develop the backward districts of Southern Tamil Nadu. When Shri T.T. Krishnamachari was the Finance Minister, in 1964, he appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Nagendra Singh to take advance action in respect of Sethusamundram Project. They had submitted the report. After the submission of the report, the Committee wound up. Further, after submission of this Committee's report, detailed studies have been conducted several times in the past, and the Project was said to be viable and beneficial.

In the Budget speech for the year 1999-2000, the Finance Minister had promised to provide funds for the Sethusamundram Canal Project. But in the last year's Budget, it was not provided. This year, the Finance Minister has provided Rs. 4.8 crore for this Project, which is a very meagre amount. I will request the Finance Minister to allocate more funds for this Project.

In Para 59, the hon. Finance Minister commits to restructure and revive the potentially viable public sector undertakings. But what has been done? The Cabinet has decided to sell the Salem Steel Plant to the private sector.

[Shri P. Kumarasamy]

Sir, in fact, when the late Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, she promised to convert this into a full-fledged steel plant. Besides that, the adjoining Kanjamalai hills have rich iron ore reserves with around 60 per cent iron ore content. Now, instead of exploiting this natural resource and expanding this steel plant, it is regrettable that the Government of India is contemplating an idea to privatise the Salem Steel Plant.

Sir, I would like to warn this Government that any such misadventure would boomerang on them and the people of Tamil Nadu would rise against this issue. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to curb this idea of privatisation and make an announcement to this effect in the Parliament.

Sir, Dindigul and Ramanathapuram are some of the backward districts in Tamil Nadu. But unfortunately, according to the norms of the Central Government, no district in Tamil Nadu has been declared a backward district. I would like to know as to what are the criteria for declaring a district as 'backward'. Majority of the districts are rainfed and there is a need to develop the area. I would like to reqeust the Government to declare Dindigul as a backward district.

Sir, the Gujliamparai area in Vedasenthur constituency has a lot of raw material, such as Gypsum that is required for production of cement. This area is being exploited by the private companies. I would like to request the Finance Minister to take up the matter with the Government of Tamil Nadu and set up a public sector cement industry in Vedasenthur.

Sir, an amount of Rs. 190 crore has been allocated under the Drought Prone Area Programme. This amount is meant to cover an area of 15 lakh hectares through out the country. Places in my constituency, like Vedasenthur, Ottanchatram and Natham are drought prone areas and I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to include these places under the Drought Prone Area Programme.

Sir, in Vellakovil and Chennamalai in Kangayam Assembly segment, the power loom sector is in a very bad shape. The workers have lost their jobs and livelihood. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the Budget for the Self-Employment Programme under Rural Development. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to allocate at least Rs. 10 crore for rehabilitating the power loom sector. This would help the workers and their families to re-start their lives afresh and find a way out of their present miseries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are many more Members to speak.

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Madam, finally I would like to mention one thing. The Government has announced launching of three schemes in the Budget, namely, the Universalisation of Elementary Education; The Prime Minister's Scheme for Rural People; and Social Security Scheme for the poor. These schemes have been named in Hindi as, the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana, and Janashree Bima Yojana.* Now, neither the beneficiary, nor the implementing authority in the non-Hindi speaking areas would be able to understand the Schemes. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to name the Schemes in such a way so that they are easily understood in the non-Hindi Speaking areas of the country.

Sir, finally I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to roll back the prices of urea and the issue prices of essential commodities for the sake of the farmers and the common man of the country.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to speak on the Budget proposals. Our Party had already reacted to the Budget saying that it is a tolerable one. We are happy that, at least, we have not had to bite the bullet through there was much speculation on those lines.

Madam, we know that when the fiscal deficit of the Central Government rises to more than Rs. 1 lakh crore, and that of the State Governments rises to Rs. 75,000 crore, it is very difficult to present a Budget that is acceptable to everybody. We appreciate the difficulties of the Finance Minister. At the same time, when a Government elected with the blessings of the people comes into power, it has to see that decisions that hurt them severely are not announced in the Budget. People are really happy with the Budget. Most of the decisions of the Government are praiseworthy. We fully appreciate most of the proposals of the Finance Minister. They are — allocation for Rural Infrastructrue Development Fund up by Rs. 1,000 crore; Rs. 5,000 crore for the new Prime Minister Gramodaya Scheme; rural housing to get Rs. 1,710 crore; more allocation for health, education and drinking water; Micro Finance Development Fund to promote infotech sector; and Kisan Credit Cards to cover an additional 75 lakh farmers. We appreciate all these decisions.

The Central Plan Outlay for 2000-01 is Rs. 1,17,234 crore out of which Defence outlay has gone up by 21 per cent, *i.e,* from Rs. 45,694 crore to Rs. 58,587 crore. This is an additional amount of Rs. 12,893 crore. We are aware of the problems of the Finance Minister. We are all concerned about our Defence. So, we appreciate this

decision. The hon. Minister has targeted a fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent and a GDP growth rate of seven to eight per cent. We certainly wish the Finance Minister all success and we hope that in spite of severe criticism from the Opposition parties, he will stick to his decisions and make all-out effort to see that these targets are achieved.

The areas of concern in the Budget are - cut in food and fertiliser subsidies; reduction in the rate of interest on Provident Fund deposits by one per cent; and increase in the cost of PDS articles by sixty eight per cent in case of below the poverty line categories. On the other hand, import duty on cellular phones has been slashed from 25 per cent to five per cent. The alliance partners, who are the backbone of this Government, met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister himself and submitted a memorandum requesting them to reconsider these decisions. A proposal is already there to increase the prices of LPG and Kerosene. In addition to that if food and fertiliser subsidies are cut and if PDS articles become costlier by sixty eight per cent, the common man will be overburdened. In this regard, we are questioned everyday, 'If the alliance partner raises slogans against subsidies cut how can the Government mobilise resources?

On the issue of big industrial houses, a discussion took place yesterday in Rajya Sabha. Why should not stern measures be taken against the big industrial houses who had defaulted in repayment of loans to public sector banks and financial institutions?

These black listed companies and even the big industrial houses have looted the nationalised public sector banks. They have been taken loans of more than Rs. 1,05000 crores as reported, and become defaulters. So, what are the measures the Government is going to take against these defaulters? The whole House is very much concerned to know about it from the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, nowadays, a black money parallel economy is operating throughout the country. So, major and stern steps are required to be taken against these black money operations, and I firmly believe that the Government will take all necessary steps in this regard.

So far as the unemployment problem is concerned, as per the Budget proposals, the unemployed youth are not getting any light from this Budget. I sometimes become astonished to think that the Parliament was adjourned for continuous 14 days without conducting any business on an issue as to why the RSS circular was not withdrawn, but not for a single day Parliament had ever been adjourned on how the unemployed youth of this country will see new light in their life! Nobody thinks about them. Nowhere, there is any new job in the Central Government. Restrictions are strongly there. We have made a demand for lifting of restriction on ban of employment in the Central Government. Where will these young people go? On one side disinvestment proposals are in the process, with the result their employment opportunities will get reduced, and on the other side there is a ban on the employment in the Central Government. This way, unemployment will go on increasing day by day.

Sir, this unemployment problem has become a burning issue now which should be taken seriously for granted. What we believe and what we feel is that the hon. Minister should make the Budget proposals in such a manner that there is people's involvement in the Budget so that they get the maximum benefit of your Budget proposals.

Sir, in addition to this, I would also urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to consider about a few proposals relating to matters concerning our West Bengal State because regional balances are always there. So far as the Eastern region is concerned, there are so many projects, especially in West Bengal, pending and suffering due to lack of aids from the Central Government. Shri K. Yerrannaidu has also mentioned that the economic development of the State, the economy of the State has become totally bankrupt. Can anybody imagine that a Chief Minister of a State in 24 years goes abroad on foreign trips more than thirty times and stays there for two to three months on every occasion? What are the sources of these visits? I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this can be inquired by any Central Government agency; and whether the property acquired by a Chief Minister or his family members can be taken for granted by any agency.

Sir, India is passing through a great difficulty. Mr. Finance Minister, you are being criticised by the Opposition. Sometimes, you are being appreciated by the industrial houses also. But what I would rather say is that before the Budget, captains of the industries are called in the TV interviews, electronic media for their comments and opinions by which the Government may be influenced. But what about the 'have nots'? They are never called for their opinions. They never get any opportunity by which they can exchange their ideas and views. I must also admit to what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said.

19.00 hrs.

Those people who are living in the rural areas have never had any opportunity to approach the NDTV, the

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

Aaj tak or Doordarshan interviewers. They only feel in their day to day struggle how the budget proposals affect them. So, we can really say that because of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation the development of the economy will mostly be restricted to the creamy layer and not extended to the poorer classes of the country.

We would rather propose that you reconsider your proposals and make the Budget a pro-people Budget and take stern measures against those industrial houses which have defaulted repayment of loans to the public sector banks and financial institutions. This can also be taken as a step towards mobilisation of resources because of which you will not have to tax the poorer sections.

Shri Yerrannaidu had correctly pointed out that in a country where forty per cent of the population live below the poverty line there should not be more taxes. I believe, considering the views expressed by us, you will certainly look into it and reconsider the decisions. It should not be taken as a prestige issue. In an earlier discussion, you had once told us that you have already been projected as 'Rollback Sinha'. Let us not use the term 'roll-back'. We shall say, either restore it to what it was or reconsider the proposals involving the poorest of the poor sections.

We firmly support the other proposals. We fully stand by you and support the Budget.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I have an announcement to make.

Since the House will be sitting very late today, arrangements are being made to serve dinner to hon. Members, the Press and the staff on duty.

Dinner for the hon. Members, the Press and the officers will be served in Room No. 70 from 8 p.m. onwards.

Dinner for the staff including the security personnel on duty will be served in Room No. 73.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Madam, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has indeed, made a good speech and he has visualized a good dream. I pray to God that he may be blessed to live 50 years more to become Finance Minister since at least before 50 years he cannot dream to be Finance Minister. On behalf of this House, I pray for him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Thanks a lot. However, in our party, one gets a chance to become a Minister only after the age of 100 years.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam, instead of 100 years I would like to put it at 50 years since as per the culture and practice of Hindu society and this country, when a father is on the death bed and is taking his last breath, he summons his son near him and tells him-"look, I have amassed so much wealth for you, some money is deposited in so and so Bank, like Bank of Baroda, ten lacs rupees have been deposited in your name. Rs. Five-Ten lacs have been lent to one of my friends and some gold has been buried under ground at that place and I have also made some investment in certain share companies so that my family can live comfortably after my death. You have to handle everything very well and look after your family well. You have to manage everything very well in order to lead a good life."

Madam, unfortunately for us and for our Finance Minister, 50 years old Congress is at deathbed now.

Madam, Congress secured about 200 seats in 1991, 180 or 160 seats in 1996 and thereafter 140 seats. But now its tally has come down to 113 seats only. In the next election perhaps, it may secure only 13 seats. Now at death bed the Congress is breathing its last and recounts its experience that it looted the country during the last 50 years. It led the country to total devastation and it has left the country burdened with a debt amounting to Rs. 7 lac. 11 thousand crore. Congress tells that it thoroughly destroyed the country. Mahatma Gandhi had a dream that the Congress should be abolished and henceforth should no longer be in existence. Therefore, we are finishing it and you should come forward and save India. Taking its last breath, it informed Finance Minister Shri Sinha that they borrowed loan of Rs. 7 lakh 11 thousand crores for which an amount of Rs. one lakh 3 thousand crores will have to be paid annually as its interest. They received two to five percent commission from industrialists and never took action against them to recover loans given to them.

Hon. Madam Chairman, regarding banks tribunal was constituted in 1993. But they did not make any amendment in the law from 1993 to 2000 and made no efforts to recover money from them and today they dare to ask reply from us. Agents of Tata, Birla, Ambani are sitting before us. They gave them Rs. 51 thousand cores as loans and did not recover even a single penny from them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Madam, Chairman, we have the right to ask for reply from the

Government. If they are going to take a wrong step then we have the right to ask for their reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: Madam, Chairman, I want to tell them that persons who are with them today, most of them were in Congress earlier...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am not allowing any interventions. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I am not yielding to hon. Members. I want to say that Congress has hurt itself. Till 1995, Congress was engaged in destroying the country and after that from 1995 to 1997, UDF Government also did not spare any effort to destroy the country.

Madam, Chairman, I want to say that they never thought about the extent of losses suffered by public undertakings and number of persons recruited therein, we made investments in this way and while leaving the Government, Congress told our Finance Minister that they have caused a lot of damage. How we should give salary to so many employees of public undertaking. Not only this much, but Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chidambaramji took such steps time and again. They re-enacted story of 'Ali Baba Chalis Chor', they removed restrictions, resorted to nationalisation, liberalisation and privatisation and then they took bag from Harshad Mehta and opened backdoor entry for him and he took away Rs. 10 thousand crores. What step did they take against him? Fraud was committed by C.R. Bhansali and NDA usurped Rs. 40 thousand crores from small investors. Was this law enacted by NDA Government? They asked about the imports being made. If they want figures than statistics is such a magic that first we can give a figure and then again another figure can be quoted. How much they imported?

[English]

What happened during nineties was very sweet. Is not it? Read the figures. In 1993-94 our imports were worth 26,739 million dollars, it went up to Rs. 35,904 crore. Do you want to listen more? During 1995-96, it has gone up to Rs. 43,670 crore; during 1996-97, it went up to Rs. 48,940 crore; and in 1997-98, it went up to Rs. 51,197 crore.

[Translation]

They ruined the country completely. When one Government was formed we put controls on imports. Since 1998-99 imports worth 51 thousand crore rupees were being made and it continued for five years, we brought it down to Rs. 47,544 crores. If they want to know about the steps taken by us, I would let them listen. They should not worry. External debt on the country was to the tune of 41 million dollars in 1992-93. We have worked to bring the present external debt to the level of 23.1 million dollars in 1999. I can quote many such figures. When our Finance Minister took oath, it was said what would happen to rupees *vis-a-vis* dollar. They are supporting the policy of liberalisation. I greet hon. Finance Minister for giving a successful leadership at a time when capital market faced crisis during the last two years. Inspite of the South Asia crisis and recession faced by the country, we had a successful leadership. We had a solid leadership and people had full faith in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. That is why economic crisis could not affect us. South Asia, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia have been ruined but our rupee's value remained between 43 and 43.50. This was managed by our Government. Our Government have done such things in last six month which they cannot even dream. Their party may or may not appoint him as Finance Minister for 100 years but they never dreamt controlling inflation. During the 24 week period, inflation rate has been less than three per cent. We not only let people see dream but we commend it into reality. How much was their defence budget, I want to tell you about it. Why Kargil war was fought, we can discuss it later on but in 1995-96 defence expenditure was Rs. 26,856 crores. During 2000-2001, it is more than double. From Rs. 26,856 crore, it has gone up to Rs. 58,587 crore. Our NDA Government has made this provision from Rs. 26,856 crore to Rs. 58,587 crores. We said that country's security is most important issue. We gave sophisticated weapons in the hands of soldiers to fight on the borders of the country. When they were saying that where this war is being fought. How it can be called a war and it is occurring due to misdeeds of the Government. They were trying to play politics in this matter, then our was the first Prime Minister who was standing alongwith soldiers in Kargil and he let the country won Kargil war.

Many people are in favour of Sales Tax uniformity but who implements it. In 1992, Sales Tax uniformity Committee was constituted and West Bengal's Chief Minister Shri Jyoti Basu was its convener. In 1992-93 Narsimha Rao ji came to power. Then he relinquished. Dewe Gowdaji became Prime Minister and left the Government after some time. Gujralji came to power and after some time, bid bye-bye to the Government but it

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

was Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA Government which implemented Sales Tax uniformity on 1.1.2000.

Such steps are called reforms and we have not taken reforms for this purpose only. The Finance Minister would speak about remaining issues.

They were pointing towards the comments of Press. If they want to listen to the comments of Press, then I can also quote many such comments. But I would read only one thing. Nav Bharat Times of Ist March says, "Mumbai ki kamkaji mahilaon ka mangalwar". (Good day for working women of Mumbai). This is the reaction of women on the budget of Shri Yashwant Sinha. He gave so many concession to women and also gave many other things. If they want reactions of industrialists then I have their reactions also with me. But we do not take reactions of industrialists only, we want to tell reaction of common people. I certainly agree that talk of bullet is going on. Yes, there was bullet but it was sugar-coated bullet. Wherever cut in expenditure was needed, we did it. Furthermore, funds where were needed, like defence, we provided them also.

I want to give few suggestions to the Finance Minister. I congratulated him but I have a suggestion. He has increased industrial growth. GDP was increased. I want to give a small example. India has sufficient stock for exporting agriculture flower and fruits. A small country like Holland exports flowers worth six billion dollars. India can also make such export. I want to say that we have done commendable work. We have taken brave step favouring disinvestment. An amount of Rs. one thousand crore would be used for net debt repayment. He has tried to restructure excise simplify excise and sales tax. Similarly, he should simplify income tax.

I want to draw his attention towards one-two points. A new Pattern Act is coming due to WTO and GATT providing a challenge and brave opportunity to the youths of India. On the other hand, if youths, engineers, scientists of our country had to register a pattern that would have to be done in many countries. He has no money for this purpose. Can our Government bring any such scheme? During the recent UNCTAD Conference, World Bank has also recognised our formula that if Government of India or developing country give such a package, then World Bank is also ready to help that country. But we can provide assistance to scientists and youth of the country for such pattern registration. Further we should liberalise but gradually.

[English]

Let us first go for internal liberalisation and then for external liberalisation

[Translation]

There are certain conditions due to WTO and GATT and we did not sign it, this misdeed was done by someone else but.

[English]

In a democratic form of Government, there is always a change with continuity.

[Translation]

This agreement was done by Congress Government or UDF Government. Now, NDA Government is there under the leadership of Atalji, We won't accept it. You can think about it but.

[English]

We could not because it was a commitment of the Government of India.

[Translation]

I would also say that we should not be blamed for the misdeed of GATT and WTO. He was reading from the speech.

[English]

What were you doing in 1996-97? Why did you not withdraw? What were you doing in 1997-98? Then then Home Minister was from your party.

[Translation]

Home Minister belonged to Communist Party. What did you do? You did not write even a letter, you did not protest. You do not have even protested. When Maritius raised this issue our Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee said we will not come under the pressure of developed countries regarding environment and labour. The Prime Minister of NDA Shri Vajpayee has made such announcement.

I would also like to say that we should not take decision in hurry about conditions of GATT and WTO and retail trade. We should not allow foreign investment in retail trade. This House, the Government, bureaucrats, parties can have two opinions about multinationals, general

stores, cash and carry wholesale people or departmental stores but its my request to not open doors for them.

In the end I would like to give one or two suggestions. Such provisions have been made in the I.T. Sector that it has posed new challenge before the country. Our export can go upto 75 billion dollar by 2010. Mr. Narayan Murti has glorified the name of the country in foreign through infosys which helps in creating good atmosphere for information technology in the country, India can produce thousands of such Narayan Murtis and give a new form to 'Bharat Mata'. I congratulate the Government for this. The Government have declared that the export benefit they are getting for information technolgoy under section 10 of Income Tax will not be given to those companies which will be registered during 2000 and they will get benefit under section 88(C). Some people say that under these provisions the registered companies will start doing manipulation. They will do business at one place and prepare the bill in another industries name. The Government should fix a dead line for these industries that the companies which will open by 2005 or 2008 they get 10% export benefit. The Government can make such arrangements.

The Government have provided excise exemption of Rs. 1 crore to small scale industries for stainless steel or aluminium but it has reduced such exemption for plastic industry to Rs. 50 lakh. I would like to request to increase it to Rs. 1 crore.

I would like to draw your attention towards capital market. India Today has issued a special number in this regard. I would not like to politicised this matter. The financial condition of the State Governments is bad and they are in debt trap. Some States are governed by BJP, some are by TDP and some are by the Congress but the figures of these States are very surprising. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to held public debate in this issue. The income of Orissa is Rs. 6,196 crore and expenses are Rs. 8061 crore, Rajasthan's income is Rs. 10870 crore and expenses are Rs. 13,556 crore, Bihar's income is Rs. 13,235 crore and expenses are Rs. 15,754 crore, Uttar Pradesh's income is Rs. 22,831 crore and expenditure is Rs. 29,761 crore. In all States income is less and expenditure is more. They take loan to meet this expenditure. Such time will come when the State Governments and the entire country are going to come under debt and the history will not forgive us. The same situation is with the capital market which results in NPA. The Government have taken good steps and for that I would like to congratulate you. Just now our colleague Hon. Member Rupchand Pal said that an explosion is going to take place. It is a fact. The management of companies do not manipulate.

[English]

There are a few operators and a few brokers who are trying to manipulate and reap the market.

[Translation]

I have requested the Finance Minister and he has taken an action in this regard because scam like Harshad Mehta and NBFC can take place. The cost of some shares was Rs. 1000 four months ago and after six months their cost increased to Rs. 4000. The bank is giving 80-90% loan against Rs. 4000. When the market will go down what is going to be of the bank money. Not only for bank money but also for straightening the capital market the Government have taken good steps. I would like to congratulate the Government for this. The NBFC Act which you want to introduce must introduce and create the atmosphere for protection of investors. You have presented a good budget in first year of the new millennium. The people of India will give you at least ten years to present the budget.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please fix the time for voting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So many members have to speak. I hae already requested you to be brief so that more members can express their views. If one member speaks for half-an-hour, then everybody will not get chance.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): If you give five minutes to speak on budget then nobody can express his views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us agree to fifteen minutes. But I stil have people speaking for thirty to forty minutes. If I stop them, there will be trouble. It is for you to decide.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: At least 15 minutes should be given.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we all agree to fifteen minutes per head, we can regulate. Otherwise it is impossible.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we all agree to fifteen minutes per head, we can regulate. Otherwise it is impossible.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The time for parties would be fixed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not agreeing for it. Something else is decided in BAC and they talk in different manner here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairperson, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has elaborated his view on budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister. He must have gone through it thoroughly. We do not go into it thoroughly Mani Shankar Aiyarji proved with evidences that the budget speech of the Finance Minister is not worthy of belief. I can also give one or two examples. The Finance Minister had adopted Gandhian formula for poor in his last year's budget. He launched a scheme named Annapurna for giving food to poor. The proposal under this scheme was to provide 10 Kg. foodgrains to poor. But nothing happened during the year. We challenged the Finance Minister that he is not favouring the poor and he has made provisions about them in the budget but that have not been implemented.

It seems that somebody has drawn his attention towards it a month ago and Cabinet's meeting was also held therefore he made some provisions in this budget in this regard. We do not know whether this scheme will remain on papers or will be implemented. I have given only one example...*(Interruptions)* The Government and its leaders will not understand apathy of poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): A scam of Rs. 200 crore was taken place recently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat and let him to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They are involved in blackmarketing. They can not even tolerate the name of poor...*(Interruptions)* They know it that we will not come under any pressure. They must listen to the poor...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. It can not go on like this. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Kariya Munda was a Cabinet Minister for 13 days. He was not made a Minister again because he was held as enemy to the interests of tribals...*(Interruptions)*. I am giving an example. Can anyone from that side dare to answer. They say that he is the enemy of tribals. He was not made a Minister after 13 months...*(Interruptions)*. Shri Babu Lal Marandi is in innocent young man, he was made Minister of State. Don't provoke me because there are many examples...*(Interruptions)*. His budget speech is not credible...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't get disturbed.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I do not get disturbed. I give suitable reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to disturb them, they will disturb you too. You please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You had declared in your last budget speech that you would implement Model Act in cooperatives, why you have you not done it so far? We had not made any claim in this regard. I want to prove that you are the enemy of villages and the poor. You make claims but you do not fulfil them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): Red card...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't get disturbed. What is this?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Now he is coming to the issue of the red card. He is provoking me to talk about the red card. 32 crore people in the country live below poverty line. There are crores of people who do not get food to eat, who do not get clothes to wear, when they fall sick they do not get medicines, they have no houses to live, have no money to pursue their children's education. Such people are termed as living below the poverty line. It is the job of the educated people to have detailed study. What I know is that according to the Lakadwala committee report roughly 6 crore families out of a total of 16 crore families are living below the poverty line as per the 1991 figures. Now it is year 2000. The number of families living below the poverty line has now increased to six crore. I charge this Government that because of its working one crore persons living below the poverty line have not been provided with the red card. How can you make claims? I want to ask, what is the status of the 32 crore population in India...*(Interruptions)* 6 crore families used to take 10 kg. of grains. You have increased it to 20 kg but the average of wheat and rice prices show clearly that now the poor

has to pay for 40 kg. of grains because you have increased the prices. Thus you have raised the expenditure of the family which used to buy foodgrains from the PDS. You attribute the cause to the fiscal deficit. It has now come to Rs. 1,11,000 crore which is 5.6% of the G.D.P. To meet that, you would again resort to the sale of undertakings. You sell public sector undertakings to pay off the debts or to meet the deficit. And then you make claims what do you provide to 32 crore population?

The budget speech does not mention anything about giving water or roads to the one lakh forty thousand villages of India. Schools are located at a distance of more than one kilometre. All these things have been admitted by the hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech. Your budget would only add to the unemployment in the country. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has informed after going through all the details that no steps have been taken to reduce the unemployment. You have estimated that the growth rate will increase to 7-8% but even that cannot be more than 5-6%. Your budget will increase unemployment, inequality, regional disparity and the price rise. The budget will increase the prosperity of capitalists and will add to the burden on the poor.

As far as the PDS is concerned, an expense of Rs. 40 per month has been increased on the 6 crore families living below the poverty line. It come to an additional buden of Rs. 2 crore 40 lakhs per month and Rs. 25 crore in 12 months. In this way they are bringing economic reforms in the country by increasing the monetary burden on the people living below the poverty line. It was said that upper sections have been spared and the APL which used to get cheap foodgrains, will now get that at economic rates. They have increased the costs even in that. Then it was said that the income tax payers won't get sugar from the P.D.S. Earlier 65% levy was imposed on sugar, which was reduced to 40%. For many years, it remained at 40%, but now it has been further reduced to 30%. Mill owner would be the beneficiaries. They have also reduced the quantity of sugar people were getting from the PDS. This is an anti-people Government, but it supports the capitalists. Hon'ble Finance Minister will have to explain his acts. If you take their acts one-by-one and analyse them you would find that during their rule the capitalists are getting more and more prosperous. Earlier, the poor used to get cereals from the PDS, but now they are not even getting drinking water, nor electricity, nor education, nor cloths and as far as the house is concerned, the expense on them has been reduced from last year. The Government claims that economic reforms are continuing, but in fact, they are even reducing the relief, which the village farmer used to get. We are becoming backward economically. Farmers produce crops by toiling in the rains of 'Bhadon' and the heat of 'Jyestha' and your economic survey says that production has declined by 40 lakh tonnes.

Why grain production has decreased when it should have increased. you talk about food security, but from where that will come. The grain production and its productivity should be increased. Agriculture should be given top most priority. They want to take certificate from abroad by importing fruits, vegetables, milk and other things. They are very fast in imports...*(Interruptions)* you have put burden on farmers by reducing the subsidy by 15% and increasing the prices of fertilizers. But you have reduced the prices of cellular phones and computers, which upper sections use. Farmers are the backbone of the country and you are trying to finish them off. You are increasing the burden of expenses on the poor farmers. How can we say that our Finance Minister is an able person, what will the public say. Even their coalition partners are also saying that the burden of expenses on the poor has increased. If they are not careful, then I fear we are not far from elections. If you want to avoid elections and want to continue your rule then you ought to roll back the 15% subsidy reduction and increase of fertilizer prices. The facilities that APL people were getting should be restored...*(Interruptions)* Country will face food riots if you try to close down PDS. Nothing can prevent that. All this is being done at the behest of traders, who will benefit from increasing prices of sugar and cereals. Class interest is working. They are working for the benefit of the class which they themselves belong. They are proving to be enemy to the poor farmers, who are backbone of this country...*(Interruptions)*

We have come from village, we don't read books. The books are read by the able persons. I only have to say one point about Bihar...*(Interruptions)* "Pothi Padhi Padhi Jag Mua, Pandit Bhaya Na Koi. Tu Kahta Kagaz Ki Lekhi, Main Kahta Aankhan Dekhi." (No body has become a scholar just by reading scores of books. You are saying what you have just read about; I am saying what I have seen with my own eyes)...*(Interruptions)* I want to say about Bihar. All the States are getting their due share, but the are not allowing Bihar to receive its own share...*(Interruptions)* Rs. 600 crores are pending with the Central Government and they have the check to say that Bihar is getting backward. How can it avoid going backward? Central Government is not being friendly with Bihar. Panchayat raj elections were not held. Taking non-conducting of election as an excuse they say that they will not release money. I want to say that in this matter. Bihar is not at fault, 10 crores population of Bihar too is not at fault. There is no fault of Panchayati raj and Bihar Government.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

19.45 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

73rd and 74th amendments were carried out during Late Rajiv Gandhi's time and he had said that in Panchayati Raj women would have one-third reservation for Sarpanch and there would be reservation for Scheduled caste and schedule tribes. Reservation for backward classes *i.e.* OBCs was left to State Governments. Under the provisions of 73rd and 74th amendment Bihar Government decided to grant reservations for backward classes in Panchayati Raj. It was challenged in High Court and High Court dismissed the case. The court ruled that since there is only one post of Sarpanch so there will not be reservation in it. But 73rd and 74th Constitution amendment provide that there shall be reservation for scheduled castes, scheduled tribe and backward classes and also for women. An appeal was filed in Supreme Court wherein Union of India is also a Party. Shri K.K. Gopal who is the counsel for the Government appeared in the court. This matter is pending in the court....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh as to why annual plans are not being implemented in Bihar. In 1996-97 plan there was a provision for 2900 crore rupees but you spent only 937 crore rupees and 2000 crore rupees lapsed and same thing happened in the following plan also. After all, why Bihar went economically bankrupt.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am telling that only Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is still pending in the Supreme Court and it has not been decided yet ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore there is no fault of Bihar Government and the people of Bihar in not conducting elections of Panchayat. The Central Government has withheld Bihar's fund amounting to Rs. 1800 crores and the State is also losing because of deteriorating Panchayat Raj system. *(Interruptions)* In case of royalty on coal, The payment is made on the basis of OGN. In 1997 Official Committee recommended that coal's royalty should be paid on the basis of price. We have estimated that Government of Bihar is losing Rs. 1500 crores annually on this account. You may tell us why you are sitting on this issue for the last two years.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): You were a Minister in 1997 and you did nothing during your time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Committee was set-up in 1997 and the Committee gave its recommendations then they came to power *(Interruptions)*. Now they are not in power there that is why they are not giving 1500 crore ruppes.

Because of enmity, Central Government is not releasing rupees 2100 crores. Expert Committee of Sindri Fertilisers Factory and Namroop Fertilisers factory gave its recommendations simultaneously. Revival plan was put forward. It was implemented in Namroop Fertilisers factory but Sindri Fertilisers Factory is still closed. There is discrimination with Bihar. This is the reason of economic backwardness and poverty in Bihar. Central Government has become the owner of the entire property over there. Every year, flood and drought play havoc there. The Central Government owes Rs. 500 crores relating to electricity to Bihar. Their budget adds to unemployment, price-rise, poverty and regional disparity and is against the farmers and the poor. It has added expenditure burden on the poor and the farmers. This Budget is beneficial for the multi national capitalists and balck marketeers. We strongly oppose this budget. We are waiting for the exit of this Government so that the black chapter from the history is closed.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, mainly I will take part in the discussion on three issues. Hon'ble member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has put forward his point with a lot of figures. But he made his submission while expressing confidence in hon'ble Finance Minister. Some personnal comments were also made. It should have been better if these were not made. He may or may not have confidence in the Finance Minister and in me but crores of people of this country have reposed faith in this Government. With the support of that faith we are running the Government. He made his point in such a way as if he was trying to say that when Congress was in power everything was well. He tried to paint a picture which showed that Congress was synonym of development. During that period agriculture was good, industry was good and under their leadership the country was streadily towards the gateway of heaven. But no sooner did the Government change the gate was closed. If what you said was right, if all your figures were correct and what you said was true then the country would not have been in this position today. And you would not have to shift from here to there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, He is telling a wrong thing ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, this is too much. I donot understand your attitude. You always disturb the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Two issues were raised here. As far as sugar is concerned, it is stated that even during war time sugar import from Pakistan continued. It was asked as to why sugar was imported from Pakistan and through which route it has been brought. We have repeatedly told in the House that the sugar was brought through the route opened by you in 1993-94. During that period sugar was brought under OGL. Sugar was imported because of that. As soon as we came to know about it we imposed a duty on import of sugar. That was not imposed only once. Initially, less duty was imposed. When we found it to be insufficient, we increased it. We stopped sugar import by imposing 60% duty, it is absolutely wrong that even during war with Pakistan import of sugar was permitted...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Why sugar was imported from Pakistan?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: I have listened to all the Members attentively. Now I am speaking, please listen to me patiently.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, in April, one lakh 51 thousand tonne sugar was imported out of which 52 thousand tonne was imported from Pakistan. Immediately after this, tension started mounting between the two countries and import came down to 3000 tonnes which reduced further to 200 tonnes. Thereafter in June some import was made but in July-August there was no import. Therefore raising such queries repeatedly does not hold water. Just now it was said as to why levy has been withdrawn on sugar. We were importing sugar and our own industry was turning sick and payment of sugarcane was not being made to the farmers. So we decided to stop import completely. At that time levy was reduced by ten percent so that our own industry could be streamlined and payment of sugarcane arrears amounting to Rs. 500 crores could be made to the farmers. This step was taken in view of sugarcane production and to streamline the industry and there was no other intention behind it.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, a mention was made here about import of wheat but nothing has been said as to when import of wheat was started? Wheat import was started in 1996-97 during the regime of the Members who are in opposition today. It was their decision to import twenty lakh tonnes of wheat. 17 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported as per their decision during their regime but when our party came to power, less quantity of wheat was imported and when we realised that wheat import was increasing, we took action in this regard. It has been said that lakhs of tonnes of wheat has been imported. 53 thousand tonnes of wheat has been imported in June, 1999 and one lakh tonnes in July. Thereafter we stopped it by imposing import-duty on it in August. Prompt action was taken on these two issues. In order to avoid any delay in future the hon'ble Finance Minister has made the enabling provision this time as per which as and when there will be need to impose duty in the interest of nation and farmers of the country and in the interest of consumers and industry, it will be imposed without any formality. Therefore, all the criticism is baseless.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, when P.D.S. and subsidy was being criticised, the hon'ble Member has repeatedly said that the poor have been hit hard. I would like to clarify it as to how we have done it and why it has been done? We have pondered over it and you should appreciate it. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, four issues were before us. 33 crore people of our country are living below the poverty line and little relief is being provided to them. More relief should be provided to them. There is a target before us. Taking care of the poorest of the poor is the part of our national agenda. We have taken into consideration the document of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the suggestions given in the conference of the Chief Ministers. We sent teams to all the States for deliberations and accordinly we have taken some decisions. So far as the question of 33 crore people living below the poverty line is concerned, as per a report of UNICEF 24 crore children in India lose their eye sight every year as they do not get nutritious diet and 50 per cent children are underweight. I do not want to go into details of all these things but I would like to say that we have doubled their ration. Enhancing of ration quota is not being discussed, rather hike in price of ration commodities is being discussed. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, ration quota has been increased by hundred percent whereas prices have been increased by 68 per cent. In which way the poor has been affected? Total subsidy has not been reduced because the subsidy which was earlier Rs. 5240 crores has been enhanced to Rs. 7600 crores.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

20.00 hrs.

Subsidy has not been reduced, rather it has been refocussed. We have tried to divert the entire subsidy towards the 33 crore people. The requirement of ration of a poor family is 60 kilogram for sustenance. Earlier the Government was providing ten kilograms and he was buying remaining fifty kilogram from the open market. Now the Government will provide him twenty kilogram and he will buy remaining forty kilogram from the market. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to cite the example of rice. Earlier ten kilogram of rice was being provided in Rs. 35 and remaining fifty kilogram was to be purchased at the rate of Rs. 12 per kilogram. Sir, prior to this scheme a poor fellow had to spent Rs. 635 to buy 60 kilogram of rice. What it will be now? Now twenty kilogram will be provided to him at the hiked rate *i.e.* at Rs. 5.90 per kilogram which comes to Rs. 118. He will have to buy remaining forty kilogram rice from the market at rate of Rs. 12 which comes to Rs. 480. Thus he will have to spend only Rs. 598 now whereas earlier he was incurring an expenditure of Rs. 635. We have provided relief of Rs. 37 per month to a poor family. Please try to understand this. Earlier we were providing him only 10 kilogram and he was buying fifty kilogram from the market. Now we will provide him 20 kilogram. Earlier his food budget was Rs. 635 which will be only Rs. 598 now. Thus he will save Rs. 37 per month.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Do you know about the off take of poor people.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: There is full off take under below the poverty line because cheaper ration is not available from anywhere else. It is different thing as to what sort of bungling takes place after full off take from the Union Government, but full quota of ration is lifted. If that is diverted somewhere else we are not responsible for that. It is the joint responsibility of the Centre and the States. We have provided relief to the poor. The allegations of hitting hard the poor people is totally baseless. Please do not level such allegation on us.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Rice is available in the open market at the same rate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this type of intervention?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: 33 crore people hae been buying foodgrain for themselves from somewhere. They have been buying ten kilogram from the fair price shop and remaining from the market. I agree that purchasing power of the people is low due to poverty but the point is that they were buying ten kilogram of foodgrain from the fair price shops earlier and now they will buy 20 kilogram at subsidised rate. Thus the subsidy meant for the people below the poverty line has gone upto Rs. 7457 crore from Rs. 5240 crore. The benefit of this increased subsidy of Rs. 2217 crore has gone to these 33 crore people. We have provided subsidy of Rs. 37 to a family per month and despite this, our friends are alleging that we have hit hard the poor people. This is wrong allegation. You have said that the purchasing power of people is very low. In this regard I would like to say when we are providing subsidy on ten kilogram it was a relief of Rs. 82 a poor fellow and now we will give subsidy on twenty kilogram which will be a relief of Rs. 117 for him. Thus subsidy has increased by Rs. 35. Suppose a poor fellow does not buy foodgrain from the market and he purchases foodgrain from the fair price shop, in that case also we are providing him a relief of Rs. 117 instead of Rs. 82. You should not try to give rise to misconceptions. This is an important decision which has been taken in the current budget and I do not recall any such instance in the history of our country when an assistance of Rs. 2200 crore has been given to 33 crore people. This has been done for the first time in the current budget. Therefore, I request my friends not to milead the people.

Only one thing is being said repeatedly that prices have been increased. I would like to submit that we keep on demanding that everything should be done but how it is possible? During the last ten years minimum support price has been increased seven times. Support price has been increased by 158 per cent in case of wheat and on rice it has been increased by 110 per cent. How this support price will be managed?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, minimum support price of wheat has increased from Rs. 215 to Rs. 550. It means that there is an increase of Rs. 335 but issue price has not increased at all. From where this money will come? There should be some rational behind it. My friends are happy that quantity of ration has been doubled but annoyed for increasing the prices. The Government would have required Rs. 5000 crore for doubling the quantity of ration if prices are not increased. From where we can get that...*(Interruptions)* It is wrong, there should be some order in it. One more point is being raised here...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You could have met the deficit by curtailing your expenditure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this allegation is totally wrong. We have tried to help the poor. One more thing...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the country. I would like to say that one can buy fine quality of rice in open market in Uttar Pradesh at the rate at which rice is being supplied through PDS...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, please take your seat.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Now prices of rationing items for people living below poverty line have also been increased...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you address the Chair, not to the Members. You are always addressing to the Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a subsidy of 21 crore is given to people living above the poverty line. There are approximately 11 crore families under it. Now we have started providing foodgrains to them at economic cost. They can take as much foodgrains as required. We have tried to remove support by providing foodgrains at economic cost. How much these A.P.L. families have been burdened by it. Subsidy of Rs. 21 crore was provided to 11 crores ration card-holders which means per capita burden of Rs. 3 in a month. These are A.P.L. people for whom so much hue and cry is being raised. By burdening a person by Rs. 3 per month we have tried to assist 33 crore people. We have reduced the carrying cost by Rs. 1000 crore and thus tried to help the poor.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that we have taken this decision as per the Ninth Plan Document. In 1996, the Members sitting on the other side were in the Government and they proposed to change the name of PDS as targetted PDS. Now this is the decision of Cabinet to make it targetted towards poor. Gradually the people above poverty line will be excluded. This decision was taken in 1996-97. Later on when such a demand was raised then they decided to provide ration to other people also but temporarily. A decision was taken to provide this at 50 per cent of economic cost. The same point was made in the Ninth Five Year Plan. I would like to quote that document.

[English]

> "Despite mounting food subsidy bills, various evaluation studies of the PDS have shown that the system has failed. In the system with access to all rich and poor alike, the quantum of PDS to each household formed only a small portion of a family's total requirement. The adverse fall out of universal PDS has been that in the States with highest incidence of poverty are the ones where off take is lowest. A view has emerged that the universal cover of the PDS is neither sustainable nor desirable."

[Translation]

We have taken this decision on basis of this document of Ninth Plan. Another important point has also been raised in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Normally, the Minister intervenes only for two to three minutes only.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Sir, I am concluding.

> "A system of food subsidy therefore is an essential element of food security strategy..."

The challenge, however, is to contain the total food subsity to the minimum necessary by devising a system of targetting so that subsidies benefits only those sections whom the State wants to protect.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to make a submission that by this arrangement Rs. 2200 crore will be collected which will be used in providing PDS items to 33 crore people living below poverty line at cheaper rates while accepting the principle of 50 per cent of the economic cost. There should be some order between CIP and MSP. We have tried to rationalise it and assist the poor. We have also made arrangements for providing

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

sufficient ration items to people above poverty line but at economic cost. It is not so that people above poverty line will not get ration. Some States have expressed their apprehension about reduction in their allocation. I would like to clarify that allocation will not be curtailed as we have sufficient stock of foodgrain. Such misconceptions should not crop up; we have done this to assit poor.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray can lay his speech on the Table.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, can we seek some clarifications from the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Not at this stage please.

Now Shri Mohan Rawale.

[Translation]

*SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Out of five Union Territories the plan allocation with regard to four Union Terrotries *i.e.* Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman Diu and Lakshadweep has been increased during 2000-2001. But an allocation of Rs. 755 crore (Plan Rs. 400 crore and non-plan Rs. 355 crore) was made for Andaman and Nicobar Island and in 2000-2001 budget of Rs. 698 crore (Plan-321 and non-plan-377) was prepared for it. In comparison to 1999-2000, allocations for all the States have been increased except Andaman and Nicobar.

If people of this country introspect themselves, they will find Andaman and Nicobar Islands as real India, which was a dream of freedom fighters. There is no discrimination of caste and creed. It is the place where tricolour was unfurled for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 30th December 1943. This is the land famous for immortal stories of patriots which are still a source of inspiration, imprisonment of patriot like Veer Savarkar and cellular jail. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I reqeust the hon'ble Minister of Finance to increase the budget allocation to Rs. 500 crore for this year which was Rs. 400 crore in 1999-2000. I would like to give following reasons for it:

1999-2000	plan outlay	109 crore
Draft Plan	2000-2001	175.61 crore

Committed head/obligation contractual amount will be required. The cost of ship or boat which is being constructed is 120.10 crore. Now 95.98 crore will be required for making stage-payment for it and Rs. 24.13 crore for other operational charges.

A provision has also been made for purchase of a new ship.

There are about 26 thousand unemployed persons in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the name of industrialization, there are only three plywood industries which are also on the verge of closure. Tourism sector plays an important role in earning foreign exchange. Andaman and Nicobar Islands is an ideal spot from this viewpoint. Runway of airport is being expanded and by the end of year 2000 tourists from Singapore, Thailand and Bangkok are expected here. Some new infrastructure should be developed here for solving the problem of unemployment and for earning foreign exchange. Unemployment among tribals in Nicobar has become a matter of concern. Kachal, Karmota and Kampbellbay etc. are important natural places in Nicobar district from tourism point of view. Tourism infrastructure should be developed in these areas. Beautiful gift of nature like coral lives, valcano islands are only in Nicobar Island in India. Bottom glass submarine, base boat and speedy boats like catamaran hovercrafts are required for transportation of tourists.

During the period from 1956 to 1997 only Rs. 355.860 lakh have been spent on agriculture and 60 percent population depends on agriculture. From 1956 to 1997 means that during last 42 years only Rs. 40 lakh have been spent on agriculture under planned expenditure. Thus farmers are in miserable condition. Now for earning their livelihood farmers have taken to illegal occupations like dealing in illegal liquor, sale of stolen forest wood, poaching of wild animals like deer and pigs, theft and sale of conch and shells and some of them have involvement with foreign poachers. So far no proper arrangements could be made for irrigation and farmers have to depend on rain for it. According to the slogan of hon'ble Prime Minister regarding doubling the agricultural produce more allocation should be made in the budget as funds will be required for making arrangements of irrigation, planting materials, tractors, power tillers, soil conservation, changing the saline affected land into sippighat farm type board, bed deep furrow etc.

During the period from 1956 to 1997 only a meagre amount of Rs. 1902.33 lakh have been spent on fisheries. There is capacity to catch 2.4 lakh tonne fish per annum and 70 per cent of it is Tuna fish. Due to shortage of funds, lack of proper planning, a concrete policy and lack of will power we could achieve only 2 to 3 per cent of this capacity. This sector requires more investment

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

and then we will be able to earn foreign exchange through it. For example Gobra Fish of Andaman which is 6 inch long, Mudcrabs, Shrimps are being exported to Singapore and Hongkong via Chennai.

ATR Andaman:

Andaman trunk road between Chidyatappu to Aerial way is 333 km. long. In other States national highways and Inter-State highways are maintained by Central Road Fund. But there is no such arrangement ror Andaman trunk road. This area receives about 3500 m.m. rain every year. This ATR was constructed in 1960s, 70 and 1980 by GREF (Yatrik) and at that time modern equipments/ materials were not available. Thus maintenance of this road requires Rs. 6 crore to 8 crore annually. Low standard specifications were used at that time, so foundations of ATR are weak. Now traffic has increased manifolds and every year crores of rupees are required for it. There are 1400 old wooden and semi pucca bridges on this road which are on the verge of falling. Rs. 6.47 crore is required annually for maintenance of ATR whereas the Union Government provides only Rs. 2.96 crore.

Even after 53 years of independence, 60 percent villages of Andaman ad Nicobar lack pucca roads. 60 percent population of Andaman and Nicobar lives in villages and due to paucity of funds annual target for construction of village roads is fixed upto 16 km. PWD constructs 8 to 9 km village roads. The other institutions available there for construction of village roads are Andaman Harbour workers and yatrik. It is necessary to increase the annual target of constructing village roads to 32 km to realise the dreams of Gandhii. Construction of bridges at many places is also necessary.

During the last 53 years, in comparison to other States Andaman and Nicobar Island has been treated step motherly by the Union Government, especially in case of urban housing sector. Not a single house has been constructed so far under Urban Housing Scheme. As per the survey conducted by the Administration, there is shortage of 15 thousand houses which will increase upto 25 to 30 thousand by the year 2011. People below poverty line are homeless. Houses are also required for middle and high income groups.

During last 53 years nothing has been done in Slum Area Development Sector. The funds given by Union Government are disbursed as salary of workers. Such is the situation in Dairy Farm region falling under ward No. 11 that people wait for sun set as there is no public latrine. Same is the situation of ward 1 and 11, males and females have to wait in queue for using public latrines.

Municipal Council has declared 5 or 6 wards as slum areas and funds are required for their development.

Expansion of Lamba Line Airport has been taken up and under the rehabilitation programme several persons have been allotted land at Atom Pahar area, which lacks minimum basic services like water, electricity and roads. Funds are also required for expansion of airport.

Every year a large amount is paid to hospitals of Chennai by the administration for health services. The reason is shortge of specialists and modern machinery required for it. Out of total 577 Islands only 38 are inhabited and health services are scattered. Funds are required for proper arrangements for health services.

There is large number of islands and foreign powers are continuously looting marine and forest wealth, besides their base camps have been set up in several Islands. Administration and Navy are aware of it but they are unable to take any action in absence of adequate number of manpower on machinery. China has deployed atomic weapons on Koko Island just adjacent to our area. ISI activists have infiltrated in many islands. Kalapani Islands has been proved the Safest place in Andaman and Nicobar for navy during our previous war with Pakistan. It is called Gateway of India and Ship Vikrant was sent from here for assault. There is need for modernisation of police force and upgradation of police checkposts in far flung areas. More persons should be recruited and modern weapons and speed boats should be provided and provisions for more funds should be made in the budget for this purpose.

Every year this area receives heavy rainfall but public is facing shortage of water. Acute shortage of drinking water is felt all over the Islands. Even 53 years after independence several villages lack drinking water facility. In Port Blair, the Capital of Andaman and Nicobar, for a period of six months drinking water is available on alternate days. There is an old dam at Dhani Khari for supply of drinking water. It is not sufficient and more funds are required for this purpose. All the islands are facing load shedding. Population of this area has increased 12 times during last 53 years and the only power house set up in this region has old generator-set. Suryachakra company has promised to generate 20 Megawatt power but it will be supplied to public through Electricity Department only and more funds will be required for it. Rurkee based institution conducted a survey regarding generation of hydro-electricity in areas like Panchavati etc. but so far no work on this project has been started. We can also generate hydro-electricity in areas like Hytbay, Dhani-khari dam etc. Hydro-oceanography which is a method of generation of

[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

electricity through sea water, proper attention should be paid towards it as generation of electricity by diesel is quite costly in our Islands.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I request that Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be given Rs. 500 crore under plan expenditure and Rs. 400 crore under non-plan expenditure.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had announced the name of Shri Prabhunath Singh of my party but he was not present. Hence I should be given an opportunity to speak. As the hon. Minister has just finished speaking, hence I would also like to speak.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now I listened to the speech of hon. Minister and certainly I do not have any objection regarding the budget proposals or budget provision. Whether they are related to Defence, health or education. The hon. Minister has very emphatically spoken about the 33 crore poor people of the country and he has repeatedly mentioned as to what decisions were taken in 1996-1997. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister in a very humble manner and would like to know that even when we are the partners of the N.D.A. Government and not only partners, we are the backbone of the Government and ever since the budget has been presented by the Minister of Finance, we have been constantly in touch with the Prime Minister as well as the Finance Minister both outside and inside the House and have communicated our views in writting as well. We are not alone in doing so and infact approximately a dozen parties which include not only T.D.P. but all the parties like Janata Dal (United), Samta Party, Trinmool Congress Party have been continuously urging upon him that it is a country of 100 crore people and 2/3rd of its people are poor as has been mentioned by hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has repeatedly mentioned the few subsidy. I would like to say that this issue should be given priority in the Government's agenda. The issue of food security should be given top priority in the agenda of N.D.A. Government. If we can not provide facilities of house, water, roads, education to the poor people of the country then at least we can provide them food at subsidised rates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now the hon. Minister has said that we have enough stocks of foodgrains. I would like to know from him as to whether the decision to ban the open sale of foodgrains by F.C.I. was not taken by the cabinet in 1996? Didn't we impose a ban on the direct sale of foodgrains which benefited by contractors and influential people of the society and whether that sale has been stopped? I just have this question to you. Thousands of tonnes of foodgrains which was meant for distribution among the people living below poverty line was brought by the big traders, people belonging to the creamy layer of society and contractors. Whether this sale is still banned? We started the work on T.P.Q.S. and a number of objections were raised against it by the Finance Ministry, now that is a matter the cabinet, it is not proper to disclose everything here for I have been a Cabinet Minister and I had also taken the oath of official secrecy, it is neither fit to utter all those things here nor I intend to do so.

A the matter has been once again raised by the hon. Minister, hence I have to suffer to that cabinet decision out of compulsion. When we join the cabinet, we have to take the oath of secrecy of the office. Hence I have made just a passing reference to the cabinet decision I would like to initiate a debate over the decision of the cabinet. I would like to thank the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He had supported the issue first of all. When I was in the Steering Committee, the National Front Government was at the Centre. The United Front Government, received support first of all from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chandra Babu Naidu. After him, the members of Left Front Parties supported our view. The Congress support was already with us. Today we are the partner of N.D.A. Government and spine of this Government. Will our views not be given any weightage? Whether our sentiments will be ignored? We are not raising any such issue?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion is going on over the budget, hence you should speak on budget only.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You had given time to Shri Prabhunath Singh ji. As the Member belonging to Janata Dal United was not present in the House, hence you should give me 15 minutes time...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to express the sentiment of the Steering Committee of N.D.A. Government...*(Interruptions)*. I have a great regard for hon. Minister. He has also served as the Chief Minister. I too have been a Member of the House since Ninth Lok Sabha and have served as M.L.A. from Bihar since 1977. My Parliamentary career spans 25 years. Hence I don't want to make any irresponsible remark. The hon. Minister has clarified his position in a very refined and proper manner. But his reply gives rise to certain questions, cannot I ask any question in the House over it? I am certainly a Member of N.D.A. in the House but am not a blind follower of any political party in the country. I am free to express my opinion as a Member of Parliament. I want to express my view openly hence please do not curb this right of mine. I am not saying anything which is not in favour of the poor. N.D.A. should reconsider their

decision regarding P.D.S. and A.P.L. When a distinction between the A.P.L. and B.P.L. sections was made, it was decided that B.P.L. persons will pay 50 per cent of the economic cost. Wasn't such a decision taken? Today you are saying that you are ready to relax as much economic cost as they want. It is nothing but your liberal attitude. You raised the quantity of foodgrains being given under P.D.S. from 10 kg. to 20 kg. It was my old proposal dating back to 15th August, 1996. I thank you for implementing it and welcome this decision taken by you. I always welcome which is worthy of welcome and object to what is objectionable and it is my right being a Member of Parliament.

The hon. Minister had mentioned about the decision. Whether a decision to this effect was not taken in the Cabinet that the workers and landless labourers working under JRY and Employment Assurance Scheme would be provided one kg. of subsidised foodgrains per manday work they render? A labourer who works for 30 days would get 30 kgms in addition to the 10 kg of foodgrains he gets for being a B.P.L. cardholder *i.e.* in total he will get 40 kgs. of foodgrains. You are quoting it as an achievement after going through the card mentioning the achievements of plans. If it is seen in real sense then you will find that it has nowhere been implemented in the country. Isn't it the responsibility of the Government to implement it properly? I had implemented this project in 7 months after a great deal of hardwork. It is in operation throughout the country since June, 1997. Half of the scheme has been implemented and the responsibility for implementing the remaining half is yours. You should implement it. You have certainly increased the quantity from 10 kg. to 20 kg. but isn't it the decision of the Government that the workers being covered under JRY and Employment Assurance Scheme, Whether they are in block or somewhere else, will get a kg. of foodgrains for every Monday at subsidised rates on the basis of the coupon? If it is a decision taken by the Cabinet then it should be implemented. The welfare of poor people can take place only when the decisions for the greater and larger benefit of the poors are implemented. The purchasing capacity of the poor is very less. Hence I would like to submit that the hopes and aspiration of poor, workers and the villages should also be reflected in the budget, Not only India but the real India should be benefited through the budget. The purpose of my speech is to underline the fact that the budget is made, keeping in view the interests of richer sections of society *i.e.* those who use mobile phones. In old times, a person who was very rich, used to ride an elephant 11-18 feet tall.

Earlier the economic disparity between the poor and rich was not that pronounced. Now in our country 2 per cent people are very prosperous and economic disparity between the poor and rich has widened. Whether subsidy for the poor will be curtailed in a country where the population comprises of 33 crores of common man and where the economic desparity is prevalent? Subsidy on wheat and rice should not be curtailed till the economic disparity remains in the country, and the gap between the poor and the rich people is abridged. This is my demand. I have placed this demand considering the condition of the people who work very hard. If we really want to uplift our country, it should be freed from the burden of debts first of all. America has claimed that it will be from the burden of loans in 13 years. In a developed country like America, 1 per cent of the population comprises of farmers and 250% subsidy is being given. How the country will run when imported fertiliser is cheaper than the one produced in our country. 72% people of our country are dependent on agriculture. Till the agriculture production is increased...*(Interruptions)* So long as economic disparity is not removed, subsidy on fertilizers and especially the subsidy on rice and wheat should not be curtailed, it should be continued. It is true that the hon'ble Minister has some problems in this regard because Government will have to bear the burden. Defaulters in the banks involving huge amounts can be considered in this regard. Can't the prices of Luxary items be raised and the tax imposed on them to meet the fiscal deficit...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister, I have no doubts about your integrity, but my submission is that in 1996 it was decided to gradually exclude the people above the poverty line from this scheme. Since then $2^1/_2$ years have passed why they have not been excluded as yet? Income tax payees possess bogus ration cards, which should be seized and cancelled. It is alleged that 6 lakh bogus ration cards are there in Delhi itself. Why they are not being cancelled? I have stated so in the interest of the poor.

Shri Sudeep bhai has stated that 40% people of our country are living below poverty line. My friend Shri Yerrannaidu has raised this issue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might be having this book. I have made many efforts to compile it. There is a figure in this book that 2% people of our country earn more than 1 lakh. 40% people are living below poverty line. The scheme was formulated for the upliftment of this section of our country with a target period and focus on poor. It was formulated for the poor. I request that this scheme should be implemented. I demand that the allied party should respect our sentiments and should favour the total roll back of the increased prices...*(Interruptions)* We will welcome it if the Government rolls backs the increased prices of rice and wheat used by 33 crore people of our country living below the poverty line. We would like the hon'ble Minister to seriously consider the issue of restoration of subsidy.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

We have a commitment towards our countrymen. Sudip ji has raised many questions regarding disinvestment. All these questions may be associated with our issues...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We demand that Shri D.P. Yadav should be the Prime Minister of our country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I became the Minister...*(Interruptions)* I have no desire to be the Minister I have not joined the Parliament to become a Minister. Gandhiji has rightly stated that the poor people have no channel to raise their problems. Shri Raghuvansh has mentioned it.

Gandhji had a talisman. He had stated: "I give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or your ego overpowers you recall the face of the poorest person you might have seen and ask yourself. If the step you are contemplating to take will be of any help to him. Will it help him control his life and his destiny? In other words will it lead to Swaraj for the masses. You will find your doubts dissolving." While formulating the budget or taking any other decision, Government should consider the conditions prevailing for the poor people. Before taking and decision, its impact on such people should be taken into consideration. If such a decision helps the poor and starving people, it would be a right decision.

With these words, I submit that the maximum cut has been imposed on the subsidy for poor people and on fertilizers. Farmers can not be dishonest. If a farmer undertakes the cultivation of 5 lakhs of land, his production will be in accordance to that. If an Engineer is assigned to construct 5 km. of road, he constructs only 1 km. of road and thinks that he has completed his job. However, a farmer always achieves his target. He should be given incentive to increase his production as ours is a agriculture based country. Economy of the country can be improved only by increasing the agricultural production. So long as Agriculture infrastructure of the villages is not developed and 72% people of this country do not become prosperous, the economy of our country will not improve.

With these words, I conclude...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): You will be there for years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all on behalf of Shiv Sena, I support the hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting a balanced budget.

Security of the nation is the foremost thing. Nobody can deny it. All of us are aware of Pakistan's intentions. We should not only be vigilant about our security but we should strengthen it also. I would like to praise hon'ble Finance Minister for having increased the defence budget keeping in view the security of the country. He has taken a decisive step by making an increase of Rs. 13 thousand crores. Bangaladesh, China and Pakistan are our neighbouring countries which they could pose a threat to the security of our country. Therefore, he has taken a commendable step.

He is very happy today. However, it should also be kept in mind that our Government is committed to double the ration qouta of people living below the poverty line and for modernization of small scale industries, textile, industry, tannery and agriculture sector. However, I would like to request the Government to withdraw its decision of reducing subsidy...*(Interruptions)* We can do something. You could have done something about it too, but you did not do it. There was only one convention in your regime, which was to hike the price. Our hon'ble Minister has discontinued that convention for which he should be congratulated.

Hon'ble Finance Minister has taken several decision to accelerate the reforms. He has continued his endeavour to simplify the tax system, provide assistance to sick shipping industry, reduce the rate of interest on higher education loan, grant tax exemption on donation for sports, waive off 2% interest due to banks and financial institutions, and to promote the exports. Government has taken several concrete steps in this regard. Also, the Government has proposed some measures in the budget to remove the hindrances in the way of planning and development of tele-communication, railway and port. More funds have been allocated for Primary education and health services etc. Financial provisions have been made for promoting small scale industries in villages, universalization of primary education, for drinking water facility and construction of 25 lakh dwelling units, under Indira Awas Yojna. Our Finance Minister has done so much, you should at least congratulate him. What have you done during your regime?

What was happening in their regime was that they used to support each other's party. During your regime, the number of people living below poverty line had increased. In his budget speech, hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned the need to take measures to make India a super power in the field of information technology. Concrete steps have also been taken in the budget to encourage this. In case of all Information technology companies, the limit of foreign capital investment has also been increased from 30% to 40%. It will result in increase

in their profits. It has also been mentioned that the venture capital policy will be simplified which will be beneficial for our technology. The companies, which are providing internet service and importing computer hardware, have been given concession in custom duty. This will lead to fall in the prices of computer and increase in its export. The utility of computer in the rural area has increased. I welcome the budget provisions made for rural development. Besides, 'Gramodaya Yojna' launched by the Prime Minister for the development of rural area is a revolutionary step. In this budget great care has been taken to provide housing, electricity and road facilities to rural population. Prior to this, no serious efforts were made in this regard. I believe that this kind of integrated concrete proposal has been putforth for the very first time by our Prime Minister. I would like to appeal to hon'ble Finance Minister to make effort for increasing the allocation of fund for this item as the proposed allocation is not sufficient for achieving the target.

I hail from Mumbai city. Our leader Shri Bal Thackreyji had said once that Mumbai had become overpopulated. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had also said similar thing about Delhi. Recently, I have heard that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has taken some steps in this regard. 1500 people from other States migrate to Mumbai city every day due to which the problems related to water and power supply, roads, educational facilities and land are increasing. The number of jhuggi-jhonpris is also increasing due to over population. The Government is receiving Rs. 20,000 crore as tax from the people of Mumbai city but still they have not been provided with any facility. I request that atleast 10% of the taxes collected from Mumabi *i.e.* Rs. 2000 crores should be sent by Government for providing facilities to the people of Mumbai. The largest number of children study in Mumbai Municipality schools in India and their number is around eight lac. During the regime of Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena a scheme was formulated to allot houses free of cost to jhuggi-jhonpri dwellers. The Union Government is requested to provide adequate funds for the implementation of the schemes.

There are 25 NTC mills in my Parliamentary Constituency. A large number of labourers live in this region. These mills are lying closed due to corruption rampant in the management of these mills and those mills which are running are incurring heavy losses. This matter was referred to Textile Committee. Once clothes used to be exported from our region. But today, the condition of these mills is such that they are continuously incurring losses. The workers are very capable but they are not being given any raw material, cotton and working capital. Due to this, these mills are on the verge of closure. If these raw materials are provided to labourers, then they can run these mills very well. Therfore these mills should be modernised. The labourers are not getting the wages. There is no provision of provident fund for them.

I would like to make a request to the Government that these mills should be modernised at the earliest. I have been raising this issue of textile mills for the last 9 years *i.e.* right from the day I have been elected to Lok Sabha but these mills have not been modernised. We will sell surplus land. I am talking about surplus land. I am not talking about selling all the mills. The Government could raise 3000 crore rupees by selling surplus land but that money should be spent on modernisation. I request Government to take quick decision and keep those mills under its control. Even the labourers working in those mills are not getting wages. There is a need to introduce Golden V.R.S. Scheme making a provision to give atleast five lac rupees to the workers. Instead of 15 days, the gratuity should be of 45 days. The wages in Private mills have been increased by Rs. 175, similarly it should be increased in NTC mills also with immediate effect. You will get the money and the workload will also be reduced. Today there are 8 composite mills in Mumbai. The Government is levying 2.3 times to 3 times additional duty on composite mills in comparison to powerlooms of Vivandi and of entire country. 105 mills out of 285 mills are lying closed. 111 mills are underutilising their capacity. The competition should be fair but how much wages they are getting? In case of powerlooms, they get Rs. 10 as wages whereas here they are given Rs. 40, which is being taxed. Our composite mills are on the verge of closure. Concession should be given in budget. The Government should not impose duty on powerlooms, I demand that this duty should be withdrawn.

I would like to know about the scheme formulated by the Government for our youth? You have framed a very good budget. Some good provisions have also been made for the 65 years old people but I would like to know as to what scheme you have formulated for creating new employment opportunities. We should think about future generation also so that they do not emigrate to other countries. Many members have pointed out that scandals are taking place in banks in which the Branch Managers, General Managers and Directors are involved. Crores of rupees are withdrawn as overdrafts and that money is never returned. An enquiry should be conducted into it through CBI. The income tax limit should be raised to Rs. 75,000. More and more people and especially those having black money should be brought under tax net.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: In my constituency the labourers of Scidia workshop have not received their wages for last nine years. The value of land of Scindia workshop colony might be more than Rs. 250 crore. The Congress Government and the United Front Government, which were pro-poor and pro-labourers, also did not to anything for them.

The former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and Shri Chidambaram also did not do anything for them. The ICICI is not having control over Scindia workshop. A letter has also been written by the Chairman. I request you to take the decision in the presence of Chairman. The people on the payroll as on the cutoff date should be retained. You will have to take decision in this regard. Only then this problem can be solved.

Finally the petroleum exploration licenced Mining lease agreement was signed on 1.4.99. I would like to request that zero percent duty should not be there in this case as it will affect our industries. We are prepared for globalisation. We talk about economic reforms. I request that it should not be done at the cost of workers as this may lead to the downfall of Indian Industry.

Sir, though I would like to speak on other subjects also but considering the time limit, I am concluding my speech. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on budget. On behalf of Shiv Sena, I support this budget and hope that the hon'ble Finance Minister may get fame not only in India but in the entire world.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnamraju, you can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

*SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU (Narsapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am laying my speech on the Table fo the House supporting the Budget.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on General Budget.

Sir, I rise to support the General Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, which is acclaimed to be a growth-oriented Budget.

It is a comprehensive developmental budget, address the core issues of subsidy, deficit financing, strengthening the Defence, housing sector and above all, Information Technology.

Though in the Budget, there was a marginal cut in the subsidy on fertilizer, it would badly hit the farmers. That is why, the Government should continue to give fertilizers, urea and other inputs required for small and marginal farmers at concessional rates. The main difficulty faced by the farmers is that they are not getting remunerative price for their produce. That is why, the farming community should be specially taken care of, so that they would give increased food production to our country and would provide much needed food security.

I appreciate the increased allocation for Defence in the post-Kargil scenario. I welcome the decision to increase Rural Infrastructure Development Fund by Rs. 1,000 crores, from Rs. 3500 crores.

There is also a new scheme called Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) which would give an impetus to the rural economy. Added to this, a target of 25 lakh dwelling Units under Indira Awas Yojana and another 12 lakh houses for people below the povety line would help the rural poor for having a shelter over their heads.

Similarly, the construction industry will also get a boost, as there is a provision for construction of 1,50,000 houses under the Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme.

There is a proposal in the Budget to provide more funds for afforestation and eco-tourism. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that there is a beautiful scenic place in my constituency called, Perupalem which is located on the coastal area. This has vast potential for tourism and related work. I would, therefore, request the Government to allocate some funds for developing this site and for providing necessary tourism infrastructure.

The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned about creation of shelter belts along the coastal line which are prone to cyclone and flood. Since the coastal Andhra Pradesh is vulnerable to cylone and floods evey year, the scheme if brought forward, would benefit a large section of people.

I welcome the setting up of Task Force to review legislations and schemes pertaining to the role of women in the national economy, since we are going to observe the year 2001 as the Women's Empowerment Year.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh has a long coastal line of nearly 900 kms. Unfortunately, there are no proper communication facilities along the coast and as a result, agriculture sector is languishing. Industrires are not developing for want of adequate infrastructure. To remedy this situation, proposals were formulated long ago to

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

construct a National Highway along to East Coast of Andhra Pradesh from Itchapuram in Srikakulam Dt. to Tada in Nellore District. This coastal road is of paramount importance to the all-round development of Andhra Pradesh. I request the hon. Minister to earmark some funds for this project.

On the crop insurance scheme, I would urge the Government of India to cover all commercial crops and other crops grown by small and marginal farmers both loanees and non-loanees so that in case of disaster or natural calamity, the farmers are covered with some social security.

About 40 lakh hectares is under paddy cultivation in our State of Andhra Pradesh and more than 35 lakh farmers are engaged in it. Though the minimum support price is revised, it does not cover the increased cost of cultivation fully. The paddy farmers have been continuously representing for further increase in Minimum Support Price as the cost of cultivation has gone up. Over and above, the Government has also increased the price of fertilisers which is going to hit the farmers.

Bhimavaram is one of the commercial and education centres in Andhra Pradesh situated on the East Coast. Similarly, Narasapur is also a very important town. In view of this, I request the Government of India to include these two towns under the Integrated Town Development Scheme, since they were the neglected towns in the past.

There is undue delay in construction of Film Complex at Hyderabad by the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, though Rs. 10 crores was made available in the Plan period. I would request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to intervene and in the matter and issue necessary instructions to the concerned officials for expediting the project.

In the IT sector, the Hon'ble Minister has given some concessions and reduced the customs duty. In this connection, I would request the Government to consider the following:

STD/ISD booths should be encouraged to become Internet/Multimedia Kiosks by arranging soft loans and computers at lower prices, by negotiating bulk quantity rates with reputed manufacturers. High speed leased circuits at reduced or concessional tariff for a limited period to encourage demand. Telecom infrastructure to be made available free of cost for a certain period, like tax holiday. Permission may be accorded to call centres to use bandwidth provided by STPI and other carriers out of India. The private sector may be allowed to set up International Gateways to offer international bandwidth for voice and data applications for Remote processing operations or IT enabled Services including Call Centres. This would generate employment opportunities.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams has been taking up several humanitarian and charitable schemes. The Jala Nidhi Scheme is one such scheme that caters to the large scale floating population of Tirupati, potable drinking water. Sri Venkateswara Jalanidhi Trust created by TTD for taking up drinking water works may be exempted from income tax by the Government.

The City of Hyderabad is centrally located and connected to all major cities in the country. It enjoys a salubrious climate and the cost of living in the city is low as compared to all major cities in India. Keeping these factors into account, the hon. Finance Minister has agreed to establish the headquarters of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) at Hyderabad, for which on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I am grateful to him.

The Hon'ble Minister may recall that I have also made a representation for bring down the tariff on synthetic rayons and fibres, since it would badly affect the textile industry.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that the Budget document is not just a profit and loss account or preparation of balance sheet. It is a document representing the policies, programmes and aspirations of the people of the country.

Nevertheless, any Budget or for that matter this particular new Millennium Budget is to be judged by its performance and not by promises; it is to be judged by the figures in the Budget papers and not by the budgetary pronouncements. It is against this background that I would like to make a few observations. It reminds me that only some time back I had the occasion to interact with the former Union Finance Minister who happened to occupy also the post of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. I put a question to him. I asked him 'What according to you is the basic malady of this great country which affects adversely the socio-economic conditions of the people?' After a while, he told me 'it is the regional imbalance'. Wherever the regional imbalance exists, anti-social problems and anti-economic problems exist.

We have seen what is happening in the frontier areas like the North-East or Jammu and Kashmir where the economic condition of the people is much below the national average.

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

I would like to confine my observations to the North-East from where I come. I had gone through the Budget speech as well as the Budget papers. We are happy with the pronouncement and the commitment to speedy development of the North-East and Sikkim. Basically, it has two components. One is a sense of isolation that is being perceived not only by the people of the North-East but also by the people in the mainland and the priorities have been spelt out: airports, railways, power and national highways. The other component is the vocational education which includes the establishment of 50 Industrial Training Institutes and 446 computer information centres within the next two years. To add to that, there is also an ambitious programme which is now known as the 'Prime Minister's Package' or the 'Special Initiative for the North-East'.

I would like to put a question through you to the Union Minister of Finance. It was decided that all the Central Ministries/Departments would earmark at least ten per cent of their Budget for taking up specific programmes/ schemes in the North-East. A special pool fund which was called the 'Non-lapsable Pool Fund' was created for this purpose. While we appreciate that certain Ministries have been earmarking the ten per cent, there are a number of Ministries which have not yet done so. For instance, the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy in the Ministry of HRD has an allocation of Rs. 80,734 crore but there is no indication of any provision for projects or schemes for North-East or Sikkim. We do not understand why it is missing. But in the Ministry of Rural Development, ten per cent has been allocated to that fund. It is clearly stated in the Budget papers. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has an allocation of Rs. 7,056 crore but there is no provision for this fund at all. This was one of the committed pronouncements made by the Prime Minister.

We are happy that the Prime Minister could come to Shillong in January, accompanied by the hon. Minister of Finance, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the hon. Minister of Defence and the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri K.C. Pant. In fact, the entire North-East gave them a hearty welcome. But the taste of the pudding is in the eating. I find to my amazement that this ten per cent which had been committed on the floors both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and also in the Prime Minister's Package has found no entry even in the allocation for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. There is an amount of Rs. 1,384 crore allocated to that Ministry but no provision has been made for the North-East fund. The Department of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries has been allocated Rs. 907.13 crore; yet, the provision for this fund is 'NIL'.

I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister. That is very important for the people of the North-East. Certain Ministries have earmarked funds as I said, the Ministry of Rural Development, but not these Ministries.

As we all know very well, the most important imperative for the North-East is connectivity, not only by road transport, but also by railways and by airways. You will be surprised to know that in the field of civil aviation, till today, not all the States of the North-East are air-linked. my own State is not air-linked. Shillong is not air-linked although we have a runway, which is about 6000 ft. It was air-linked earlier, but it is not air-linked now. We need a lot of funds for connecting North-East within itself and with the mainland. Unless we have funds, we cannot do anything.

According to the report of the Task Force, there is a need of 50-seater aircrafts. Unless we have money in the Non-Lapsable Pool Fund, how do we get aircraft? It is very important. We need to have more National Highways.

We gave our representation when the Prime Minister came to Shillong. I received him personally. I am the Member representing that area. We met the Prime Minister; we discussed all the problems. We got a good patient hearing from him, but we are now concerned because when we go through the Budget papers, the indication is quite the opposite. Therefore, we are disappointed.

In fact, for your information, we are trying as far as possible, as the Members of Parliament representing the North-East, to deal with the problem in a non-partisan manner. We have formed a North-East MPs' Forum, cutting across party-lines. We are 24 Members in Lok Sabha and we have another 15 Members from the Rajya Sabha, totalling 39 Members. We are together and we do not want to bring in politics in the development of the North-East. We know the problems. There is not only the problem of development, but there is also the problem of security.

On the security front, there is a need to strengthen the police force and to modernise the State police force. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you go through the Budget papers, you will find that there is no allocation for all these things. We would like to get a clear answer.

So far as the Railways are concerned, you know very well that there was a *dharna* in Parliament by the North-East Members of Parliament, since we were treated unfairly. We did it cutting across party-lines. I want to

emphasise that so far as the North-East is concerned, peace is very important for us. We can achieve peace through development. We believe very strongly about this. We know the strategic situation of the North-East. It is linked to the mainland, India by 20 miles of chicken-neck in North Bengal. We are surrounded by four foreign countries. Our boundary line is more than 4800 kms. which is one-third of India's land border. It is strategically placed. It is very important.

We are willing to cooperate which any one in order to bring peace and development to this area. I would request the Members of this House, particularly the Government and the Finance Minister who happened to know me - to understand this.

The Minister came to Shillong and we had a long talk about this. Unless and until we work together and face this problem, it would be difficult to bring peace to this region, particularly when the ISI is entering the fray. In that region people are intrinsically peace loving. It is not right to paint the entire North-East as insurgency-prone. I know so many areas where peace is prevalining. Even in Assam, there are areas where peace prevail. We have to work together and bring peace to this region. I do not want to bring politics here. I want this issue to be treated as a national issue.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartily support the first budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister on the occasion of the new millennium. This budget is very good and balanced budget. In view of the dire circumstances facing the country, the budget could not have been better. It has shattered the expectations of the opposition parties. They had expected that the budget would propose many new taxes and they will get an excuse for launching an agitation but it was belied. Before I go further, I would like to narrate a story. Thousands of birds used to live on a tree. An ignorant person was passing through that road. He had a tin of kerosene and a match box in his pocket. In a fit of idiocy, he poured the tin of kerosene on the tree. Thereafter, he set the tree on fire by using his match box. Thousands of birds living there were shrieking and dying. At the same time, a person like our friends in the opposition was passing through that road. He said:

"Aag lagi is ped ko, Jalne lage paat
Tum kyon jalte pakheruon, pankh tumhare saath"

Also present there was a person, who was one of the partners in the NDA Government. He replied:

'Phal khaye is vriksha ke, gande keene paat
Dharam Hamara yahi hai, jale isi ke saath.

When there is crisis in the country and adverse circumstances arise, then it is time to rise above the party line and take strong measures in the national interest and we should be prepared to bear it. The issue of subsidy was raised. Alongwith it the matter of urea subsidy was also raised. This is essentially true, but does it actually reach the farmer, about whom we talk? I am the son of a farmer. I live in a village. I was born in a thatched house. My mother still lives in a village. My family does the farming there. I know that the farmers in my village have never got the benefit of subsidy. The benefit goes to those who are big traders, producers or the farm managers. Its real benefit never reaches the farmer. A farmer sends his son to lay down his life for the country inspired by the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. When country is facing adverse circumstances and strong steps are required to be taken to improve the economy, will the farmer not be ready for it? We politicians only play politics in the name of farmers and misguide them. By doing so, we play with the interests of the country. I want to request all the parties to rise above party interests and give preference to national interests. Hon'ble Minister has presented a balanced budget.

21.00 hrs.

The budget presented is farmer friendly, promotes the welfare of the poor and is oriented towards rural development. All the members should cooperate in passing the budget. Shri Aiyar was giving a flowery and argumentative speech on the subject of poor. I want to ask those who shed crocodile tears in the name of poor as to what happened when Late Indira ji had given the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' in 1971? By 1975, emergency had been imposed and all of us are well aware of the situation which had arisen in 1977. Thereafter Smt. Indira ji was martyred in 1984 and Shri Rajiv Gandhi was appointed Prime Minister. Even Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Late Indira ji did not get the kind of majority which Shri Rajiv Gandhi got. He got three fourths majority. What was its consequence? In whose region, terrorism increased most? There has been an increase in terrorism in Kashmir from that time and in 1984 during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, it increased manifold. I don't want to mention here the extent to which corruption increased in 1989 with Bofors Gun Scandal coming to light. I just pity those who are now painting a gloomy picture of the economy of the country. Through you, I want to ask these people that the Finance Minister of which party had signed the WTO agreement and under whose regime it was signed? Who reversed Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru's policy of socialist economy and started the process of globalisation, liberalisation, inviting the multinational companies and disinvestment? Which was the Government

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

whose allied party set this process in motion? Those who had started the process are now in opposition and are now opposing just for the sake of it. Time has run out for the populist slogans. Today we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Constitution of India. If we have to take strong steps in national interest leaving the populist slogans, we should be ready for that. I state with regret that the Congress Party which had participated in the freedom struggle, is not sacrificing national interests for the sake of party interests when the time has come for meeting the challenge of economic crisis and improving the situation. Actually, the budget resolves to strengthen the growth of rural economy to alleviate poverty. It resolves to strengthen the industries based on science. Provisions have been made in the budget for all our traditional industries, textile industry, leather industry and agro-processing industries.

Sir, human resource development has been given top priority. Provision has been made in it to strengthen the infrastructure. I would like to give an example in this regard. Provisions have been made to make suitable arrangements for promoting exports and foreign capital investment. Arrangements have also been made for the repayment of loans. Today country has a debt burden, what is the cause of it? Have the Congressmen forgotten about loan fairs? After the nationalisation of banks around 1980, they were encouraged to hold fairs to distribute large amount of loans for the purpose of winning the appreciation of the people. It led the banks to the verge of bankruptcy. Policies of the Congress are responsible for it. If we make caculations about the debt of the country it would be revealed that heaviest foreign and internal debt burden was between 1970 to 1988-89. The Congressmen, who are now in opposition, are responsible for that. They are now holding the 18 months old Government responsible for everything. Who does not know that during Kargil war, Congress indulged in false propaganda in the country. They did so in public, sometimes in the name of sugar import from Pakistan, and sometimes on the plea of carelessness. On the other hand, country achieved victory under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He boosted the morale of the Jawans and he was always prompt in honouring the martyrs.

At that time Congress indulged in leg pulling. But people were not misguided. Their false propaganda was, therefore, rejected and the people gave mandate to Bhartiya Janata Party and its supporting parties in the leadership of hon'ble Shri Atal ji and thus the NDA returned victorious. People have confidence in our economic policies and this budget is based on those very economic policies.

Sir, the budgetary support for the plan expenditure has been increased by Rs. 11000 crores. Earlier, the budgetary support was Rs. 77000 crores which now stands at Rs. 88100 crores. Thus, an increase of Rs. 11,000 crore has been made. Keeping in mind the importance of defence of the country, maximum increase has been made in the defence budget this year.

'Agar Nao Dubegi To Dubenge Saare,
Na Ham hi Bachenge Na Sathi Hamaare.'

Hon'ble Finance Minister has expressed the resolution of the Government in the budget.

[English]

We shall not shirk from making any sacrifice to guard and protect every inch of our beloved motherland.

[Translation]

For this, an increase of Rs. 13,000 crore has been made in the defence budget which should be welcomed.

With these words, in the end, I would like to say that efforts have been made to curtail non-plan expenditure and many schemes have been discontinued. I would like to draw attention towards irrigation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the view point of agriculture, the budget of India is a gamble with monsoon. To ensure agricultural development, Government should give special attention to the minor irrigation schemes in the country. River Ganga should be linked with river Cauvery and thus the water which otherwise flows into the sea, should be used for irrigation. Such arrangements should be made as the water does not go waste.

With these words I give my full and whole hearted support to this Budget. I express my gratitude for the opportunity you gave me for speaking.

*YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister and place my written speech on the Table of the House.

First of all through you, I would like to thank and congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha ji, who has got a pleasant opportunity not only to present the first budget of the new century, new millennium as also the first budget on the completion of fifty years of the republic of India, but also a record beating opportunity of presenting the budget of Central Government consecutively for the third time. The Practical approach that he has made in his proposal leading the country thereof towards a creative

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

direction with a continuous increase in Employment from 7 to 8 per cent, may appear to be hard at first instance, like a medicine which is sour when consumed, but ultimately would bear very fruitful results and we are confident that viewing the evident failures of our country, the House will consider this proposal freely and impartially in the interest of our nation, cutting across the arguments, demands etc. of the opposition parties.

Sir, as it has been stated in the beginning that it is absolutely correct that our economy is passing through a very difficult phase. Heavy losses occurring in the exchequer since long have, on one hand lead to an increase in amount of Government loans and payment of interest and on the other hand, have unexpectedly increased the burden on exchequer on account of the Kargil war, Parliamentary elections, heavy cyclone in Orissa, payment of outstanding dues of the fifth pay commission as also the special financial assistance to the States as a result of which our budget deficit has gone over Rs. 1 lac crores. Under such circumstances increasing the resources, curtailment in some expenditures thereby decreasing the amount of loss and making a balance between income and expenditure are some of the requirements which are unavoidable and which should be fulfilled immediately. We will therefore, have to take a strict decision thinking beyond cheap publicity and manipulations for a high public image and shall also have to be prepared to suffer hardships in the alround welfare and interest of our country because presently there is no other easy and publically accepted way for making our economy, which is the backbone of development - more extensive, progressive, development oriented, systematic and balanced. And even now if we do not make efforts for this, we would perhaps never get a chance to bring our country out of this economic crisis.

Although we do not have any apprehensions regarding the intellectual fervour and allegiance of our hon'ble Members towards the country, but even then I am recollecting two lines of one of the poems of Mirza Ghalib — Hamne mana ki Tagaful na Karoge lekin Khak ho jayenge hum tumko khabar hone tak—which connote the meaning that please don't let the time go uselessly, make proper use of the time, otherwise things would go out of hands and control.

Sir, I am happy that hon'ble Finance Minister has introduced a commendable and useful proposal for increasing the amount to Rs. 11 thousand 1 hundred crores as compared to the present year. I am also extremely happy about the fact that the hon'ble Finance Minister while giving due importance and weightage to the security of our country, has, for the first time made a heavy and unprecedented increase in the amount raising it to around Rs. 13 thousand crores as compared to the present budget and he has also given an assurance to increase it where and when required. So, by virtue of this help, we would be able to modernize our armed forces and improve the standard of defence preparations in this regard. Moreover it is also essential to do these things in the light of military and war preparations made by our vowed enemy Pakistan and ambitious expansionist country like China.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to stop the automatic increase in expenditure and then to bring structural changes, discussion on seven points made in the budget proposal is more or less appreciated. Especially with reference to cost, a review of subsidy is very necessary and important. Hon'ble Finance Minister has rightly said that it would be virtually irrelevant, impractical and improper to maintain the rate of payment of subsidy at the pace on which it is increasing. The actual people entitled for such a subsidy are those poor people who are leading their lives below the poverty line and are unable to fulfil their basic requirements also. So, subsidy given to such prosperous persons should certainly be stopped, otherwise if this subsidy is continued publically, our economy shall cripple down. Sir, in this regard the proposal of doubling the quantity of foodgrains under the public distribution system for families below the poverty line is definitely commendable. This subsidy is being given to them at 50 per cent of the economic cost in accordance with the decision taken in December, 1996 in this connection. Similarly a reivew of the subsidy given on fertilizer alongwith Kerosene oil, LPG and other Petroleum products should also be made and appropriate cost of all these commodities should be determined. But it should be kept in mind that poorest of the poor of the society may not become a prey to this economic crisis. With reference to curtailment in subsidy for fertilizers, it should be checked that if any curtailment in subsidy for the farmers is effected, then the cost of their produce should also be increased in the same population.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the present budget, priority given in the proposed work plan towards strengthening the foundation of development of the rural economy especially agriculture and related functions deserve a special mention. Even in this present age of urbanisation, a majority of the population of India still live in villages and the basis of its economy is still agriculture and until and unless the pecuniary position of the farmers with regard to their purchasing power does not improve and become systematic, the development of India would have no meaning at all, a continuous and extensive development process for agriculture, the backbone of rural economy and its related operations, is required. I am happy that the five points in present budget of 2000-2001 which

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

hon'ble Finance Minister has made as a measure for this, would be recognised and would prove to be useful. In this context the proposal for an increase of Rs. 1500 crores in the rural base facility development fund (Gramin Adhar Suvidha Vikas Nidhi) managed by NABARD and reducing the interest charged on the loans by half a percent is also a very encouraging proposal. Similarly there is another proposal for including 1 lac extra voluntary Organisation by NABARD and SIDBI in the year 2000-2001 for the development of small scale industries. In order to stimulate this programme, an important provision for creating a micro Finance department fund in which the initial contribution given by Reserve Bank, NABARD banks and others would be Rs. 100 crores, would lead to the Progress and Protection of small industries established by the weaker sections including women, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe and other backward classes people in the rural areas.

Sir, there is a dire need of basic amenities such as health-facilities, education, drinking water, housing facility and roads for fulfledged development of rural areas. The plans that have been suggested in the present budget with a provision of Rs. 13 thousand crore, are quite enough, provided that they are implemented uprightly. We believe that the Government would be fully cautious and active at the level of implementation of such programmes, so that the dilapidated condition of our villages and un-profitable agricultural practice which is continuing since independence, would get improved.

The declaration made by Finance Minister for the development of rural areas with regard to new scheme like 'Pradhanmantri Gramodyog' for which, a provision of Rs. 500 crores separately has been made, is also commendable. This step would certainly fulfil the basic requirements of people and would initiate the path of development of villages.

All possible measures for an all-round development with regard to small scale industries including village housing, social security for the villagers, rights of women, population, health and environment have also been suggested, and the House will consider them. I would like to say one thing about this ever increasing population that this so-called population explosion is alone enough to ruin the possibilities of development, therefore, we shall have to evolve some method to control this menace as soon as possible. But one thing must be kept in mind while evolving any method that equal co-operation and participation of all the people and communities should be there, otherwise the success of such plans would be made partially only and will be doubtful.

An all-round and desired development of basic services in the fast and sustained development of our economy is extremely necessary. Infact thee is no need to say. that hon'ble Finance Minister has presented a balanced but progressive budget with full generosity and appealing for its approval. I would like to draw his attention towards the backwardness of eastern Uttar Pradesh especially, Gorakhpur and its neighbouring areas.

Sir, the backwardness of eastern Uttar Pradesh, is a statistically established fact. Leaving aside the construction of roads, no physical development has taken place in that area. Despite menace of floods every year, the conventional type of agriculture is the only activity which is the hub of economic development. In the name of public sector there was only one undertaking of the Central Government by the name of Gorakhpur fertilizer Factory which is closed for the last 10 years. The local people, public representatives as also workers have initiated various movements for years together to start this industry again. In the last Parliament, it was only after my hard-efforts that the Government declared the establishment of a new plant by KRIBHCO in place of the old factory of Gorakhpur. The Public Investment Board has given the necessary approval in this regard and after all the formalities now the cabinet has to give its final approval to the above proposal of KRIBHCO. I hereby appeal to the cabinet to give its formal approval to the said proposal and alongwith this, I would also make a humble request to our generous Finance Minister to kindly include this important put pending programme in the budget proposals.

The condition of sick sugar mills in eastern Uttar Pradesh thereby leading to the closure of these units one by one and the farmers not been given their determined sugar cost for years, have created a miserable condition of sugarcane cultivators there. This sugarcane cultivation area, which is the only 'money crop' base purchasing capacity of farmers, is on the verge of destruction. There were sugar mills on all major railway stations right from Basti to Deoria and further till Bihar, in fact sugar mills were established at all important stations or in other words the stations were made only to cater to transportation related needs of these mills. Even markets in small towns were made keeping the requirements of these mills in view. Under such circumstances of closure and sickness of these mills not only the mill workers, and their families, but even the shopkeepers of these small towns have become job less and are leading towards a dark future. Sir, if rehabilitation or renewal of these mills is not done in time, then devastation of this already backward eastern region cannot be prevented from destruction. Therefore, through you, I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister that he may

include the plan of revival/renewal of these sugar mills in the present budget. It is a well known fact that if a person is sick, he is not killed, rather efforts are made to revive.

Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech has annouced a project of an estimated cost of 54 thousand crore rupees, which is very important from development point of view. In this connection, I would like to draw his attention towards inclusion of my demand of constructing a bridge on river Rapti in Gorakhpur Metropolis in the Present budget. Sir, a bridge was constructed some 30-32 years back on river Rapti in Gorakhpur metropolis on the National highway no. 28 and 29 connecting Gorakhpur with Varanasi, Allahabad, Lucknow and Bihar, Bengal and Assam States. Due to the massive increase in population and traffic, this old bridge is now providing to be inadequate and unserviceable; Moreover the dilapidated condition of this bridge is also a matter of concern. In such a situation there is a need to renovate this bridge as also to construct another comparatively better bridge near it. A proposal with complete estimates is pending with the Surface Transport Minister in this regard. I would appeal that for the purposes of development, it may be included in the budget of the year 2000-2001.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Finance Minister towards the construction of a building for Doordarshan Kendra, Gorakhpur and appeal that this may also be included in the budget proposals. It may be envisaged that in Gorakhpur, Doordarshan Kendra was established in 1984. In the same year, a tender was floated for constructing a building for Doordarshan Kendra in front of Rapti Nagar Bus Depot at an estimated cost of 84 lac rupees, but no progress was made in this regard and the Doordarshan Kendra is somehow running in a hired building. After my hard efforts the then Information and Broadcasting Minister of State Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi laid the foundation stone of a building for Doordarshan Kendra to be constructed on a plot purchased for this purpose and at that very time, Rs. 3 crores were approved for this work. The Parliament was dissolved and the said construction work could not move further. I urge that proposal of the said construction work may also be included in the present budget so that the dilapidated Doordarshan Kendra could be transferred to its own building so that it could serve the area more facilitatively and qualitatively.

It the end, through you I wish to make some request to the hon'ble Minister of Finance regarding income tax. Sir, as per the recommendation made by the Fifth Pay Commission, there has been a considerable increase in the Pay-scales of the employees of Government and Government aided institutions. Inflation has also lead to devaluation of rupee. Therefore, if the present structure is maintained, even then the limitation of standard deduction should be increased in the same proportion so that the income tax assesee may also get due relief.

Sir, through you once again I extend my thanks and also my congratulations to hon'ble Finance Minister for making historical and progressive proposals, and supporting this budget, also request the House to pass it. I conclude my speech.

[English]

*VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): I congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha, hon. Finance Minister of India for successful presentation of the Budget for 2000-2001. I appreciate the steps proposed for strengthening the foundations of growth of our rural economy like agriculture, establishment of new knowledge-based industries such as infotech, biotechnology and drugs derived from plant products, to modernise the industries like textile, leather, agro processing, to remove the bottlenecks in power, roads, ports, telecom, railways, airways, human resource development, to strengthen our role in world economy through exports, higher foreign investment, and to establish a credible framework of fiscal discipline.

I also support the initiatives proposed for Fiscal Management *viz.* subjecting to rigorous zero base budgeting, reassessing and reviewing the norms for creation of posts, limiting the fresh recruitment to minimum essential needs, redeployment of surplus staff for effective utilization, reviewing the subsidies wherever feasible, generation of internal resources by the autonomous institutions and not to create autonomous institutions without the approval of the Cabinet.

However, I would request that benefits under NABARD and Kisan Credit Cards be extended to J&K State. In J&K there has been large scale deforestation. J&K is one of the biggest States having large forest areas. Due to deforestation during the last few 3 years, reforestation programmes may be framed and implemented on urgent basis for the healthy growth of the State.

I also fully support and appreciate the initiatives under Social Security for the poor, Empowerment of Women, Rural Housing, Population, Health and Environment, Small Scale Industry, Science and Technology, Industry and Capital Market. The implementation of the schemes may

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Vaidya Vishnu Datt Sahrma]

be ensured throughout the country including the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

It has been seen that the State of J&K has been slack in equal distribution of funds to different regions. I am strongly of the view that fair and equitable distribution of funds may be ensured to all the regions of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, *viz.* Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh so that the entire population of the State reaps the benefits from the Government of India. Steps in this direction may kindly be initiated by the Central Government.

The State of J&K is hit largely by the militant activities and requires additional funding by the Central Government which may kindly be taken care of. I also request that steps may be taken for waiver of agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- as has been proposed for the industries to the extent of Rs. 50,000/-.

Jammu region has a large scope for the development of Tourism industry, which needs to be encouraged more by the Centre. The scheme of crop insurance which has been in existence in rest of the country has not been implemented in J&K, which may kindly be done from this year.

In many villages in Jammu region, there has been a belt of 150 km wherefrom Samba to Sunderbani where people are not getting even the drinking water, Special Water Supply Schemes for kandi areas of Jammu region by sanctioning Big Tube Wells may kindly be formulated and sufficient money may be earmarked for the purpose.

Lastly, I appreciate that the Budget has been one of the best and balance and the country will be on the way to progress.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmednagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, the budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister has been welcomed by the whole of India. Not only this, a wave of new conciousness has come in the youth of our country in the coming year. This new consciousness amongst the youth has arrived due to the large-scale concessions given to the computer industry. Efforts have been made to bring about uniformity in the same way in all the sectors. I, extend my thanks to our hon'ble Finance Minister and his Ministers of State for this.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make a request to hon'ble Finance Minister that presently, there are only 1.5 per cent people in the whole country, who pay income tax. It has not been increased. This percentage has not increased from 1952 to 2000. But why there has not been any increase in it? The reason behind this is that people are afraid of the appearance of Income tax department and thus they want to avoid tax people, and actually this very department was required to inculcate a feeling of nationalism amongst the people. In Kargil war, many of the young soldiers sacrificed their life and when their funeral took place in their native villages, around 25-30 thousand people from the nearby villages participated in that and also shed their tears, which inculcated a feeling of nationalism in them. One basic thing should be publicised amongst the common people that money given in income tax is going to be used for the interest and welfare of the country.

So, we are required to present the same picture so that more and more people could be encouraged to pay income tax.

Mr. Speaker Sir, second thing which I would like to say is that a large scale increase has taken place in fruit-cultivation in our Maharashtra as also in the whole country, but the food industries have not been increased proportionately. Therefore, there is need to establish food industries at tehsil and block levels on large scale and through you I would request hon'ble Finance Minister to make provisions for this purpose. The most commendable work of hon'ble Finance Minister is that the farmers are now able to stand at their feet with the introduction of Kisan Credit Card. Today, they do not go to any money lender, or institution for taking loans. Now, they can confidently take money from any bank. In this way, I extend my thanks to hon'ble Finance Minister for enhancing the self respect of our farmers. With this, I conclude my statement.

*There is a need to encourage setting up of urban co-operative bank and at present there is control of both the State Government and Reserve Bank. The Central Government creates hinderances for the Banks which have been established due to some political reason and which are also running on a wider scale. I therefore request you that these co-operative banks should be under the control of Reserve Bank only. This is my suggestion.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the Budget. In Parliamentary practice there is a concept that the Budget acts as a mirror reflecting the character of a Government.

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*Also laid on the Table some written portion of his speech.

The ruling alliance, NDA is a combination of contradictions. That is evident everyday even now because they cannot go together. It more or less resembles a circus camp. A ringmaster is leading wild animals and household animals to a great show. That is already spreading base in India because nobody knows where they are going.

The Budget, as I pointed out previously also, is full of contradictions. It is quite natural.I do not go into details. But the most important thing is, all of us know that our economy is challenged by black money. The stability of the economy is definitely threatened by the circulation of unaccounted black money. But not a whisper is made in the Budget. I do not know whether the Government has legalised all the black money or by passing the Money Laundering Bill whether the Government is giving a legal colour to the black money that is under circulation in abundance in our country. Nothing is mentioned about how to curtail the black money and how to bring it out. There was an attempt made previously, but I do not know how far it succeeded. There is no attempt today and nobody is sure as to what happened to the question of unearthing the black money in the current Budget.

21.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

When I go through the policies enunciated in this Budget, I think that the hon. Finance Minister, with due respect to him, is donning the role of a liquidator in developing the Indian self-reliant economy. He is acting under the dictates of the IMF and also the World Bank. That is why he is not sure of taking all these people along with him. He has to serve the interests of the World Bank and the IMF. What is the result? Now the situation is quite alarming.

The question of withdrawal of subsidy has already been discussed. When I speak about the subsidy withdrawal, I have to refer to my State of Kerala. I have got a clue from Shri Yerrannaidu who has spoken many things about Andhra Pradesh.

So, in that context, I may be permitted to mention something about Kerala. The State of Kerala had attained total literacy years before. The State has also obtained the highest mark in public health. The United Nations has assessed that Kerala State ranks with western civilised nations in the matter of public health. So also is the case of infant mortality. The rate of infant mortality in Kerala is less than that of UK. All these achievements are made by this State.

All successive Central Governments were very particular in neglecting the State of Kerala. My learned friend has pointed out about Land Reforms Act. Kerala is the first State which abolished landlordism completely as early as in 1960. Land reforms were fully implemented.

The most important thing is that Kerala is having nearly five decades of statutory rationing and the most effective public distribution system in India. What is the result? These people have led us to a situation where the public distribution sysem will be jeopardised. The State Government is facing a crisis to maintain the public distribution system and these people have withdrawn all the subsidies. Kerala has estimated a sum of Rs. 480 crore per year to maintain the public distribution system because of your policy. The State Government cannot go back on this. There was a covenant entered into between the Central Government and the State Government of Kerala, at the time of merger of Travancore-Cochin State converting it as the State of Kerala. At that time, there was a covenant by which the Central Government took the responsibility of supplying rice to Kerala for distribution. Even at the time, there was statutory rationing. There was an understanding and the Government had agreed to maintain the public distribution system and the statutory rationing system. That covenant is there. Your decision to do away with the subsidy is against in violation of the covenant entered into between the State Government and the then Central Government during Pandit Nehru's time. The reason alleged is that Kerala is producing cash crops. Kerala will always be a deficit State in the matter of food stocks. It is because we produce only 40 per cent of our needs in rice. Kerala's staple food is rice and without rice, the State cannot exist. The Central Government, finding us big producers of cash crops, took the responsibility of supplying rice to the State of Kerala to maintain the statutory rationing. So, you have done a great injustice to Kerala. Regarding cash crops, page 136 of the *Economic Survey* shows that India is the world's largest producer of rubber and 97 per cent of the demands for natural rubber is met by indigenous production. Kerala produces more than 90 per cent of the total natural rubber. But what have you done? You are allowing multinational companies to import rubber. Even tyres were allowed to be imported. The net result is that 22 lakhs of small rubber growers are put to starvation. The import policy followed by the Government in respect of natural rubber is detrimental to the interest of the rubber growers in Kerala. We had already brought this matter to the notice of the Government.

They have not done anything. So also is the case of other produces like spices, areca-nut and ginger. All these

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

hill produces are affected because of the detrimental policy followed by this Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. I will call the next Member to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will conclude.

Kerala's name itself is synonymous with coconut. We were producing the largest number of coconuts in India. What is the result of it? The coconut growers are also facing the same crisis because of the policy followed by the present Central Government. Nearly thirty lakh coconut growers are put to starvation. *Copra* and coconut oil are imported in India from foreign countries without any restriction. The poor growers are put to starvation.

In the matter of decentralisation of powers, as has been pointed out by Shri Yerrannaidu, Kerala is a State where decentralisation has been given effect to at the grass-root level. We are now implementing the People's Plan. Developmental activities are decided in the *Gram Sabhas*. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that powers are decentralised in Kerala. I hope and trust that Government will give due consideration to the demands of the workers.

Before I conclude, I want to mention one thing. For all the hill crops like coconut, rubber, coffee, pepper, cardamom and ginger, copper sulphate is sprayed. The excise duty on copper sulphate has been increased. All these hill produces have been affected to great extent. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the excise duty, and copper sulphate should be exempted from excise duty. Otherwise, all these hill crops will be ruined. So, considering all these aspects, if we are a Federal State, the Government should take all these things into consideration and give preference to all these things.

With these words, I oppose the Budget with all vehemence.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget for the year 2000-2001. It has many highlights to its credit. Exports are on the higher side. Foreign exchange reserves are increased, in fact, doubled. It is an achievement that the uniform sales tax procedure has been introduced during the tenure of the Finance Minister. There is a National Commission for better use of land. The Prime Minister's *Gramodaya Yojana* has been introduced. Social security for the poor has also been initiated. Several sops have been given to the IT sector to promote further the exports and employment potential also. But, however, there are certain things that are also to be considered by the hon. Finance Minister.

Regarding excise duty, the lower slab has been abolished. From eight per cent, he has made it to 16 per cent. There is also a ten per cent surcharge and it has been brought to 15 per cent. Naturally, the surcharge will have a bearing on the sharing of the revenues with the States. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider how he can give better revenues to the States. He should have resisted the move in putting up the surcharge. I would request the hon. Finance Minister at least to keep it to the level of ten per cent instead of making it to 15 per cent.

The revenue deficit is another alarming feature of the Budget. We always give the lower figure in the Budget and this year, it is shown as 5.1 per cent. I honestly believe that the hon. Finance Minister would try to keep it at the same level so that it does not have a drain on the developmental activities of our country. On Capital Account, the investment procedure is coming down because of higher burden of interest. It is more than Rs. 100 lakh crore. But the Finance Minister has not mentioned as to how he is going to tackle it. Our debt burden is Rs. Seven lakh crore or so. The burden of interest is going on increasing every year, but there should be an end to it and how this situation is to be tackled, and corrected it is for the Finance Minister to look into this aspect also.

As far as disinvestment is concerned, disinvestment in public sector units should not be treated as a policy. All the units which can be revived should be revived and only those units which cannot be revived should be offered for equity participation because the management will change, new management will come and they may try to improve the position. But if some units can be turn around by giving some financial assistance, they need not be disinvested.

Sir, there is a frightening news about Vishakapatnam Steel Plant, which is in my constituency. When I go to Vishakpatnam, people start approaching me at the airport itself and ask me as to what I am doing in this regard. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is the most modern steel plant out of all the steel plants in the country. If the Government cannot run this unit, how can it run other units? A revival package for this unit has already been submitted to the Ministry of Finance by experts. I understand that a proposal by experts for SAIL has been accepted. When I checked up about the proposal for revival of Vishakapatnam Steel Plant, I came to know that this is waiting for approval. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister would approve the revival package for

Vishakapatnam Steel Plant also. If we disinvest Vishakpatnam Steel Plant, it will be the most unfortunate day, because it is one of the most modern steel plants in the country. It is a model plant and it can be improved. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly look into this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I will not take more than 15 minutes.

Sir, India lives in villages and farmers are the backbone of our country. The farmers have to be treated fairly, because they are the producers of foodgrains for the entire nation. The food production curve has almost remained flat in the last four or five years. It is not improving. There should be some reasons for this.

The Minister of Finance should look into this aspect as to why it is not improving. It means that it is not remunerative to produce. It is not profitable for the farmers to produce foodgrains. Unless we produce foodgrains, we have to resort to all sorts of imports. In the morning, we took time to discuss the import of sugar also. This is not required. But now the Government has stopped the imports of sugar. We are very happy. These things could be improved. If that is the case, the prices of fertilisers will have a bearing on the production of foodgrains. So, I would request the Minister of Finance to tell us as to how he will make it comfortable for the farmers to produce more. How will he provide an incentive so that they produce more foodgrains? He has to look into that aspect. I sincerely appeal to him kindly not to increase the prices of fertilisers so that the farming community will get an incentive. Sixty-six per cent of the people in the country are dependent on farming. So, we have to look into that aspect of the farmers. Kindly have a re-look at this and see that the prices of fertilisers are not increased at this juncture.

The prices of the cash crops in Andhra Pradesh are also very alarming. There are no buyers for tobacco. I would request the hon. Minister to make funds available for the Tobacco Board to purchase the stocks and also declare a crop holiday for tobacco for the coming year so that the tobacco that has accumulated during this year could be sold in the next year.

Like that, the price of chillies has come down. I would also request the hon. Minister to make some arrangements for purchase of chillies through the Chilli Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you should conclude.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I need another two or three minutes so that I do not stop in-between.

The farmers are in a very bad shape due to severe drought conditions. So, they also need some support. The crop insurance has to be extended to all sectors of farming. Ultimately, I would request you to think of the Polavaram Project to give drinking water to millions of people in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring States and also to have more farming. It will also be a multi-purpose project. Please take it up as a national project. I would request the Minister of Finance to consider it seriously. It gives 800 MW of power also. It produces millions of acres for cultivation to eradicate famine in the country.

I would say one more thing about public distribution. Since long time back, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had been giving 20 kilograms of rice through the PDS to the people who are living below the poverty line. The people below the poverty line are enjoying 20 kilograms of rice in Andhra Pradesh. If we increase the price, it will be a great burden on the State Government. The State Government of A.P. cannot extend this scheme to the persons who are living below the poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much burden will there be on your State?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Now, the burden will be doubled. Because of doubling of the price, the amount of Rs. 800 crore will become Rs. 1,600 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. Now, I will call the next Member.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: In a State like Andhra Pradesh, how will the hon. Finance Minister keep the prices in check under the PDS? So, I would request him to help in this regard.

There is also a need for adult education, primary education and health education in the villages. So, I am happy that he has given certain amount of money for these sectors. I am sure in the years to come, these things will improve the conditions of the villagers. And all the villagers will become prosperous so that in future years, he need not give concessions and also the subsidies. Kindly extend the subsidy for farmers for some more years to come so that they could rely upon themselves.

*DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the MDMK, led by my beloved leader Shri Vaiko,

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* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Dr. C. Krishna]

I support the Budget and I am laying my speech on the Table of the House.

I rise to support the Budget at the outset. Not only as a Member party in the N.D.A. but also as to extend our support for Good Governance at the Centre to say in Tamil as told by learned Anna Durai:

We give our voice for rights;
we give our hand for friendship.

The Features of the Millennium Budget, I am sure it will lead India to Information resolution. At this age of Information Technology the world has come to our door steps. The concessions announced in the Budget for Computer and computer components will bring drastic development in the industry.

Allocation of Rs. 50 crore in the Budget for the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council for taking up Technology vision projects and to boost cooperation between universities and R&D Institutions is the most welcome feature of the Budget and as I said earlier the allocation of Rs. 50 crores for new Millennium Indian Technology leadership initiative in the Budget of the Department of Science and Industrial Research will certainly lead India into a bright future.

As far as the long pending demand of 'Sethu Samudram Canal Project' we are delighted to hear Rs. 45 Crores have been allocated for initiation of the project, which we hope will be a fruitful project and it would be the 'Suez Canal of India' saving a lot of money and fuel in the sea-route of South Asia.

In total we welcome the Budget and hope the years to come will also see the development of India as a Super Power.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I support the Budget for the year 2000-2001 presented by the hon. Finance Minister, however with a few suggestions and some agony. I have a few suggestions to make which I may be enumerating in my speech.

I welcome the endeavour of the present Finance Minister for equalising the sales tax, but there is another area which deserves to be addressed with sincerity, that is in the field of agriculture. The agricultural productivity should be increased and optimised. It can only be done by proper land reforms. Until and unless the land is transferred to the hands of actual tillers, production and productivity will not be optimised. So long substantial portion of agricultural land remains in the hands of a few land owners, including absentee land owners and managerial land owners, the productivity will never increase.

As you all know the rich persons, the industrialists keep some land with them in order to evade income tax. So, the central leadership has to come forward to solve this problem as they have done in the case of equalising the Sales tax. In the agricultural sector, the land reforms should be brought about forthwith both for rapid growth and equity.

While discussing about agriculture, hon. Members have opined and you also, Mr. Chairman, have opined that subsidy on fertilizer should be done away with, but not at the present juncture. The way the subsidy has been given on fertilizer is not a welcome approach. So, my suggestion is that instead of giving subsidy to the industrialists on differential cost, the amount of subsidy for fertilizer should be distributed amongst the States on pro-rata basis—either *per capita* or per hectare of agricultural land—so that the poorer and the backward States get more benefits. This way, the States will take care of their own farmers. This is my humble suggestion and I hope the hon. Finance Minister will look into it.

My second suggestion is regarding the job seekers. Nothing has been said about them here. Hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar did mention about employment, but I am talking about the job seekers, particularly, about the placement in the organised sector. There are about 40 million registered job seekers and the annual placement is hardly one per cent in the public sector and the private sector. So, the secondary sector, particularly the organised sector, should be developed to absorb the job seekers. Unless, we do that, the so called globalisation or liberalisation or privatisation will not help to improve the economy of the country or to improve the conditions of the poor people of our country. Therefore, my main point is that the secondary sector should be so structured that these job seekers are absorbed, at least, every year, ten per cent of job seekers on live register should be absorbed in the organised sector. Unless the hon. Minister does plan for that, governance carries no meaning at all.

Today we talk about globalisation. I am telling you that in fact, we are not having globalisation, we are not heading towards globalisation. Globalisation means free flow of trade, labour and capital. Free flow of trade and capital is being done in the interest of multi-nationals, in the interest of the developed countries. Free flow of labour is not there. It is not allowed all over the world. Therefore,

it is not really globalisation. In the name of globalisation, we are committing a mistake. We should move very cautiously on this.

My third suggestion is about the share of our export in the world export market. We are the founder member of GATT and also a signatory of WTO. There should be proper introspection now. At the time of our Independence, our share of export was 1.6 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are still 15 Members to speak. Please cooperate.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I am only giving certain suggestions. I have not yet come to my agony. Kindly bear with me.

Sir, our share of export was 1.6 per cent at the time of our Independence. Now, it has come down to 0.6 per cent. Whose fault is this? Is it not Congress Government ruling for more than forty five years out of 52 years? Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will definitely give the anser. Not only this, he has not mentioned about many other things. He has not said anything about revenue deficit. Revenue deficit was not a matter of Union Budget till 1980, till Shrimati Indira Gandhi took over after the Janata Government. For one year, in 1972-73, again during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time, there was revenue deficit and it was inherited by the hon. Finance Minister. In the coming year, revenue deficit will be Rs. 77,000 crore. The Union Government cannot act as a model Government for the States by continuously increasing deficits on revenue account. Therefore, I am telling you that the Finance Minister has inherited this. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has not mentioned about that.

My point is that our share of export has come down from 1.6 per cent to 0.6 per cent. I think, an in-depth study must be undertaken on this so that our export share in the world market will increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I am now coming to my agony. Please listen to my agony. This is not my personal agony. This is the agony of the people of Orissa. This is the agony of the people of the eastern part of our country, which were affected by the super cyclone. The hon. Finance Minister has made a tangential reference to the super cyclone in Orissa. I thought, and the people of Orissa, who have been affected by the super cyclone thought that at this hour of peril and distress, there would be specific programmes and special dispensation for the cyclone affected in area in the Central Budget but that has not been done.

I am presenting five points before this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I shall take only five minutes, one minute for each point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you take only two minutes.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has mentioned that 25 lakh houses would be provided, including 12 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana for whole of the country.

But I tell you, Sir, more than 25 lakh houses have been razed to the ground in the super cyclone affected areas. One room, 12 feet by 12 feet, with an RCC roof should be provided for each affected family under the Indira Awas Yojana. It should be provided free of cost for the people living below the poverty line, Harijans and Adi Vasis. For the others the loan should be treated as a soft loan for other people. The repayment period for this soft loan should be 15 years with five to six per cent interest rate. Definitely, 25 lakh houses cannot be built in one year. I would request the Finance Minister to complete it within three years, eight lakh houses every year, so that people of Orissa, particularly, the affected people will remember him for ever in their lives. This is a request and this is the feeling of the House also.

Secondly, he has made promises for providing drinking water. There is no drinking water available for about 25,000 villages. They should be provided with drinking water facility. I think Rs. 100 crore will be required for that.

Thirdly, Sir, through you I want to tell this to the Finance Minister regarding institutional re-construction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Some States came forward saying that they wanted to adopt some districts. Maharashtra also told that they were adopting some districts. Nagaland State has also adopted some districts. They came forward that way. The Public Sector Undertakings also came forward and they also mentioned that they were adopting certain blocks and so on. But they have done nothing. They did nothing. The institutions like schools and colleges, dispensaries, Primary Health Centres have been completely damaged completely razed to the ground, and students are having their classes outside. You can understand whether they are really being taught or not. I would request you that this work should

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

be taken up in the right earnest so that this year, by June, all these institutions are reconstructed.

Sir, my fourth point is regarding rural roads. Please look after the rural roads of the cyclone-affected areas. About Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 600 crore will be required for that purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will be calling the next hon. Member.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: My next point is regarding the subsidy on rice. The Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar has given beautiful statistics. To some extent, he is right. He had said that the poor family would get the benefit of Rs. 35 per month. But the people of Orissa are not getting this much benefit because after the cyclone, we are being given 20 kilogram of rice to a family living both below and above the poverty lines. I would request you to kindly extend this facility till the month of November. The other thing is that it should be provided at a rate of Rs. 4 per kilogram. This should be continued in the interest of the cyclone-affected area.

Lastly, many things have been told about the KBK districts, namely, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput. You have gone and seen those areas also. Something should be done there so that the people will come up, at least, to the national level. If you want to do away with the regional disparities, both inter-State and intra-State regional disparities, something has to be done for these areas.

With this, I support the Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Sir, Budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister is commendable and balanced one. Special attention is paid towards poor people in this Budget. Despite a Budget deficit of Seven lakhs and eleven crores of rupees efforts were made not to put burden on anyone. People were apprehensive that there would be price rise due to Kargil War but Government did not allow it to happen and no one faced any problem. Hon'ble Prime Minister enhanced the glory of the country in this war. Countrymen have full confidence in the hon'ble Prime Minister. That is why we received people's mandate. And with this confidence only the Minister of Finance has presented good Budget in favour of poor people. The whole countrymen welcomed this Budget.

Sir, I want to give some suggestions to the Government in public interest. I got elected for the fourth time from Ranchi Lok Sabha Constituency in Vananchal region. What ever views have been expressed either by treasury or opposition members sound pleasant to the ear. For all development works, the amount given to State Governments is distributed unequally. For example whatever amount was given to Bihar for the welfare of poor people there was unequally distributed. No department was left in which scam did not take place whether it was goat, hen, fodder, cow, buffallow, coal-tar, Police uniform etc. Today opposition parties are raising finger on the Government but first they should look upon themselves, where they have taken the country during the last fifty years. In their regime only more looting took place and the existing Government are paying for that only. Today there is need to connect every village with all weather roads. There is need to construct small and big culverts in the villages. There is need to provide irrigation facilities, fertilizers on low rates, seeds and insecticides to farmers and make arrangements of good schools for poor children of villages. If schools are there, then there are no teachers. Due to this reason schools remain closed. There is need to provide medical facilities, drinking water and electrification to poor people. In our area they have erected electricity poles but for the last many years these are in same position. Still electricity has not reached the villages. The money which was given in the name of electrification, is divided among various agencies. Whatever amount was given for development work or for the welfare of poor people by Union Government to Bihar Government was also usurped. The amount was not spent there Elections of Panchayat and Municipal Corporations have not taken place and due to this also there is loss of billions of rupees to Bihar. Vananchal region is area of jungles and mountains. Jaldhara scheme is the only solution for the poor farmers of this region. Irrigation can be provided by making irrigation wells and check dams only, Union Government should provide more financial assistance in Assured Employment Schemes. I demand that Government should make arrangement of cold storage for the welfare of farmers in every block. Improvement should be made in Public Distribution System and action be taken against guilty officers. Then only improvement is possible. Loan upto rupees ten thousand of poor people should be written off. Loans be recovered from influential people by taking strict action against them. Financial assistance be provided to our H.E.C. factory so that more and more orders are given to them.

In the end I would demand that the Vananchal region be given the status of a separate State so that people there are saved from administration of Bihar. With these words I thank you and support this Budget.

[English]

*SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, on behalf of my party All India Forward Block, I strongly oppose

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

the Budget. This Budget is anti-farmer and pro-rich. It is harsh on farmers and soft on cellular phone users. Agriculture has not only been ignored but has been burdened with a hefty rise in urea price by 15 per cent. The Government investment in agriculture sector is marginal and meagre. Allotment for human resource development is nominal.

The Budget would fail to ensure a sustained GDP growth of even six per cent. The Finance Minister over-estimated the revenue and under-estimated the expenditure. It Budget does not address the macro-economic problems that the economic survey has highlighted. The two years of BJP Government had seen a steady decline in the rates of national saving and investment.

Expenditure burgeoned in the non-plan sphere and no Minister or bureaucrat has acted in a responsible way. This has increased non-plan expenditure. This is the main reason why the fiscal deficit could not be controlled in spite of the brave words of the Finance Minister used in his Budget speeches. Deficit has risen from 4.5 per cent to 5.1 per cent.

The most untapped resource is the unaccounted black money. In the last two years some exercises were undertaken to make an estimate of black money. The Institute of Public Finance and Policy estimated that black money in 1981 was about 21 per cent of GDP. This comes to a whopping sum of Rs. 6 lakh crore. This Budget shows no political will to unearth substantial portion of black money.

[Translation]

*SHRMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Misrikh): Sir, expressing gratitude towards you I rise to oppose this Budget. In this Budget, women, youth, dalit, minority communities, poor people and labourers have been totally ignored. Dr. Lohia had said when power comes in the hands of 60 per cent of dalit, tribals, women and backward minority communities and when the language spoken by masses becomes the language of administration, only then true revolution will take place without shedding blood. Mother India will get rid of this disgrace and insult which she has been facing for the last many years. Today there is need to liberate these downtrodden people of society for whom nothing has been done in this Budget.

Sir, today there is lot of discrimination between the rights of men and women in Indian society. According to 1991 census literacy amongst women is only 37 per cent. State of education of dalit, backward caste women is more miserable. Nobel Award Laureate economist Shri Amurtya Sen wrote about school education in Uttar Pradesh that even today, not even 5 percent of the teachers in primary, junior high schools are women. In these difficult situations when there is so much gender bias in Indian society; there is no value of women's labour. There is no provision in the budget for their upliftment.

Sir, life of Indian women is full of miseries, behind their veil lies lot of agonies, apathy, and tears. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what the Government intends to do for that particular group of women who have to sell their bodies in order to earn two square meals in absence of employment their mohallas and Katras are being demolished. There is no scheme for them in this Budget so that they could live life in a dignified manner.

Story of women's suppression, oppression, injustice and apathy does not end here, I would like to inform the hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament that if they want to see the real picture of India they should visit villages and towns where after sunset women have to defecate by roadside and when light from coming cars falls on them they stand up and wait till the vehicle passes away. There is no provision in this Budget for such a serious issues relating to the women.

I would like to congratulate Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav through you because when he was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh he got three lakhs toilets constructed for the modesty of women.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has poetic heart. He has been a full time worker of Sangh. Being unmarried has taken meals in various houses prepared by women. But he never paid attention that while preparing meals what type of poisonous smoke women have to inhale. Today Kerosene oil is not available in rural areas. Even if it is available it is sold in black market. Through you I demand that Minister should provide Bio-gas plant and LPG in rural areas at low rates.

In the end, I would like to say only this much to the Nationalist Government which is helpless and apathetic toward the women that:

Servhara Mahilayon Se Agar Viswasghat Kiya
To Mamta Dharti Se Uath Jayegi,
Samta Ka Nara to Sirf Nara Honga,
Sapa Ke Ranberi Baj Jayegi,
Itihas Na Aapko Maaf Karega,
Yad Rahey Millennium Aapke Harne Per Pachtayegi,
Sabar Agar Inka Tuta To
Jiwan Se Maut Kahin Bad Jayegi.

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* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

*DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only the top most priority but responsibility of a democratic Government to uplift the downtrodden and backward classes of the society and bring them forward. On the one hand the Government tries to protect legally the down trodden classes of society from exploitation and on the other hand the provision is made to give them economic aid so that they can be brought at par with other classes of society.

Under this system there is a practice of giving subsidy so that the downtrodden and backward classes could get relief. During financial year 1999-2000 budget deficit is estimated to be 5-6 and in the ensuing year 2000-2001 budget deficit is estimated to be 5.1. To bring down this deficit the Government has proposed a cut in subsidy. It is estimated that Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha's proposal regarding subsidy cut on food and fertilisers during 2000-2001 would yield a saving of rupees 7463 crores. By increasing Urea price from present 4000 rupees a ton to rupees 4600 a ton annually a saving of rupees 2500 crores is estimated. Similarly the Government want to save another rupees 1300 crores by increasing the price of other fertiliser products. Likewise there is a target of saving rupees 3663 crores in food sector. For the people living below poverty line in case of ration under PDS wheat will be sold at rupees 4.20 in place of rupees 2.50 and rice will be sold at rupees 5.89 in place of rupees 3.50 a kg. Though, these families will now be issued 20 kgs ration per month in place of 10 kgs earlier. For rest of the categories, as per FCI's economic pricing wheat will be available at rupees 8.40 a kg. and rice at rupees 11.78 a kg. But, these prices are not affordable for the consumer because transportation cost involved in carrying supplies from Central Government's godown to the customer will be added and price increased accordingly. Therefore, the actual price of wheat for consumer will be rupees 9.40 a kg. and in case of rich it will be rupees 12.78 a kg. But in the open market even the price may be more because the FCI will sell food-grains to the whole-sellers on economic cost. And this foodgrain would cross three stages before it reaches customers. In this situation, there will be a serious crisis for the lower middle class and middle class of the country.

Tata Economic Consultancy Service has conducted a study whose report is published wherein it is revealed that 36% of the ration meant for the poorest under PDS goes in black market. This was the situation when the price difference was just 2-3 rupees and one can obviously imagine the amount of ration which will go in black market in the future when the price difference will be rupees 5-7 a kg. If large portion of this ration goes in black market then these down-trodden classes will have no option but to die of hunger. Therefore, I requests the Government to withdraw this subsidy-cut proposal on fertilisers and food before any devastating situation arises.

Almost 70% population in the country earn their livelihood through agriculture. But because of continued neglect by the Central Government it is declining. At the time of independence agriculture contribution in country's GDP was 55% which has now come down to 24-25%. In other words, we may say that 70% population of our country is able to produce only 25%. Continued neglect of agriculture is reflected in budget of 2000-2001 financial year. In financial year 1999-2000 budget the Government have allocated rupees 3736 crore for agriculture whereas actual expenditure is estimated to be rupees 3017 crores. Now in financial year 2000-2001 rupees 3623 crores have been allocated for agriculture and if same practice continues, upto end of the year the actual expenditure may touch rupees 2500 crores. It is a matter of great surprise that for an industry where country's 70% population is engaged actual expenditure in the budget has been reflected as rupees 2500 crores. The Government has proposed a provision of 41800 crore rupees for agriculture loan during current year and for next year a provision of rupees 51500 crores has been proposed. It is 20% more. Today, the serious problem before the farmer is not getting loan but it's repayment. Alternative day we read news of farmers committing suicide. Even the agriculturally better of farmers of Punjab are not untouched by these suicide bids. Today the problem in the field of agriculture is regarding increasing the production rate so that the production cost is brought down and it may become remunerative to the farmers. Therefore there is a need to give boost to research and investigation in the field of agriculture. New seeds should be developed, agriculture technology should be adequately upgraded so that 10 to 40% post production loss can be avoided. The condition of agriculture research institutes is pitiable and in those institutes the administrators prevail upon the researchers. 88 institutes in the country are engaged in agro-research. There are 5054 scientist and 5050 administrators working there. Hence, I urge the Government to pay special attention towards research and investigation so that country's agro-product become cheap and fruitful and can make their presence felt in international market.

Present state of budget deficit is disturbing and for the development of country it is necessary to reduce this deficit. The Government will have to effect cut in non-development expenditure. Therefore, the Government itself will have to exercise financial control and discipline. In recent times the Government decide to downsize the Government machinery. A letter was circulated from Prime Ministers' Office to effect 10% cut in Government

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

machinery. But in this connection, the facts which have come to light are quite astonishing. In place of downsizing, the strength has increased during March 1999 to March 2000. During this period, 81000 more people have been recruited. During March, 1999 the total employees were 37 lakhs, 45 thousand and 644 whereas upto March, 2000 it has increased to 38 lakhs 26 thousand and 655. Expenditure on salaries and allowance has increased from 30 thousand 95 crores rupees to 38 thousand 68 crore rupees. Secretary level posts which were 110 as on 1st April, 1997 have increased to 150. The post of Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Directors and Asstt. Directors too have increased from 1371 to 1656. In fact, this increase in administrative set-up is not only economically harmful to the nation but also it brings laxity in administrative functioning. Similarly, there are many non-development areas where cut in expenditure is necessary and budget deficit can be controlled by this cut in expenditure.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that you gave me opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2000-2001. I wish to start from the point, where you concluded your speech. The talisman of Gandhiji about which you have talked, is not only a talisman, but is such a commitment for each Member of Parliament and all the political parties, which can't be ignored.

After fifty years of independence, efforts have been made to bring about changes in social and economic environment through the budget. Now we have reached at a stage where the talisman of Gandhiji has become essential. Such circumstances have arisen in the country in which the Government wants to work under pressure from the national and international forces and the WTO. It seems that we are deviating from our goals. The members who spoke prior to me have said that the Government is more or less deviating from its true path and objectives and is moving in the direction where poor section of the country will have to face a lot of problems. It is true that we are moving away from our basic objectives. As I had said during an earlier debate that we have totally failed in achieving the goals assigned to us after independence, the goals we had fixed in this very House and the goals which were specified under our Constitution. In the course of achievement of these goals. Our delivery system, has so damaged it that we have not been able to reach anywhere. We know it and admit it. It has also been accepted by the earlier Governments. We use just 10 per cent for our real objectives and the remaining 90% is consumed in the establishment. We are not being able to use resources meaningfully.

In the present circumstances, it is apparent that the form of budget is changing under pressure. The manner in which the consumable items for the poor have been made expensive and the manner in which the consumables of the rich have been supported and their prices have been reduced makes it clear that the budget has been prepared under great pressure. The pressure is of those circumstances which are being created around us. Some of the members who spoke earlier raised certain questions and stated that 33% of our population lives below the poverty line what situation they are facing?

It was reported in the issue of the newspaper 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 11 March, that the tendency of committing suicide is rising due to poverty. The lower sections are getting frustrated due to the scarcity conditions arising out of Government's apathy.

Poverty is getting out of control. Newspapers are indicating that many persons are resorting to suicide as a solution to their difficult circumstances. It is a matter of concern. We repeatedly have to consider that the teachings of Gandhiji are relevant for the country even today. In the present circumstances his teachings have become more relevant 80% population of India is engaged in agriculture. They are dependent on agriculture. You have showed no mercy in the case of the agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers etc. The subsidy, which was already being provided has been curtailed. On the other hand, markets are being pressurised. As has been repeatedly mentioned here, the products of the farmer, are not getting suitable markets. Rice, sugar, wheat and oilseeds are being imported. It is creating double pressure. The farming community is crying out. I had hoped that the budget would provide relief to the farmers of India. But you cannot benefit the countrymen because of the pressures which is being felt by everyone. Believe me, the road to self reliance for India is through the poor and agriculture. India has huge human resources. As Americans, too, say that India is a sleeping giant. The day it wakes up, it would become a challenge. Entire system is in the hands of the Government officials and the staff. Policies are being made at their instance. The country cant't make progress because of it. The pressure of WTO is upon you. That is why, it is repeatedly said that all the restrictions are to be removed at the earliest. If we strongly protect our development potentials, only then we would be able to free ourselves from the international pressure, and become self reliant.

We feel that production systems are becoming global and large global monopolies are going to be established. In such circumstances, I had hoped that you would take some measures for the unorganised, helpless consumers so as to help them meet the challenges in the future.

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

'You might recall that in this very House. I had said during a debate on the conditions of women, that women are an essential part of a society.

22.00 hrs.

Actually, they are an important member of a family. You have given some concession to the service classes in your budget. Year 2001 is being celebrated as the international year of women. I hope that special concessision will be given to the housewives because they are financially insecure. I also hope that Income tax laws will be amended so that they could be given special allowances. It will make the women feel that they too are a part of the economy. Thus they could give their full contribution to the nation building.

You have made inadequate provisions regarding the employment opportunities for the youth. No nation can move forward without the youth. No nation can move forward without the help of the youth power. I request you to find the ways to help the youth.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there should be a resolution here that all these deliberations should be over by midnight. You have to give a direction in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, employment opportunities are required to be created for the rural youth. I thank you for having given me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me on opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget on behalf of D.M.K. Party. It is a unique Budget being the first Budget of the new millennium. Defence allocation has already been increased in the post-Kargil scenario for modernisation of the Armed Forces, air power and electronic warfare. The nation pays homage to the Kargil martyrs.

While appreciating the efforts and the exercise put in by the hon. Minister of Finance to put the Indian economy on the rails, I am forced to bring to his notice certain burning problems which are adversely affecting the poor and the downtrodden especially the farming community.

On the agriculture front, the hon. Minister of Finance has reduced the subsidy on Urea, DAP and fertilisers which would badly hit the farmers and their production. The hon. Minister himself has admitted that the agriculture production has come down. Now, with the increase in the input of agricultural operations, not only the production will further come down but the farmers will have to bear the additional burden. In fact, they are not getting the remunerative prices for the agricultural produce and over and above taxing them with the increase in fertiliser price will cripple the farming community. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to reconsider his decision. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is a very good request. The hon. Minister is sitting next to you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Minister, it is a very good request. You have to consider it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance should have given some consideration to the people living below the poverty line. The hon. Minister himself, in his speech, has referred to 'sustained growth with social justice'. The Budget proposes to hike the prices of foodgrains being distributed through the PDS from Rs. 3.50 per kilogram of rice to Rs. 5.89 per kilogram. Of course, simultaneously there is a proposal to increase the distribution from 10 kilograms to 20 kilograms. I would like to make one submission here. When the people living below the poverty line do not have the purchasing capacity to buy even at the rate of Rs. 3.50 what is the use of increasing the allocation?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Very good.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, many State Governments have represented on this issue to you. Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar has already written to the hon. Prime Minister urging upon the Government to continue to allocate foodgrains at the old prices.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Thank you Dr. Kalaignar.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, our leader, who always thinks about the welfare of the poor, has announced that the State Government of Tamil Nadu will continue to sell it at the old rates. *...(Interruptions)*

In the process, the State has incurred heavy expenditure which it cannot afford, given the constraint of resources. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider his decision in this regard also. *...(Interruptions)*

Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister has levied additional excise duty of 8 per cent on bagasse based paper products in the name of rationalisation of duty structure. It would increase the excise duty to be paid by TNPL and other bagasse based paper mills by Rs. 2,000 per tonne. This industry is an eco-friendly project consuming non-conventional raw materials, thereby saving trees. When the industry is demanding reduction of excise duty of 8 per cent on the bagasse based paper products, the hon. Finance Minister, instead of reducing the duty, has doubled the duty. This would give a severe blow to the bagasse based paper mills which have to compete with the paper mills which run on conventional raw materials. In this connection, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar has already written a letter to the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to reduce the excise duty to 4 per cent, as desired by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be better if you lay rest of your speech on the Table of the House. It would be considered as read. There is no convention of reading the speech.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the first time, DMK has said something correct. Let us listen to that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Shankar ji, please sit down. Everybody listened to your speech. Now it is your turn to listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, he is the first speaker from the party. Please allow him to speak for 15 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, he is saying very good things. These are very valid points. Please allow him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Mr. Chairman, please permit me to lay remaining portion of my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you very much.

*SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: The hon. Finance Minister has come out with a scheme for Technology Upgradation in the textile sector with an allocation of about Rs. 25,000 crores. As the hon. Finance Minister is aware, next to agriculture, textile provides the largest employment sector as it has many layers like cottage industry, small scale industy, medium industry, powerloom industry and synthetic mills. But at the same time, there are many mills which are on the verge of closure and some have already been referred to BIFR. The Government should come forward immediately with a package scheme to rescue and save most of the textile mills from closure, as the revival will take place only when the industry survives. Already thousands of workers in the textile industry are thrown out of employment and are facing distress situation. The so-called VRS scheme has not come to their rescue.

Sir, the Government in its wisdom has decided to restructure the Steel Authority of India by privatising non-core activities not related to steel making, like power plants at Durgapur, Rourkela, Bokaro etc. What is shocking is that the disinvestment plan is proposed to be extended to Salem and Bhadravati steel plants. Salem Steel Plant is famous for its quality staineless steel and is a large exporting unit and has a lot of marketing potential also. The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar fought with the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and the Planning Commission and got the plant sanctioned and was inaugurated by Madam Indira Gandhi. It was a prestigious plant as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned.

There is no justification or valid reason for disinvesting Salem Steel Plant. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also talked to the Prime Minister recently and requested for not to go ahead with the disinvestment plan of SSP. A delegation of DMK Members of Parliament met the Prime Minister and presented a memorandum in this connection.

In the circumstances, I urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Steel to reconsider their decision to restructure the Salem Steel Plant, not to go ahead with the disinvestment plan at Salem and allowing the SSP to continue to function as a public sector unit.

The hon. Minister has in his speech mentioned, corporatisation of public sector providers in the areas of telecom, ports and airports. There is a long pending proposal for the corporatisation of Chennai Telecom to

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*Also laid on the Table written portion of his speech.

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

be taken over by MTNL. The proposal has already been approved but due to some formalities, it is not put through. When Delhi and Mumbai are being managed efficiently by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., I do not know why Chennai Telephones have not been given to them? This should be looked into.

In the Non-Banking Finance Company sector, the Government proposes to bring in legislation to plug in some loopholes. Lakhs of innocent small investors have been duped by many of these fraudulent companies. Action should be taken to recover the amount from such companies which have indulged in mala fide and fraudulent actions. Licences should be given only to financially sound and well run NBFCs.

He has announced a major package fund for renovation and modernisation of power plants. Fund should be provided to SEBs for undertaking investments on renovation and modernisation of old and inefficient plants and strengthening the distribution system. Loan/ assistance from the World Bank should be made available to assist State Electricity Boards in this direction.

The Budget has focussed on the housing sector with an outlay of Rs. 1710 crore for rural housing, to construct 25 lakh houses in rural areas. The proposal to consider investments in companies involved in the finance of urban infrastructure like water, power supply, roads and sewerage, on the lines of charitable trusts, is a welcome one.

The funds allocated for Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project, which would bring in revolution in the East and West Coast routes are meagre. The work is going on at snail's pace and at this rate, it may not see the end of the tunnel even after a decade. Hence I request that sufficient funds may be provided in the current Budget itself to expedite the project on a time-bound manner.

The hon. Finance Minister has provided Rs. 5000 crore for basic primary education, health care, drinking water and connecting rural roads, which are welcome.

At para 15 of his speech, the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about integrating 28 ongoing separate Centrally sponsored schemes into one comprehensive programme. The details are yet to be worked out. I would urge upon the Minister, as he mentioned in the speech, to ensure greater flexibility to State Government to achieve the goal of convergence and decentralisation.

To meet the critical needs of the rural people, a new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana is being launched, with an allocation of Rs. 5,000 crore. I would request the hon. Minister to spell out the details of the scheme since the Basic Minimum Services Scheme is being merged with this new scheme.

In Tamil Nadu, our dynamic Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar has brought forward some innovative schemes for the benefit of poor people like "Free Eye Camp", "Free Medical and Health Checkup Camp". These schemes can be replicated by the Centre for implementation in various States. Similarly, such schemes should be provided with Central Assistance from the Plan allocations.

The Government, just before the Budget Session of Parliament has announced reduction of interest rate on PPF from 12% to 11%. Now, in the Budget, they have announced reduction of interest rate on GPF from 12% to 11%. Similarly, interest rates on National Savings Certificate and PPF were also reduced earlier. Small savings scheme is one of the areas where the States get resources for their development programmes, to meet their deficit financing. Unfortunately, the Centre has continuously reduced the interest rate on small savings, which would, in turn, affect the collection of small savings in various States. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to provide some incentives to investors in the small savings, to make the scheme attractive.

The Task force set up for working out specific programmes for empowering women and to observe year 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year, is a welcome step.

With these words and with the hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would reconsider the issue of reducing the subsidy on urea and other fertilizers and on rationed commodities meant for the poor, and bring relief to the farming community and the poor people, on behalf of DMK Party, I support this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister is present here. Discussion is being held in House on General Budget. He should have stated in the House whether the increased PDS prices are to rolled back or not. But I have just seen hon'ble Minister on the television stating in a meeting with the ASSOCHAM that the increase in PDS prices will not be rolled back.

[English]

It is very unfortunate. When this House is in Session to discuss the very issue today, without replying in the

House, he is replying at the platform of the ASSOCHAM. This is not fair. This is highly improper. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister will speak.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I must refute this charge with all the emphasis at my command. I have said nothing in the ASSOCHAM meeting which was fixed weeks before, not knowing that the Budget will be discussed in Parliament today. I have said nothing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is on his legs. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shri Dasmunsi, I have listened to you. Please have the courtesy.

I have said nothing which erodes the dignity of the House. I am very conscious of my parliamentary responsibilities and of the privileges of this House. I have said nothing. The whole cassette will be available. I am not aware what the TV channels are showing, but I have said absolutely nothing which will detract from the dignity of the House. Let me assure you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman Sir, with all the responsibility at my command, I refute this. The List of Business of Lok Sabha has been showing for the last one week the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the Vote on Account of the General Budget and the Railway Budget. The issue is not whether these things will be taken up today or tomorrow; the issue is...

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): He is saying it with responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am on my legs, you ought to sit down. You are an old Member, I have no doubt that you are aware of the conventions of the House. But I request that since hon'ble Finance Minister has clarified the position, it is not proper to raise questions on the issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Position has not been clarified. You have given your ruling and I respect that but I wish to put it on record. The discussion on Vote on Account and Supplementary Demands was being included in the List of Business of the Houses for last one week. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking with the permission of the Chair. Please don't conduct the House, be seated. I am here to conduct the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister has given a statement in the House and it has its own importance. He has said clearly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need to have unnecessary debate over the issue. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to request that I may kindly be allowed to complete my point uninterruptedly. As the hon'ble Finance Minister has been saying about the first General Budget of Millennium that it will be a harsh budget, indeed it is a harsh budget. But these harsh decisions have not been taken to remove the basic problems like price rise, poverty and unemployment which are before the people of the country. This cannot be appreciated because virtually no provision has been made in this budget to do away the three burning problems *i.e.* price rise, poverty and unemployment present before the people.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, the financial assistance to be provided to the States has been increased whereas provisions should have been made to provide more financial assistance to the States for implementation of the employment oriented schemes of the States. Sir, so far as security of the country is concerned an increase of Rs. 15 thousand crores has been made in the Defence Budget which is a right step. Allocations have been increased in the field of energy and this is also a right step. Today every State of the country facing power crisis. But the main issues which are present before the country are related to eradication of problem of 80 percent population of the country because our 80 percent population is dependent on agriculture. Several major schemes related to agriculture sector are lying pending which can be helpful in overcoming the problems being experienced in this sector. For example Thermal Power Plants, Dams Refineries, Canals Pesticides and Fertilizers are also related to agriculture sector and these are absolutely necessary. But adequate funds have not been provided for these in the budget. The economy of our country is based on agriculture and farmers need electricity, water, fertilizers and pesticides for agriculture. But the five year plans in our country turn into fifty years plans due to paucity of funds and remain pending for long and as a result their cost also increases many fold. But I would like to say unless agriculture is promoted

[Smt. Kaiksho Devi]

and the problems of the farmers are resolved our country cannot move on the path of progress. Therefore, more and more funds will have to be earmarked for agriculture in the budget and provision of adequate funds for agriculture will have to be made because today farmers and labourers are passing through acute economic hardship and we will have to take some steps in order to provide them relief. It may be possible that we should be ready to face some economic crisis or higher rate of inflation to complete the dams, major agriculture projects which are lying pending for years together. These include, Sardar Sarovar Project, Ranjit Sagar Dam, S.Y.L. link canal, Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant and Tehri Dam Project.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, in order to complete these pending projects early we will have to free these from the red tapism. I do not know as to why these major projects are pending even today after fifty two years of independence.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, in this budget, relief has been provided to some sections. Foodgrain quota of the people below the poverty line has been doubled, additional relaxation of rupees five thousand to the woman assessee. ten percent surcharge on income tax, more provision of funds for power sector has been made. Though this budget does not fulfil the expectations of every section of the society but it is aceptable in the present circumstances. But prices of fertilizers and urea have been increased and subsidy on these has been reduced which will have its own impact and no decision has been taken in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, with heavy heart I support this Budget.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I put certain questions to the hon. Finance Minister, through you, and seek certain clarifications, I would like to associate myself with my senior colleagues here, Sarvashri Madhavrao Scindia and Mani Shankar Aiyar and also with the various other partners in profit of this Government who have also criticised the Budget delivered by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, this is the first Indian Budget that has not only been opposed by the Opposition Parties but has also been opposed by those who are in the Government. This Budget is neither a bold nor a soft Budget. No doubt, it is soft on softwares but it is very harsh as far as the people living below the poverty line are concerned.

Sir, in fact, Indian Budget is one of the historical events in the lives of the people of our country, which is one of the biggest democracies in the world. I have been informed, if I am not wrong, that the present Finance Minister has presented three Budgets so far. But the only revolutionary change that he has introduced is in the timing of presentation of the Budget to the Parliament. In the good old days it used to be presented at 5 p.m. This time they have changed the timing of presentation of the Budget from 5 p.m. to 2 p.m. according to the convenience of the Ruling Party.

Sir, I would not like to go into the details of all these things. It is because many speakers have said many things. But I would like to put certain questions to the hon. Finance Minister. What is the plan of action of the Government for unearthing black money? The nation must be informed about this. What is the quantum of black money as on 31 March, 1999? Let everyone know about it. What are the plans of the Finance Minister for unearthing black money?

Sir, I am a humble person and is a first-timer in the Parliament. I belong to a financially weak family and thus I had to work in the Government. I started my career as a Lower Division Clerk in the Revenue Department and I rose to the post of Deputy-Commissioner of Income Tax. I have worked in both Income Tax as well as in the Excise Department. So, I have first-hand information about these things. I respect the hon. Finance Minister because he was also a bureaucrat in the North Block and very many political comments were made when he made his Budget speech,

Sir, I have a list of Indian Prime Ministers who have headed various Governments at various times. According to my information - I may be corrected if I am making any mistakes - this country has seen twelve Prime Ministers from 15th August 1947 till date. They are, the late Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Indira Gandhi, the late Lal Bahadur Shashtri, the late Rajiv Gandhi, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, then the late Morarji Desai, Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh, Chowdhary Charan Singh, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Shri I.K. Gujral and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee...*(Interruptions)* and in between the late Gulzari Lal Nanda took over as the interim Prime Minister.

There were only five Congress Prime Ministers.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: You have forgotten the name of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Shastri ji was a Congressman. He was not associated with you...*(Interruptions)*

SHR PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am mentioning the names of all. These are twelve names. It there has been 13th name, please mentioned it.

[English]

Out of these 12 Prime Ministers, five belonged to Congress Party and seven belonged to non-Congress Parties. If these non-Congress Prime Ministers were not able to rule the country for five years, Congress cannot be blamed for that. According to my information, at least one Government fell—that was the Morarji Desai's Government - on the issue of RSS; and Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Government could not function because of the trouble created by *kamandalwalahs* on Mandal. So, people should not blame the Congress for all ills. There is no party in this country which has not ruled in this House. Parties of all colours have ruled, and who are ruling in the States? So, we all are responsible. Let us not go into the political details.

I have specific questions for hon. Finance Minister. The first question is, 'What is the plan of action for unearthing black money?' The second question is, 'What action does the Ministry of Finance propose to deal with various serious situations created by the fake notes of Rs. 500?' There is no mention whatsoever in the Budget on this. It is published in today's newspapers that a poor booking clerk had sought voluntary retirement because half of his salary was deducted by his employer on account of fake notes of Rs. 500. A clerk working in the bank; a clerk working in the post office; and a clerk working in the railway booking office are answerable for fake notes which are introduced. You know by whom. The Government has not uttered a word about the Rs. 500 note which has got the photo of father of the nation and the famous photo of the statue of eleven people. It is an insult to the nation that we are not taking any preventive steps for stopping this.

My third question is, 'What are the plans and projects to provide employment to the educated and uneducated youth of the country?' In view of the policy which we have adopted all these years - whether it is because of globalisation, or privatisation, or mechanisation, or computerisation - the number of white collar jobs is coming down. It is coming down for everybody whether it is a man belonging to a higher caste or lower caste. When there is no job for a man belonging to a higher caste, what will happen to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? On the one side the number of jobs has come down and on the other, the Supreme Court has given a nasty judgement followed by the five notorious DoP circulars from this Government. As a result of this, there is a total blockade as far as poor people in this country. I, therefore, want to know from the Government as to what is its action plan on employment. It is not necessary that educated men should be put in Government offices. Ours is a vast country. There are a lot of welfare activities in the Government sector. You must think as to how our educated youth can be given one year to three years of training and are posted in particular jobs so that they are gainfully employed.

My next question is, 'What special measures the Government is going to take for the welfare of the weaker sections of the Society; in particular the Scheduled Castes who are now 20 per cent in this country; in particular the Scheduled Tribes who are now 8 per cent in the country; in particular the women who are 50 per cent in the country; in particular the working class which is one-third of this country; in particular workers in the closed textile mills all over the country whether they are the jute mills, textile mills in Bombay or Gujarat or in any part of the country?' I want to know from the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): It is Mumbai, not Bombay.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I will call it Bombay. You call it Mumbai. You have only changed the name and not the city.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Once the name is officially changed to Mumbai, it is wrong to call it Bombay.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You may call it Mumbai. I will call it Bombay. You cannot stop me. You have simply changed the name. Let me tell you, I am against that change of name.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashtrapalji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): How can he call it Bombay? is insulting. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: They have changed the name of cities. Our Ahmadabad has been named as Karnavarta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within three minutes.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, how it is possible to wind up within three minutes. I have to say something about income tax.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fixed time has been allotted to your party. If your chief whip permit it you may take the whole time allotted to your party. I have no objection to it.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I will not go into various details. I have made a comparative study of the Budgets of the 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and I have selected a few sectors which are directly concerned for the development of the weaker sections of the society. They are Jawahar Rozgar, Indira Awas Yojana, Million Well Scheme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, National Social Assistance Scheme on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee, District Primary Education Programme, Malaria Eradication, Tuberculosis Control Programme, and Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya.

I want to inform the hon. Members of the august House that we should always be very careful as far as the Budget figures are concerned. Every Finance Minister, I should say, gives one figure in the Budget estimates and puts a lesser figure in the Revised estimates. So, you please verify the Revised Budget figures. I will give you an astonishing figure of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya where the Budget estimate was Rs. 250 crore while the Revised estimates was only Rs. 1 crore. The Finance Minister must answer to this House as to why an amount of Rs. 249 crore was reduced in the Revised estimates.

Similarly, I have got a list of many other examples but due to paucity of time, I do not want to go into the details. If I am permitted, I will give this list to the hon. Finance Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

The Post Matric Scholarship, Special Central Assistance, Special Component Part meant for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, Integrated Wasteland Development Project, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment, Bio Gas Plant, Improved Chulahs, Solar Energy, Bio Mass Programme, Integrated Rural Energy, Other Sources of Energry, Energy by Energic Gas, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency are the items which are meant for the rural areas, rural people.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, other Members are waiting for their turn.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, please allow me for some more time.

Now, I will tell you that the difference in between the Budget estimates and the Revised estimates during the year 1997-98 was Rs. 1,580 crore. Then next year, during 1998-99, there was a reduction of Rs. 1,248 crore in the Revised estimates in regard to social sector.

In regard to the Income Tax and the downsizing of the Central Government, the hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government wanted to appoint a Committee. I have got a first hand information from his own Ministry. The Income Tax Department, all the recognised federations, the Income Tax Employees Federation, the Income Tax Gazetted Officer's Federation, and the IRS Association under the leadership of the Chairmen, Central Board of Direct Taxes and Central Excise and Customs have prepared a restructuring plan of downsizing the Government. The Revenue Secretary slept over the file for one year. Now, he has transferred it to the Health Department. The file is rotting in the North Block. Sir, when they want to downsize the department, when the Federations themselves have suggested to downsize the department, why do they not do it? They should implement it soon Even the suggestion was given by the Fifth Pay Commission also. What has happened to that suggestion? They have never implemented it...*(Interruptions)* ...What was the recruitment in the Central Government last year?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech now.

[Translation]

How it can be allowed?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four of your members are waiting.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I am concluding. If the Government need money...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on the budget. I would also like to thank the hon'ble Finance Minister who has tried to fulfil the dream of our Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri by giving practical shape to the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. We have been elected to this House from the villages so we are well aware the difficulties and agony of the farmers. The farmer put hard labour and he has to face natural calamities like frost, drought and flood and at the end what does he get. Somtimes prices of fertilizers, diesel are increased. Farmers do not get remunerative price of their produce. The earlier Governments gave nothing to the farmers except luring slogans. They have deceived them. It is for the first time that the Government of Shri Vajpayeeji has increased the support price of produce of the farmers by Rs. 50 per quintal. The Government have decided to reward the farmers by issuing credit cards to them. Earlier the farmers used to sell their produce in the market at very low price so that they could get money to buy fertilizers and diesel. But now credit cards will be issued to the farmers. If a farmer have landholding of nine acre then the credit card worth rupees one lakh will be issued to him. Similarly a farmer having a landholding of three acre will be issued credit card worth rupees 25 thousand. This will enable the farmers to draw money from the banks to buy fertilizers and diesel as per their requirement. Comprehensive crop insurance scheme has been implemented. Earlier in case of damage to crops due to frost and flood, compensation at the rate of five thousand per acre was paid to the farmers which was hardly enough to meet the cost of fertilizers but now if the farmer gets his crop insured he will have to pay the premium of Rs. 2500 for an insured amount of rupees one lakh. If unfortunately natural calamities like flood, hail storm damage the entire crop this Government will make the payment of rupees one lakh as insurance amount to the farmer.

My friend Shri Aiyarji was saying that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is responsible for Kargil conflict. I would like to ask Shri Aiyar when slogan of Hindu-Muslim unity was being chanted in the country at that time who had contributed in bifurcation of the country. Obviously this was done by the Congress. Similarly when the slogan of Sino-India unity was raised who have contributed in disintegrating Tibat from India. This also has been done by Congress. Pakistan has grabbed 1/5 territory of Kashmir, whether Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of the country at that time. I would say that Sonia Gandhi and the Congressmen have sold the country. They have disintegrated our motherland for sake of power. They have divided the society to create their own vote bank. Now Congressmen are holding Shri Vajpayee responsible for the Kargil conflict. In this regard I would like to say one thing that we would have lost the Kargil war had Shri Vajpayee not been the Prime Minister of the country. You may remember the Shimla Agreement and the Taskant Agreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Hon'ble Member who has allowed you to speak? Shri Bhuriaj you are a senior Member. Please sit down.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL: It is for the first time that the Government of Shri Vajpayee have honoured the families of the martyres. Earlier no Government did this. This Government have done arrangements to dispatch the dead bodies of the soldiers to their families. This Government have sanctioned Rs. 10 lakhs to the widow of a martyre. Besides a monthly pension of Rs. 5000 has also been granted to the widow of the martyres for sustenance. You might have read about Shimla agreement and Taskant Agreement and perhaps you would have realised that our brave soldier fought bravely and seized some area of enemy territory but our then Prime Ministers returned the seized land on the negotiation table itself. Thus they lost this land on the negotiation table by signing these agreements. Now you are alleging that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is responsible for the Kargil war. I would like to thank our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and our hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha for giving practical shape to the dream of our late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastry. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister that he should do everything possible for betterment of the farmers.

The Government should emphasise to impart vocational education to the youths of the country so that the unemployed youth who are on roads today could start their own industries in villages to earn their livelihood

[English]

*SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to support the Budget placed by the hon. Finance Minister under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Under our able Finance Minister, the economy has become vibrant and the atmosphere investment-friendly.

The liberalisation policy has started about ten years back. People have started talking about the level-playing field because the Congress Government wanted to have a total sell out of the NPAs in the country in foreign participation which was strongly opposed by the entire

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Opposition. The country's economy had virtually sunk to a depth from where recovery was a far cry.

Scams after scams took place, corruption in higher places was seen and the people of this great country changed the Government. The people then have voted the BJP and its allies not once, but thrice to power, though once only for thirteen days, then for thirteen months and now the wish of the people is that it is going to be for thirteen years. Buoyancy in the economy is being felt. Today with India becoming a nuclear power, it is forging ahead in many sectors.

I come from Orissa, one of the poorest States of the country. Though it has the richest mineral deposits of the country, the living standards of the people are by far the lowest. A land of natural calamities, the State has always been suffering when it is on the verge of taking off.

The KBK area where my constituency falls is the drought prone district of Kalahandi and I thank the Finance Minister as well as the Prime Minister to have sanctioned the LTAP to mitigate poverty and starvation of the area. Things have started to improve; gut still a lot has to be done. Irrigation projects like Indra, Extension of Upper Indravati Project, Sandul and Ret projects are a few projects which can change the poverty scenario of the KBK and Kalahandi.

The Kalahandi syndrome can only be wiped out by our Government because the previous Congress Government gave only a lip service. Orissa, the rich poor State should be given the status of a Special Category State. Coal, a vital source of income for the State is not properly utilised. The ports of Gopalpur and Paradeep should be upgraded. The forest wealth of Orissa is slowly being depleted. The coastal Orissa is being poached of its prawn and marine wealth by outsiders. So, I request that the Coast Guard System should be strengthened in the Orissa coast. Smuggling is one of the activities which has become prevalent on the ports of Orissa coast. This should be stoped. Infrastructural facilities like roads are very poor. Adequate funds should be given to develop the highway road from Borgarh to Boriguma.

With these few words, I support the Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I lay my speech on the Table of the House. The General Budget for 2000-2001 is the first general budget of the new millennium and the hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinhaji has presented a historic budget in difficult economic circumstances. The main objective of this budget has been employment, poverty alleviation and rural development and in view of these things more funds have been earmarked under these heads in this budget.

This year plan expenditure has been enhanced to 88100 crores from 77,000 crores which is 11,100 crores more as compared to last year. For agriculture sector a provision of Rs. 51,500 has been made which is Rs. 1700 crores more than the last years Rs. 41,800 crores *i.e.* 20 percent more as compared to last year. In order to provide loan facility to the farmers the number of credit cards to be issued this year has been increased to 75 lakhs from 50 lakhs and provision has already been made for this. Steps have also been taken to increase the literacy rate upto 75 percent by the year 2005 and in the current budget funds under this head have been increased to Rs. 3729 crores from Rs. 2939 crores. The hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a new scheme *i.e.* Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana' so that pace of the rural development could be increased. Rs. 5000 crores have been earmarked for this scheme out of which Rs. 2,500 crores will be incurred on construction of roads in rural areas so that most of the villages could be linked with main roads and district headquarters.

In addition to this a provision has been made to construct 25 lakhs new houses in rural areas under the 'Housing for all' scheme. 12 lakhs houses will be constructed on a cost of Rs. 1509 crores. One lakh houses will be constructed for such rural families whose annual income is less than Rs. 32,000 and loan and grant will be provided for purchase of such houses for which a provision of Rs. 92 crores has been made. Under this scheme loan will also be provided by the National Housing Bank and HUDCO for construction of houses.

Provision of social security has also been made for the rural people and new insurance scheme namely 'Janashri Beema Yojana' is being launched. Under this scheme provision of payment of Rs. 20,000 in case of natural death, Rs. 50,000 in case of death due to accident and Rs. 25,000/- in case of complete or partial disability has been made. In addition to this the Finance Minister has also informed that the Prime Minister has announced the National Highway Development Scheme for the Development of roads which will cost a total amount of Rs. 54,000 crores. These all schemes will contribute in rural development, increasing employment opportunities, poverty alleviation and improving the condition of roads.

I thank the Finance Minister for the steps he has taken to give relaxation in income tax.

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

In the current budget for the year 2000-2001 under the section 88-B of the Income Tax Act relaxation in income tax upto Rs. 10,000 has been increased upto Rs. 15000 now to the senior citizens and now no tax will levied on the income upto Rs. 1,30,000.

Additional relaxation of Rs. 5000 has been given to the women due to which the women will not have to pay income tax for income upto Rs. 80,000.

On repayment of the housing loan, now relaxation of Rs. 20,000 will be given in place of earlier relaxation of Rs. 10,000.

I would like to suggest few amendments in the provisions of Income Tax Act:

In the previous years buget a provision of standard deduction of Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 thousands was made for the salaried class. This relaxation should also be given to the employees whose annual salary is between one lakh and five lakhs.

Under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act a tax rebate of Rs. 12,000 is given on contribution upto Rs. 60,000 in P.P.F., N.S.I., L.I.C. This limit should be increased to rupees one lakh.

Under Section 206-C of Income Tax Act, there is a provision that income tax would be deducted at the source of the actual cost of the procurement at the rate of 10 per cent in case of bidi leaves and 5 percent for wood. This deduction is not fair. In the budget of the previous year a provision has been made under this rule that Income Tax officer can, if he desires issue a certificate to the effect of making deductions at a low rate than the normal prescribed rates. Different Income Tax Officers are issuing the certificates mentioning different rates of tax deduction which has given rise to a number of anomalies. The income tax which is being assessed and imposed in regard to the business of bidi leaves and wood is not more than 1 per cent of the cost price. Hence an amendment to this effect should be made that the income tax should be deducted at source at a rate of 1 to 2 per cent.

Under the present Income Tax Act, an Income Tax payee is paid the refund alongwith an interest of 12 per cent thereupon while in case of delay in payment or paying less income tax by the income tax payee, he has to pay the amount with an interest rate of 24 per cent. The interest amount paid by an income-tax payee is not included for providing tax relief, but the interest which he gets from the income tax office is included in his income and income tax is levied on it. Hence an amendment should be made to the effect that uniform rate of interest should be introduced and no tax should be imposed on the interest received by the income tax payee.

Under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, there is a provision that the money deposited by an Income Tax payee in National Saving Certificate Scheme, P.P.F. or life insurance should pertain to "Out of Income chargable to tax" of the same year. Infact a lot of problem arise due to this rule and a lot of appeal cases remain pending in Income Tax Appelate Tribunals. An amendment should be made in the rule that the rebate will be given on the total amount deposited and there should be a provision that the amount deposited by a tax payee should not exceed the amount of income permissible for rebate under the Section 88 of Income Tax Act.

Besides, the Government should take care of this thing that work cannot be done merely by allotting funds for States. The funds allotted to State Government under various heads should be properly monitored by the Union Government and and if it is revealed that the funds are not being properly utilised by the State Governments and its officers then action should be taken against them. In this regard I would like to draw your attention towards this thing also that for the year 1999-2000, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 120 crore was made for the improvement, maintenance and further construction of the National Highway but as per knowledge only 60 crore rupees have been spent till January and it is estimated that further 20 crore rupees may be spent till March and thus an amount of Rs. 40 crore is expected to lapse. The maximum length of National Highways is in Madhya Pradesh. The roads are in a dilapidated condition and the funds recovered by the State Government from the Centre are not fully utilised. Hence the work of repair, maintenance and construction of roads should be undertaken in the supervision of Chief Engineer appointed by the Ministry of Surface Transport of the Union Government.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose the budget introduced by the hon. Minister of Finance here. This budget is anti-poor and pro-rich. The budget will make the poor poorer, increase the corruption and black money, lead to the increase in prices of foodgrains and Urea, bring injustice to the unemployed and women, further starve the starving people and ignite a flame of economic inequality and imbalance.

I am going tc congratulate Mr. Yashwant Sinha but at the same time I will also lambast this budget. Yashwant Sinhaji, you are responsible for the price-rise. Hence we are going to attack your Government. We should go through and analyse this budget. Our battle for the welfare

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

of the poor has begun. Yashwant Sinhaji, now you are no more a Swadeshi but have become a foreigner. Now instead of becoming the messiah of poor, you have become messiah of rich people. Now you are not the Finance Minister but a useless Minister of the country. The Prime Minister Atal Bihari had very cleverly given you this portfolio but the budget is proving to be a disaster. He has gone from here, you also will have to go one day. While presenting this budget you and several others have tried to quote Mahatma Gandhi which is a good thing. When the Members of your party refer to Mahatma Gandhi, they certainly do a good thing. This budget is not going to help realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. This budget is not going to help realise the dreams of Manuji and your Gowalkar either.

The budget is presented every year and the Minister of Finance talks about the increase made in the total budget outlay. The total budget outlay is increasing but the increasing circulation of black money will one day result in the collapse of our economy. Yashwant Sinhaji has been an active politician and has also served as an officer. He has been in the opposition as well as in the ruling party. He has an experience to deal with the problem of black money but he has not made any mention of it in his budget. If poverty is to be alleviated from the country then merely raising slogans will not do.

No serious efforts have so far been made to overcome poverty. Today the people are hungry in the rural areas, injustice is being done to the Dalits and an attempt is being made to divide the society in the name of caste and religion. Mr. Finance Minister, you will have to make efforts to improve this situation. I am confident that you are a hardworking Minister and pro-poor. The Minister of Finance has tried to reduce the deficit and bring in more and more money. This money won't last long, it will be spent. The founding father of Constitution, Baba Saheb Ambedkar had dwelt upon the ways to make the economy sound but we have not been able to do so during the last fifty years. I think that he should find out the reasons for this failure and all the people should think over it. It is not important as to who was in power for fifty years, you too were in power four and half years back. The Government should make maximum efforts to alleviate poverty. We want a reply from the hon. Finance Minister as well as Prime Minister in this regard. You accuse that Congress did not do anything but we will see as to what you are going to do. We have seen you working for 1 year, 11 months and 5 months also. How many long your Government is going to last is not known to us but D.M.K., T.D.P. know it. We are not aware of the view points of the inner circles of Shiv Sena. You should remain in power for five years. We do not want frequent elections and the expenditure involved in conducting the elections. In the past, elections were taking place every year but elections should take place once in five years only. There is a need for single party majority in Lok Sabha if it is to stay in power for five years. You have 24 parties as your allies, hence you cannot remain in power for long. There should be one party rule. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had tried to introduce two party system under the Constitution of India. Two party system should be adopted in the country. If the democracy is to be made successful if you want to run the Government for five years, then all the constituents of N.D.A. Government should unite. Unless the ruling N.D.A. unites, opposition also cannot think in terms of uniting. The opposition comprises Congress, Samajwadi Government, RPI and R.J.D. Party. Hence there is a need to think in terms of introducing two party system...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the Government have made available two crores rupees for constructing a memorial in the name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar but the hon. Minister should announce the grant of hundred crore rupees today itself for the construction of the said building. Pandharpur is a very big pilgrim centre, hence hundred crore rupees should also be given for that too.

If it is an issue of granting or giving something then it is all right. Hence you have to think over it. We will co-operate with your Government provided the Government and the Ministry continue to work properly to resolve our problems. Though we belong to opposition parties but to co-operate with the Government is our duty. I hope that you will pay attention towards the points which I have raised.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on General Budget. I rise to oppose the general budget presented here by the hon'ble Minister. I am from opposition party and oppose this budget. I have observed a new trend during debate on this budget that hon'ble members of allies parties of NDA Government also opposed it. I hope that allied parties will continue to support the viewpoint of the opposition and register their protest against policies of the Government in the House. So far as the question of PDS is concerned, they have opposed this move also and on behalf of my party I also oppose it. A large number of people of this country live in villages and are poor. How we will be able to face the people if we do not cooperate with them and increase prices of foodgrain distributed through PDS.

Sir, price of urea has been increased and subsidy provided on it has been curtailed. The hon'ble Finance Minister has not done justice to poor people of this country, so, on behalf of my party I oppose it. It is the

nature of hon'ble Minister of Finance that whenever the opposition and especially the allied parties oppose effectively the announcement made by him in the budget, he rolls back the prices and thus he is known as roll back Finance Minister. I demand that subsidy curtailed in this regard should be restored. Most of our population especially farmers live in villages. We feel proud when we speak in favour of farmers. These poor farmers have brought green revolution in this country. But we are unable to provide education, health services, potable water and housing facility to them. They are being ignored.

We would make provision in the budget for their welfare and arrangement should be made for providing education, housing, transport, roads and medical facility to them. But proper attention is not paid towards these issues. The hon'ble Minister holds discussion on various issues with industrialists before preparing the budget but the poor are ignored.

I would like to say to hon'ble Minister of Finance to restore the subsidy. Required projects should be formulated for upliftment of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. With these words I conclude.

[English]

*SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the General Budget for 2000-2001. First of all I extend my whole-hearted support to the Budget since it is a development oriented Budget.

I am constrained to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that in the Budget he has not provided any fund for the ailing Hindustan Photo Film Ltd., which is the only photo film making industry in India. This industry should not be treated at par with other public sector units. This industry should be protected at any cost and the necessary provision should be made for its revival. For its revival a minimum sum of Rs. 290 crore should be allocated in the Budget. Further necessary initiatives should be taken to bring one colour unit within the existing unit, so that it could provide our internal total requirements both of x-ray films and other films of our country. At present we are importing from other multinationals under the garb of globalisation. I have on many occasions represented, but unfortunately no tangible action has been taken for providing necessary financial assistance for its revival and putting the unit on the track.

Secondly, the South Indian Tea Industry has been facing a crisis. Because of no export of tea from South India to Russia, the price of tea has touched the nadir point. On account of the collapse of the Russin economy, tea export to Russia from South India has been severely affected and jeopardised South India Tea market. As such, the entire tea growing community of the Nilgiris, particularly the small and marginal tea growers and supporting tea industries such as the Government sponsored Industrial Cooperative Tea factories and bought leaf tea factories in Nilgiris have been badly hit by the poor prices fetched to their teas in the South Indian Tea auction centres, that is, in Coonoor, Coimbatore and Cochin. Now, to our great dismay the tea price has almost touched the lowest point. Since Russia is not actively operating in these auction centres, the purchase of South Indian tea for export has become very negligent and is very much affected the economy of the South Indian Tea Plantation Industry. Due to the piquant and precarious economic situation, the tea growers and tea industries in South India in general and Nilgiris district in particular are unable even to meet the cost of the tea cultivation. If this situation persists and linger for some more time, the growers compulsorily have to abandon their tea holdings that would seriously reflect on their very livelihood. In view of this, the tea growers' conditions will become perilous and disastrous repercussion would surface at all levels.

As such, to give some succour and to ameliorate and to alleviate the present ordeal of the tea growers, some tangible solution is to be chalked out to mitigate and wriggle out of the present impasse and crisis. In this crisis period the Government should show some positive consideration and come forward to explore the ways and means to increase the export avenues and also till such recovery period, the tea growers should be given some minimum support price, that is, a minimum Rs. 10/- per kilogram to tea green leaf to be supplied by the growers to the tea factories. If the minimum price of Rs. 10/- is to be given to the growers, the auction price should not be less than Rs. 55/- per kg. of finished tea.

In this connection, as discussed, I suggest that some incentive should be extended to those who purchased solely for export of South Indian tea. For this purpose I am of the opinion that some concession shall be shown to INDCO Tea factories and bought leaf tea factories, who procure green leaf from the local small and marginal tea growers of Nilgiris. For this purpose the exporters who bid in the auction in respect of teas catalogued in tea auction centres by INDCO Tea factories and bought leaf tea factories or in South India, wherever applicable in South Indian auction centres such as Coonoor, Coimbatore and Cochin for rupees not less than Rs. 55/- per kg. of black tea and for such exports the Government should give at least Rs. 10/- as incentive or

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri M. Master Mathan]

subsidy whichever term you may call it, so that this amount could be passed on to the growers. By this way the tea growers will get the minimum subsistence price of Rs. 10/- per kg. of tea green leaf they supply to the above category tea factories. In this process we could increase both the export and also support the ailing poor tea growers.

Therefore, the Government should seriously consider the above proposal for giving some interim relief to the badly hit tea growers of South India. Alternatively, the Government shall also consider for allotting some quantities of South Indian Tea through the PDS for Rs. 55/- or Rs. 60/- per kg. to tide over the crisis. Once again, I appeal to you to ponder over and consider the above proposals seriously and please do the needful.

Further, I understand the Government of India made an agreement with Sri Lanka to import fifteen million tea into India under SAARC agreement. If import is allowed, it would definitely affect the economy of South Indian tea industry. This should be stopped. Otherwise, our Finance Ministry should levy a minimum 30 per cent of import duty on tea to be imported. At present, this duty is only 15 per cent. This should be doubled to protect our own industry. These factors should be considered in the present Budget.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Budget 2000-2001. In the millennium it was ominous that the Budget should be good, so that the trend carries on and I congratulate the Finance Minister to have started with a good Budget.

What is good and bad? My friends in the Opposition benches say that it is not a good Budget. We say that it is a good Budget. But I would also want to say specially to my friends on the other side that just criticism for the sake of criticism is not right. A Budget cannot wholly be good or bad. There are always good points and some bad points, or the other way round. If there are all the good points, then you can satisfy everybody.

A predecessor speaker very rightly said that the presentation of a Budget is an historic day of the year. Even if the best cricket match is going on, I think people would be attracted towards what the Finance Minister is saying and what they are getting out of it. If you look at it, everybody wants something out of a Budget. The industry wants a sop, the agriculture wants a sop and everybody wants something out of it. But, do you have the money?

A Budget is threefold and that is what this Budget is. Firstly, how much revenue collection you can do, secondly how you spend that the thirdly if there is a fiscal deficit, how you contain that. Basically, it is an exercise to do all these three things. Has he done it correctly? That is the assessment that has to be done and very rightly it has been done. What I really want to stress upon is, for doing this you need to put your priorities correct. If you put the priorities correct, I think you have formulated a good Budget. But, if everybody wants something out of the Budget, it is humanly impossible. I would like to ask whether the priorities are correct or not.

My friends from the Congress benches said that it is not a good Budget for very many reasons. Sir, I may say that they have not really objectively commented on the Budget. I must say one thing specially about Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

You have had a great teacher like Mr. Jack Gibson, if I am correct and I also had the same teacher who taught us these thing. It might be in the Doon School for you and Mayo college for me. He said to be frank, truthful...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I was both.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: You were not. And the third one was about some good characters.

Talking about priorities, the follies of the 40 years of misrule by Congress (I) have to be corrected. But every year, when the Budget is presented, situations change. Times change. Policies have to be moulded and changed according to that. I do not want to criticise the Prime Ministers of by-gone days. Pandit Nehru, in those days, must have had compulsions not as much for the social sector and more for large industries and public sector industries. All those priorities have to be changed and disinvestment has to be done. I am not saying about the then problems and priorities. But the priorities today are different and I am sure that even if you wanted to do it, it has to be done in the right spirit. Disinvestment has to be phased out, it cannot be done in one day. One does not have a magic wand to do it in a day or two or a year. But a start has been made and that is why, I think this Budget is good. A Budget is not just a juggiery of figures. Can you deny that we went through the Kargil war? Can you deny that going through the Kargil war, we have to put more budgetary provisions for Defence and under those constraints, don't you think that it is a good Budget? May I also say that talking about the priorities, has infrastructure not been given the right impetus in the Budget? Has the social sector been given the right priority in this Budget? If you had started giving education for all in the 1950s, we would have achieved

much and gone ahead. That is the mistake that we have done. Those are the follies that we are correcting now. The Finance Minister is correcting it.

Talking about subsidies and subventions, I would say one thing. In every country of the world, both developed and developing, subsidy is given. But what we need to do is to give a targeted subsidy. Now, talking about kerosene, more of kerosene is utilised in urban areas than in rural areas. It is also true that the disparity in prices of kerosene and diesel is so much that kerosene is being mixed with diesel. You must correct that. Regarding Government's down-sizing, who says that we do not want to do it? The Income Tax Deputy Commissioner was very rightly saying that down-sizing of the Government cannot be done overnight. It has to be done in a phased manner. I think the exercise is on. Where have we gone wrong? What we need to do today is this. I would like to talk about Rajasthan a little bit.

23.00 hrs.

What we need to do is that the service industry has to be really given an impetus. Nobody talks of tourism. There are countries and countries which survive only on tourism. There are States like Rajasthan which can survive on tourism if the right amount of funding and the right amount of impetus is given.

In the end, I just want to say this. I think it is a good Budget. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for having presented such a Budget.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have heard many enlightened speeches about the Budget proposals. I will strictly restrict myself to a few specific points regarding Jammu and Kashmir. I want to share the concern of the strife torn Valley and the hilly districts of Jammu and Kashmir with this august House.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the Budget proposals which he has put forth. There has been no mention about the financial package to Jammu and Kashmir. Many times, it has been accepted and they have made announcement about it....*(Interruptions)*

The hon. Finance Minister has accepted it in a meeting held at Jammu. The three Ministers concerned also announced it. It was promised to look into the matter regarding security-related expenditure in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that we are facing a proxy war in that area. We join the rest of the world only through a small hole called the *Jawahar* tunnel. Unfortunately, so far, no care has been taken for developing an alternative road. Our predecessors in the Government have always been expressing the view that in the interest of defence and security, we should not go in for an alternative road like the *Mogul* Road or the *Chatru-Sinthan-Kishtwar* Road. But now the situation has changed after the Kargil war in particular.

Shri Aiyar, I will express my humble views in soft words. I will not load them with the stings as you have done. Though you delivered a very good speech, which was well-prepared with statistical details, yet with the stings attached to the person of hon. Finance Minister you have lessened the impact of your speech. I humbly request the august House to join me in demanding that we should take care of the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. I stress the National Conference Government should not be pushed to a tight corner. We have fought the elections at the cost of the lives of our workers and supporters. Every day, they are laying down their lives in any corner of the State. They are the prisoners of their conviction. They are the people who supported Sheikh Abdullah's movement in 1947 and after 1947 on every occasion when the country was in trouble from the other side. But, unfortunately, this time, we feel that these people have been neglected. Government of India have given a package to the North-East. We are happy about it. It is a very good decision taken by the Government because they have also been facing violence for a long time. Their request has been granted and the concern has been shared. We have also demanded certain decisions to be taken in favour of J&K. We have been demanding time and again that solid steps be taken for the development of J&K. Ten per cent Budgetary allocation of all the Central Government Departments is being spent in the North-East. Why not J&K be included in this scheme.

I had requested the hon. Prime Minister that at least five per cent of the allocation of each Ministry should be allocated to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Then, the concept of non-lapsable pool is very much required for the North East and Jammu and Kashmir. The House is very well aware that we are in a far-flung area, closer to the border. But, unfortunately, the Border Roads Organisation has not developed the roads properly. These roads are very important as far as our defence forces are concerned. They are in very bad shape now. I would request the hon. Finance Minister, through you, to look into this aspect and help build these roads in a proper way. I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for making a sizeable allocation for defence. But I would stress that the roads in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those in the border areas, should be

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

strengthened so that the defence forces can be benefitted whenever they are in need.

Sir, Natinal Conference Government was forced out of office in Jan. 1990. When we relinquished office, we had Rs. 50 crore with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank as overdraft. But when we resumed power in 1996, it had arisen to Rs. 900 crore. There is a whisper going around that streams of funds are flowing to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, but there is no development. Unfortunately, there are certain vested interests who want to put the National Conference Government on the defensive and they have started spreading a false whisper campaign against NC. I would like to inform this august House that the workers of National Conference are fighting a war without weapons. Everyday, we see in newspapers that they are laying down their lives for the noble cause of protecting our country, because they have chosen the liberal democratic order of this country as their destiny. Due to security related expenditure arrears. In our State, the gap in Budget has swollen to Rs. 1,129 crore. The status of Special Category State was given to Jammu and Kashmir way back in 1969-70, but its implementation has started only from 1990. Due to the non-receipt of anticipated grant, the deficit it has gone up to the extent of Rs. 1,295 crores.

So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to announce the special package, the concept of non-lapasable pool and five per cent allocation of each Ministry of the Central Governments budgetary allocation for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in this Session itself, so that we can overcome the problems that we are facing over there. The problem of unemployment has overtaken us. We have 1.25 lakh graduates who are waiting for Government jobs, because they have no other option. Our tourism industry has collapsed and the small-scale industries are sick. So, they have no way out but to seek employment in Government department. These boys and girls are closer to the upper age limit for joining Government service. Hence, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter and help our State without any delay.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget. But I am in a dilemma because if I start criticising certain things, I am damn sure that the hon. Finance Minister would roll back the increase in the prices of foodgrains and also the increase of the price of urea. So, the whole criticism will become futile. Tomorrow, he will have to roll back these things; otherwise, he will have tc roll back his Government also. Then, he will become 'roll back Sinha'.

But I appreciate one thing in him. He has correctly pointed out the things which he wanted in his Budget. I quote:

> "to put India on a sustained, equitable and job creating a growth path of 7 to 8 per cent."

That is the correct thing. But my only complaint to him is that last year, he said that he was going to put India into a genuine economic super power by the year 2000. Last year, we expected that he would make India a super power. Now, he says that nothing has happened. Nothing has happened except one election. We became indebted to different countries as well as the insiders. This time, he says that he is creating jobs.

Two things are required for creating an economy which will grow by seven to eight per cent in employment. One is the high rate of investment and productivity. The second is the low rate of wasteful public expenditure. I do not find anything in this Budget which will spur investment significantly. I am not an economist. But I am told that the health of a nation can be gauged on the basis of its domestic small savings. One thing he has said in the last paragraph of his Budget speech very astonishingly which is:

> "Sir, the millennium has heralded the arrival of the Indian economy on the global stage. In two short years, we have shown that Indian talent and Indian effort is second to none. In two short years, we have ensured that 'Made in India' is a compliment for any product or service."

What a pity, Sir. It is another very astounding discovery, Sir!

> "In two short years, we have sent notice to the world that India will be an economic super power in the 21st century. The world's eyes are now upon us and we will deliver."

The world's eyes are on us for killing minorities and avenging minorities and creating all sorts of chaos. But so far as economy is concerned, there is a very poor performance. The health of the nation, as I said earlier, will be counted on the basis of domestic savings. Twenty-four per cent have been the domestic savings all along after Independence and that is the reason why we have been able to have 242 public sector industries wherein we have investment of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Where did it come from? Has it come in two short years? He is sitting on a treasury wherein we have got more than Rs. 3 lakh crores in its revenue. Where did it come from? Is it in a short period of two years? We have been able to have

enough food in this country. Where did it come from? Has it come in two short years? He has forgotten the achievements made during the 50 years by the Indian National Congress. The Indian National Congress only has put this country into a stable economy. Last year, after attending the IMF meeting in Washington, he said in a Press conference:

> "Our macro-economics is in a stable position. We are in the right direction. Our sliding of industrial production will be gone through and we will be going through intense production."

If he is prepared to say that macro-economics is correct, how can he say that within two short years, we have done wonders?

23.14 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Is he a magician to take the wand out of it? My complaint is that, in a way, he is misleading the nation. He says, he takes everything in two years.

I am coming back. The domestic savings have gone back to 23.4 per cent this time. The reason for it is the reduction of interest rate for the domestic savings. That is a very dangerous sign. That will again boomerang on you. Nothing in the Budget. Due to paucity of time, I am cutting short my speech. There is nothing in the Budget to decelerate the mounting unemployment.

As far as the statistics of 1997—the most available statistics-were concerned, 397 million people were unemployed when our population was 950 million.

Now it is one thousand million. So the unemployment will be four hundred million. Has the hon. Minister mentioned a single word about the unemployment in his speech? That is my complaint.

The Congress Government have enunciated IRDP, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Employment Assurance Scheme, Indira Awas Yojna and Million Well Scheme. They have introduced Swarna Jayanti and Shehari Rozgar Yojna and not a single pie more has been given for any of these schemes. In general, he has said that some money will be given in rural sector.

He has mentioned about IRBD. I would reqeust the hon. Minister to have a close look at it because the banks are not giving money for self-employment. Whatever, we speak, either from this side or that side, about it, the banks are not giving any money. That is a real problem. They are insisting for security and guarantee. He mentioned that money is to be given for self-employment, etc. but banks are not giving the money because they feel that they would not get back the money. So, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that in order to eradicate poverty, he has to create employment. But there is no scheme to create employment in this Budget.

The major generation of employment was in public sector. We have got about 30 million jobs in that sector. Now, he is killing the public sector one by one and even he is going for a mercy-killing of Indian public sector banks. Why I am saying this is because more shares are being given to the public. I warn the hon. Finance Minister that these shares are going to be in the hands of big industrialists.

I would like to inform the House that as per the latest statistics, the NPA has grown up. Seven private sector banks have got an NPA of Rs. 882 crore. It is these private sector banks which have given money to big industrialists. They have created this NPA. They are again going to have your banks. The sahres will be taken by them. So, I warn the hon. Finance Minister that selling the shares of the bank will be selling the family's silver. For what purpose this is done? He has no aim for that. He has given a directionless Budget. Now, what is going to happen is that this money will be going to liquidate the debts. The disinvestment money is for liquidation of debts because 71 per cent is the present debts that you have. Seventy-one per cent of the national income is going for clearing the debts. Fifty per cent of the tax is going to clear the debts, so the disinvestment money also is going to clear the debts only and not for any investment.

Sir, the hon. Minister has to be very careful. They said that they were going to downsize the Government. That is what his intention is.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): The hon. Member should downsize his speech.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Yes, that is what I am doing.

Sir, one more Ministries and two more Departments have been created. One Department means an expenditure of Rs. 10 crore of the Government. One Ministry means an expenditure of Rs. 25 crore. So two Departments and one Ministry make it Rs. 45 crore. So, this much money more he has added instead of downsizing the Government. What I am saying is that his intention is one thing, but in reality it is something else. His intention is to reach the growth target of seven to eight per cent, but he is not creating any employment.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

His intention is to downsize the Government, but more and more Ministries are coming. He wants to disinvest, but NPAs are growing.

Now, coming to my State, I would like to inform the House that this Budget affects my State Kerala the most. My hon. Friend, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan mentioned about the PDS and other things. I am not going to repeat them. But one thing I would like to tell the hon. Minister that all our crops are cash crops. They all, including rubber, bring foreign exchange. Now, the Government is going to tax the income from exports also.

They are going to kill the goose which lays the golden egg. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak at the second stage.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I would humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly exempt cash crops from the export taxation.

Sir, Ayurvedic medicines are being taxed. It is very interesting. I do not know whether it is with your knowledge. I mentioned to you about this yesterday. The point is that the medical preparations containing self-generated alcohol are not capable of being consumed as ordinary alcoholic beverages. If a medicine is taken and if it creates alcohol inside your stomach, what will happen? So, it is ridiculous to have *ad valorem* duty of four per cent on alcohol and also on copper sulphate. So, on these things, a re-look is necessary.

With these words, I conclude my speech.*

[Translation]

*SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): The general budget for 2000-2001 presented by hon'ble Finance Minister comes as a gift for multinational companies and big industrialists. On the other side this budget has adversely affected the lives of poor farmers, labourers, employees and common man. On the one hand, the hon'ble Finance Minister has not given any relaxation in income tax for low income group and on the other hand as per the CAG report Rs. 41000 crore outstanding against big business houses have been left unrecovered.

No mention has been made regarding recovery of Rs. 58,000 crore outstanding against the big business houses loaned by nationalised banks. In this budget, nothing has been mentioned regarding measures to be taken for revival of closed down mills and sick factories and for rehabilitation of lakhs of employees and labourers rendered jobless.

While abandoning the programme of Land Reform, a proposal has been made in this budget for setting up National Commission to decide upon the utilization of land which means that thousands of acres of land will be disbursed to big industrialists and foreign companies and poor farmers, landless persons will become unemployed and poorer. In this way while abandoning the Land Reform Programme, economic exploitation and tyranny by indigenous as well as foreign big industrialists and capitalists will be encouraged in rural areas. This budget reveals utter insensitivity of the Government towards plight of farmers who are unable to pay premium for crop insurance, heavily indebted, are not paid remunerative prices for their produce, suffering due to natural calamities and committing suicide. Increase in prices of fertilizers and essential commodities distributed through Public Distribution System reveals anti-farmer attitude of the Government.

Thus this budget punctuated with highflown words like privatisation, liberalization and globalization is going to make crores of farmers, labourers and common man poorer. Therefore I strongly oppose it.

[English]

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District-Assam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to register my strong protest against this anti-people, anti-poor Budget, which is very much glaringly pro-affluent, pro-rich, and pro-multinationals.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not spared from using these adjectives while describing the Budgets presented during the period, 1991-96. But today, I have heard the speeches of the Members from both Congress and BJP. It is very amazing to hear the Congress Members finding so much differences between their Budget and this Budget. But to us, there is no fundamental difference. All these Budgets are anti-people, anti-poor, and have very glaringly tilted towards multi-nationals and affluent society. Probably, the difference is in the skill of articulating statistical data. Probably you are less skilful and probably they were more skilful. Otherwise, there is not much difference. To a common man, there is not much difference.

Mr. Finance Minister, you have not learnt the lesson also. During 1992-93 period, if I recall, when this type of Budget was placed every time, the then Finance Minister used to say, 'Please bear with us. This new economic policy will be only for two to three years. Initially, for two to three years there will be hardships and after that, there will be trickle-down effect, and jobs will be created.' They gave a very rosy picture.

*Speech laid on the Table of the House.

Now, for the last ten long years, the same economic policy is being continued. It is the consensus on the economic policy between these two major political formations of this country. So far, we have not seen the effect of trickle-down. The common man has become poorer and poorer. The hardships on the poor people have become more and more. During that time, again and again, examples of some Asian countries and other countries, were given. But these days, those who advocate this new economic policy and globalisation do not speak about Thailand and Mexico but, during 1993-94, everybody used to speak about Thailand and Mexico.

Mr. Finance Minister, you have neither learnt from the mistakes of the East Asian financial crisis nor from the crisis of Mexico. Now, in the name of giving some concessions to venture capital, you are encouraging global financial resorts and this will bring further economic and financial instability in the country. There is bound to be very much fluctuation in the exchange rate and the so-called foot loose capital. This volatile capital will be taken upon in our county. So, this Budget is not only anti-people and anti-poor, but also will create further economic uncertainty, further increase the speculation and it will create instability in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the pre-Budget exercise, they used to warn us that hard decision has to be taken. Now, hard decisions are forthcoming. I must say this is not only a hard Budget but this is a very cruel Budget. It is cruel to the poor. It is cruel to the people living below the poverty line. About the PDS, you have said that it will be completely dismantled. But do you know what the latest report of UNDP says? The UNDP report says that only five per cent of the rural population, especially, in U.P. and Bihar, is covered by the Public Distribution System. Therefore, as a responsible Government, there should have been initiatives to strengthen this Public Distribution System, so that more people can be covered through the Public Distribution System. Now, it has been decreased further. Definitely, this Budget has got very much anti-poor biases.

Now, you are boasting yourself that you have increased the allocation for the Defence Department. Nobody has criticised you for that. Nobody has criticised because they are afraid. Yes, if somebody criticised about this, he will be termed as anti-national. Nobody has said anything about it. Everybody has said, yes, you have done a great thing, and you are also boasting yourself. Nobody dares say anything about it because eventually the blame will come that he is compromising the national interest. But with all the patriotic spirit in my command, I must say that money was not the issue. Less allocation of money in the Budget was not the issue. Why did the Kargil episode occur? It was because of your intelligence failure; it was because of your diplomatic failure; it was because of your failure to assess the geo-political situation in the South-East Asia properly; and it was also because of the failure of the successive Governments. It is not your Government but it was the failure of their Government to mobilise the people of Jammu and Kashmir to fight against those fundamental forces across the border.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: By taking this hawkish posture, you will increase unrest between these two neighbouring countries and you will encourage those fundamental forces in Pakistan who want to destroy India. By your hawkish posture and slogan shouting, you will increase only the fundamentalist forces within Pakistan who are bent upon destabilising India. We have seen the result by the way the ISI has infiltrated in the North-Eastern part and also in the entire country. But you have not learnt the lesson. Therefore, I would request all other major political formations of this country to work for mobilising the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Yes, our national security is paramount for us. But simply by increasing the Defence outlays, you cannot hide your weakness. You have failed to provide security to us. You have failed to secure our border. It is not the budgetary allocation that has to be taken into account, but, yes, it is your political failure, it is your diplomatic failure and it is the failure to tackle the problem of Jammu and Kashmir that must be taken into account.

Sir, I want to be very brief. I belong to the North-East. Many Members have spoken about North-East because there is a general feeling in this country and in this House also that a lot of money has been pumped into North-East by way of so many economic packages, and so the North-East is getting everything. So, I will fail in my responsibility if I do not bring it to the notice of this House that all this has been a hollow promise. Whether the promise made by this side or that side or in between the UF which was also in power, all this was a hollow promise. Successive Governments have failed in their promises of their responsibility towards North-East. Now, the Prime Minister's economic package has been talked about. He has said about the 10 per cent outlay.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Please take your seat. Shri Anant Geete.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: So, the North-East has been deprived. There is no economic development. Al the self-reliant economy of Assam has been dismantled. So, I

[Dr. Jayant Rongpi]

would like to specifically request the hon. Finance Minister that the so-called new economic policy will bring disasters to the marginal and sensitive States because you want to leave the development work to the market force. By planned economy, for the last 40 years, you could not do away with the regional disparity.

In that situation, if you leave economic development to the market force, then this regional disparity will increase and that will have a very serious impact in our national integrity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please conclude. What is this?

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: From this aspect I would like to say that this Budget is also, if I am permitted to say, not only anti-people, anti-poor, from that respect it is also anti-national. You have not taken care about the national integrity.

Sir, with these few words, I register my vehement protest. I assure that not only inside this House, with all strength in our command, we will also mobilise people outside the Parliament to register their strongest protest against this anti-people Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since we are discussing the Budget at odd hours, I think, hon. Members seem to be more harsh.

[Translation]

*KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, the first budget of the new century presented by hon. Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha is very much on the same lines as the indications given by him from time to time. By studying this budget it appears that the hon. Finance Minister has, while preparing this budget, ignored the needs and interests of the people of rural India. Food stuff has become costlier and jewellery has been made cheaper. Milk has become dearer and cold drinks like Pepsi, Thumsup have been made cheaper. The ration available at the fair price shops has been made costlier than the open market prices. Ayurvedic medicines, toothpastes have become costlier and cosmetics have been made cheaper. Similarly flour has become costly but air conditioners have become cheaper. Tractors, fertilizers, pesticides all have become costlier, instead cellular phone and computers have become cheaper. It is a long list, approximately as long as the speech of the hon. Minister. All sorts of facilities are being provided to the prosperous section of society at the cost of non-fulfilment of the basic needs of the middle class and by crushing the dreams of poors. Overall it can be said that the prosperity, amenities and luxuries have been liberally gifted to the non-productive parasite class of the society by snatching away the share of the farmers, labourers and the class of real producers who have contributed in the nation building by their hardwork and wisdom. Under this year's budget, 40 per cent additional expenditure will be incurred on administration as compared to last year while 10 percent less will be spent in the field of justice. Whether such a Government can be called a welfare state? From the budget, it is clear which section of the society has been favoured by the Government. What should be the format of the budget? The Minister of Finance met the representatives of Chamber of Commerce, various industrial houses and capitalists to invite their suggestions as to what kind of budget should be prepared and this budget was prepared only after holding consultations with them. He danced to the tune of these people to appease them and the very next day he went to the meeting of industrialists to give clarification over those things which did not seem pleasant to them. Whether the Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha has ever went to the farmers and asked them as to what kind of budget do they prefer so that he could draft its accordingly? But instead of meeting any leader of Kisan Union like Mahendra Singh Tikait, Sharad Joshi, the Finance Minister consulted the business houses only and prepared his budget accordingly. Consequently budget has become a promoter of capitalism only.

Two major suggestions emerged from the pre budget economic survey—first suggestion was to downsize the Government and secondly, it was suggested to confine the benefits of subsidy to the poor section of the society but the Finance Minister did the opposite of that. No mention was made of downsizing the Government and the rise in prices hit the poor hard. The people belonging to poor section of society had a sole support in form of subsidy and even that was snatched away from them by this Government this year in addition to imposing a burden of providing luxuries for the such people on their sagging and weak shoulders.

For the last ten years, every Finance Minister has been laying emphasis on three points. These three phrases or we can say the three pivotal points of a budget are to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4 per cent of gross domestic product; to achieve the target of 10 billion

* Speech Laid on the Table of the House.

dollars of direct foreign investment and disinvestment *i.e.* to mobilise Rs. 10,000 crore by selling off the public and Government assets. But leave apart achieving these targets, no Finance Minister has even been able to reach anywhere near it. Even Shri Sinhaji had set a target of mobilising Rs. 10,000 crore through disinvestment in 1999-2000 but he could mobilise only Rs. 2600 crore. Against the target of 10 billion dollars of direct foreign investment the achievement was one and quarter billion dollars which is 18 percent less as compared to last year. There was a target to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4 per cent of total GDP but it went upwards to reach 7 per cent. The deep concern for development of rural areas expressed in the pre budget speech made by hon. Finance Minister was missing in the budget.

The growth-rate of agriculture is almost zero, yet an additional excise duty of 8 per cent was imposed on agricultural produce at one go. The Finance Minister remained obsessed with the idea of reducing subsidy on the agricultural inputs. Though it has helped him mobilise an additional amount of Rs. 7500 crore, this money will be spent not for the rural but urban development.

The average daily income of an Indian is approximately Rs. 29 and 50 paise while an amount of more than 4 lakhs 14 thousand is spent daily for the President of India which is 14033 times of that figure. Similarly, approximately 2 lakh and 38 thousand rupees are spent per day over the Prime Minister's office which is 7694 times more that of the average daily income of an Indian. The expenditure incurred for the Union Cabinet amounts to Rs. 15 lakhs daily which is 47736 times more than the average daily earning.

What contribution is being made by the President; the Prime Minister and the Cabinet even after spending 70 thousand times more money than the daily average income of an Indian? Add to it the expenditure of Parliamentarians, legislative and bureaucrats and the picture of Indian democracy which emerges is extremely horrible. Where does your money go? As amount of Rs. 1000 crore is spent daily to run this jumbo-Government at the Centre. Had the Finance Minister been somewhat courageous resolute or morally strong, this expenditure could have been reduced to a great extent. He may ask the hon. Minister of Programme Implementation Shri Arun Shourie as to how much money is being wasted by the Government.

Suppose the Central Government does not release grant to Arunachal Pradesh Government and release the money directly to its people, how much money every citizen will get? The answer is Rs. 5600 per month. Most of the Arunachalites are not in a position to see this much amount in whole year. If you see the poverty in Arunachal Pradesh, you will feel enraged. The story of Nagaland too is not different. Indian railways is losing Rs. 4 crores on account of concessinal passes only. This loss is attributed to free travel enabled by 162 different types of passes. Railway Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has increased this number further.

During the last six years the Central Government has given 4006 crore rupees to the Members of Parliament which was to be spent in their constituencies where as only 2590 crore rupees could be spent in their constituencies. In case of Mizoram 91% of M.P. Funds was utilised wheres in case of Jammu and Kashmir, only 46% funds were utilised. Annual budget is the financial account for whole year and an economic commitment for the coming year. It is such an economic discipline which is considered to be equally applicable for the Government and the public as well. Now the question arises as to why the prices are increased round the year in easy instalments before the budget and why new taxes are imposed? Clearly, it is the proof of Government's mistakes in making accurate annual economic assessment. An arrear of 43,000 crores rupees on account of income tax is yet to be recovered. Finance Minister does not say anything about it and poor debtor farmer have to face the insult daily at the hands of bailiff of tehsil. Such is the priority of the Government.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after late Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri for the first time the nation has got a good Government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is not only mine but the feeling of crores of Indians. I have risen to support the budget for the year 2000-2001 presented by the Finance Minister of this Government Shri Yashwant Sinha.

There is an urgent need to give a serious thought to present economic condition of the country. I was surprised to see the opposition charging the Government and Finance Minister over the budget. They were also heard saying that the economic crisis faced by the country today is the result of last or last two year's governance. Today, economic condition is such that over 25% of our income is spent on interest payment. The country has not come to this stage in last one or two years rather it is attributable to last 50 years. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take harsh measures to change this economic condition. I do agree with the Finance Minister's view that during last 50 years, country has reached such an economic condition that it can't be improved upon within 50 days. And it will not be appropriate trying to improve it in this way.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

While preparing the budget of our country, there is a need to keep the poorest classes in mind. Farmers, labours, people living in villages and people living below poverty line from largest portion of the population of our country. We should think over seriously about them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many charges were made. It was said that the budget is anti-farmer. It is against the interests of people living below poverty line. It is anti-labourer. I want to say that the farmers, labourers, unemployed and youth, everyone has been taken care of in this budget. Our country's greatest problem of drinking water also has been addressed in the budget. Rural and small scale industries too have been taken care of.

I want to place some figures before this House regarding the figures of R.E. 1999-2000 and B.E. 2000-2001. In case of Ministry of Agriculture, last year there was a revised estimate of rupees 2246 crores and for the current year the budget estimate is rupees 2930 crores. Likewise, in case of Chemical and Fertilisers Ministry, last year there was a provision of rupees 1191 crores, whereas this year there is a provision for Rs. 2164 crores. For communication Ministry, last year there was a provision of rupees 14992 crores and for current year there is provision of rupees 19562 crores. Last year there was a provision of rupees 318 crores for Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, whereas this year budget estimate is rupees 400 crores. In case of Environment and Forests Ministry, last year there was an estimate of rupees 610 crores whereas this year's budget estimate is rupees 810 crores. For Health and Family Welfare, last year's budget estimate of rupees 4198 crores, has been raised to rupees 4920 crores this year. For the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, last year's budget estimate of rupees 815 crore, has been revised to rupees 945 crores this year. For Rural Development and Employment Ministry there was an estimate of rupees 9351 crores last year, whereas this year's budget estimate is rupees 9760 crores. For the Ministry of Rural Industries, there was an estimate of rupees 635 crores last year whereas this year there is an estimate of rupees 920 crores. For the Ministry of Water Resources, last year there was an estimate of rupees 370 crores, whereas this year there is an estimate of rupees 475 crores. I have presented these figures before the House to show that while preparing the budget, an upward revision has been made in the budgetary provisions to benefit every class of society and particularly the labourers, farmers, unemployed and the students.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the beginning, I said that we have to improve upon our economic condition as well as the condition of rural areas. If we want to improve upon the condition of rural areas, then we will have to pay more attention towards the cooperatives. There are certain States in the country like Maharashtra, Gujarat and gradually Karnataka too is leading towards cooperatives. These States have established themselves in the field of cooperatives. Our economic condition has improved a lot because of these States. If we want to strengthen rural areas then there is a need to give more attention towards cooperatives. There is a need to encourage it.

Sir, ours is an alliance party in the Government. Despite being an alliance partner, we met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and demanded that the prices of PDS and Urea which are proposed to be increased, should not be increased. It is not a prestige issue. We have tried to convey to them the opinion of common man about the budget. The Minister gave a detailed statement in the House regarding PDS, wherein he said that the Government has tried to lend full cooperation to the TPDS beneficiaries and it has tried to lessen their burden. It is my request that if you can further lessen their burden it will be much better. It should should be considered if we can give them more facilities. It is the responsibility of our Government. Therefore be it the price of fertilizer or TPDs, there is a need to give as much relief to the poor people as possible by reducing the prices. Hence, we drew attention of our Prime Minister and also Finance Minister towards this issue. I want the Finance Minister to think over it and reconsider it seriously. It will be much better for the common man of this country.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale, Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra, Dr. V. Saroja and Shri M. Chinnasamy have been permitted to lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

Shri Bijoy Handique to speak now.

*DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget for the year 2000-2001 due to the following reasons. There are certain challenges facing our motherland which are not properly tackled. They are as follows:

Population explosion of India.

AIDS/HIV threatening this nation.

India will be the most illiterate country in the world in proportion to the population. There is a related

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

news item (observation) in Hindustan Times in December, 1998.

Unemployment.

Child Labour

Failure on the part of the Government to provide basic amenities to 45 per cent of the population living below the poverty line.

Empowerment of women

Unchecked non-Plan expenditure.

Price hike following the National Agriculture Policy and finance Policy

About 20 lakh people die per year due to air pollution in India as per the International Pollution Control Committee.

Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Terrorism and border problems facing our nation.

I would like to make certain suggestions to improve the situation:

Sensitising the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj, MLAs and MPs and voluntary organisations about all schemes of the Government and making the people participate in them. Responsibility and accountability should be fixed and there should be a commitment towards building up the nation. Hundred per cent A.N. registration and implementation of one child norm should be the goal to control the population explosion.

The Ministry of Health has proposed pilot projects to rehabilitate the AIDS affected population in affected States. The Department of Women and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the NACO are involved in this matter. My suggestion would be that, under the chairmanship of the MPs and MLAs, five per cent contribution should be made from MPLAD Scheme of the concerned MP with the coordination of the voluntary organisations, panchayats and the general public.

The Government has not been focussing its attention to correct the regional imbalance in the field of education, family welfare programme and other programmes of the various Ministries.

There are no new knowlege-based industries or agro-based industries or self-employment schemes.

There is no positive solution towards eradication of child labour and rehabilitation of parents of children engaged in child labour.

The fund under the MPLAD scheme may be increased to Rs. 6 crores for three years so that in a given period of time, the goal may be achieved. It should be done on a war-footing. By this way, we can achieve this goal and provide the basic amenities to the people living below the poverty line. There should be a Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of the Collector and Members should be MPs, MLAs, elected representatives of the panchayats, voluntary organisations and the public.

The year 2001 should be declared as Women Empowerment Year. For the political empowerment of women, the Women Reservation Bill must be passed without further delay. It is the commitment of the hon. Prime Minister to 50 crore female population. The schemes under educational, economical, social and empewerment of women should be adopted accordingly.

Modalities should be adopted to check the non-Plan expenditure.

The area of cultivable land is going down day-by-day as well as the quality and quantity of productior per hectare. This is in spite of the agricultural researches going on in the States and the Centre. Due to the reduction in fertiliser subsidies, the small and marginal farmers are facing the brunt of the attack. There is no adequate provision for cold storages of agricultural produce. All these factors would finally to only point, namely, price hike.

There is environmental pollution leading to health hazards and there are 20 lakh deaths per year due to this. There is no specific programme to combat this pollution due to environment.

The budgetary provision to promote literacy and improve educational standards of SCs and STs (one-third of the Indian population) is just Rs. 130 crore.

To conclude, even after 52 years of Independence, India is still a developing country. There is absolute non-cooperation and communication gap between the Government Departments and the Planning Commission. According to the World Bank observation, Mahatma Gandhi framed India focussing attention towards 85 per cent rural India. After Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wanted India to be a modern India. The Indians are at crorss roads. Now, will the Government focus its attention to achieve the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru?

*SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): The Union Budget for 2000-2001 has proposed a phased withdrawal of exemption on Export Profits over a period of five years under Section 80 HHC and related Sections hitherto available to Exporters under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

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* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri M. Chinnasamy]

This decision at a time when Exporters had barely started picking up after a recessionary phase of 2-3 years has come as a severe jolt to the exporting community. Therefore, I appeal to you to immediately reconsider this decision and restore these benefits to the Exporters till at least India's share in Global Trade reaches a satisfactory and optimum level of 1 per cent from the present level of 0.6 per cent.

The Government would appreciate that the exporters have striving hard to compete in the stiff International Market in spite of great odds like high cost of Credit, Labour Problems, Poor Infrastructure in terms of Negligible Power, Bad roads, Non-existence of Express trains, congestion at Ports and High transactional costs. Even the most developed countries like the USA and the European Union also support their Exporters in spite of World Class infrastructural facilities available to them.

I request the Finance Minister through you to reconsider the decision regarding phasing out of Income Tax Exemption under Sectin 80 HHC and other related Sections and it would be of great source of inspiration to the Exporters to channelise the Exporter's energies and strengths towards Export Promotion.

If these benefits are not restored, it will affect the Garments export business in my constituency, Karur and as a result, thousands of labourers will have to lose their jobs.

I hope the hon. Finance Minister may give a favourable reply to me in his reply.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Sir, I whole heartedly welcome the Budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister under the able leadership and guidance of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and congratulate him that in spite of difficult circumstances, he has announced several schemes in the public interest for poor people. Special emphasis has been given in the budget to provide food, clothing and shelter, irrigation facilities for every field, and the work for everyone. Daily requirements of the common man like drinking water, health care, education, social security and metalled roads have been given priority for the first time after fifty years of independence. Keeping in view the impending danger at the national boundaries, an increase of Rs. 1350 crore has been made in the defence budget which proves that this Government is serious about the defence of the country and our country is secure under the leadership of the hon'ble Shri Vajpayee ji.

Sir, I feel pity for the opposition that Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has declared this budget as anti-poor. Other Members have stated that it comes as a blow to the poor people. About this, I would like to say only this that either they have not carefully gone through the budget or their main objective is to oppose it at the political level. They did not care as to how much reality is there in their statements. In spite of remaining in power for 50 years, 40% villages of the country do not have metalled roads. Even after 50 years of independence there are no primary schools in 1.8 lakh villages. We talk about going to moon but even after 50 years of independence, 4.5 lakh villages have no drinking water. There is no hospital for providing health facilities. In spite of elapsing of such a long period after independence, 33% persons are living below poverty line. Are the Congress and the opposition not responsible for all these things? Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji should tell us as to what has been done by his party in Bihar in its ten year long rule which problem has been solved by the left parties during its long rule in West Bengal?

I would like to congratulate Finance Minister for having made an announcement to solve one of the main problem of the country, the problem of drinking water by 2005. For this an increase of Rs. 293 crore has been made in the Budget for this year. 'Janshree' insurance scheme has been introduced to provide social security under which there will be 50% rebate in premium for the people living below poverty line. Under this scheme, Rs. 20,000 will be paid in case of natural death, Rs. 50,000 in case of accidental death and Rs. 25,000 in the event of becoming physically handicapped. This will infuse a sense of social security among the people.

Hon'ble Finance Minister has made an announcement in the Budget to start campaign for universal education, under which there is provision to import education to all children by 2003. Under the housing scheme, an announcement has been made to build 25 lakh new dwelling units this year under various schemes. For this hon'ble Finance Minister deserves congratulation. Village farmers are helpless at the time of crisis. Chances of providing relief to the farmers at such times have improved by connecting every village by telephone. Public has welcomed the budget for several such schemes and announcements.

Sir, I would like to submit few suggestions in national interest. After a long wait, hon'ble Minister made an announcement to implement uniform rate of Sales Tax all over the country, two month back. Common businessman is facing problems due to sales tax. Black money is increasing due to sales tax. Moral values are declining and corruption is increasing in the country. The business community welcomed the decision to implement uniform rate of sales tax all over the country but it was very much like much a do about nothing. The chairman of this Committee, Shri Jyoti Basu has misguided the country by declaring the uniform rate of sales tax. It is not uniform rate of sales tax rather it is minimum rate of sales tax, under which States can neither decrease nor

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

increase the prescribed rates. Classification of commodities has also been done keeping in view the revenue of the State. In doing so, it has not been kept in mind as to how much will it burden the consumers. Attention has not been paid to this that the internal trade of the country should flourish with honesty. The Committee did not think it necessary to consult the consumers and business community who are affected by the sales tax. That is why it is being widely opposed all over the country. Merely a statement by the hon'ble Minister proclaiming that sales tax the State subject will not suffice. The Central Government should intervene in it. There is only one alternative that the sales tax should be abolished by imposing additional excise duty as is applicable in the case of sugar, textile and tobacco. All political parties have agreed to the proposal of abolishing the sales tax by imposing additional excise duty. It is clearly mentioned in the election manifestos of 1977 of Janta Party, 1980 manifesto of Congress and 1980 and 1984 manifesto of BJP. I reqest that Central Government should constitute Sales Tax Abolition Committee in which business community should be given representation.

Sir, there is a need to simplify income tax system. Please implement compound system for small business man and several other such industries including brick kilns as has been implemented in case of truck owners. This will help increase Government revenue and the oppression of businessmen and the 'Inspector Raj' will be checked. The method of security should remain the same as the oppression has increased after the introduction of the new system.

Sir, unemployment is a prominent problem of India. When an unemployed youth does not get job anywhere, he opens shop on footpath for his survival, but if foreign capital is allowed to be invested in retail trade, then retail trade of the country will be wiped out. This is not the country of big departmental stores. That is why I request you not to allow foreign capital investment in retail trade.

Edible oil is being imported in the country because there is shortage of edible oil in the country, but my suggestion is that instead of edible oil, oil seeds should be imported so that oil industry may survive. Today only 35% of the raw material required for the existing installed capacity of the oil industry is available. As a result of this, several industries have been closed and unemployment has increased. Farmers are also not getting appropriate price for their produce. It will also save foreign exchange. Hence the import of edible oil should be discouraged and the import of oil seeds should be encouraged.

There are six N.T.C. and three V.I.C. cotton textile mills in Kanpur which have remained closed for a long time and are incurring heavy loss. My submission is that these mills have enough vacant land. If one VIC mill and two NTC mills are modernised and run, then they will start earning profits instead of incurring losses. The capital for modernisation may be raised by selling the vacant land of remaining four Mills of NTC and two textile mills of VIC. Thus the Government will not have to invest money and the problem of workers will also be solved.

Lastly, I consider it my duty to draw your attention towards the problem of potato growers of the country. The Government purchases the produce of wheat, paddy, sugarcane & cotton cultivators of the country at a prescribed support price, but no assistance is being provided to the potato growers. Financial condition of the potato growers is gradually becoming serious. My request is that Government should formulate scheme for potato growers and allocate funds for it in the budget.

I request you to pay attention to my suggestions. With this, I support the Budget for the year 2000-2001. The people of this country have expectations from hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji that the country will progress under his governance. Poverty and unemployment will be eliminated from the country and the problems of people will be solved. Congratulations to the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha ji for having presented a good budget, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, with your kind permission, I submit my suggestions on the Union Budget of 2000-2001. I support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. I contratulate the hon. Finance Minister for introducing some measures to curb built-in expenditure growth and bring about structural changes in composition of our expenditure. I would like to submit my suggestions as under:

In our country, about 3 to 3.5 per cent of the total population are Government servants who are well-organised and are much conscious only for their rights and not for their duty.

All Government programme are implemented by this organised sector and we all know what is our experience in this regard.

Many Government servants are not performing their duties as they should but their services are so well protected that they cannot be terminated for non-performance of their duty.

These Government servants are taking undue advantage of Article 311 of our Constitution which protects their rights.

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* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

I suggest that the Government should not mind paying even more salary but in turn, these public servants should perform their duties as per the expectation of the public who is their master.

In our country, the time is ripe to follow the policy of 'hire and fire' which is being followed in many parts of the world. Unless this policy is followed, no good policy or projects of the Government will achieve its objectives as desired.

For adopting the policy of 'hire and fire', if amendments are required to be made in our Constitution, the Government should come forward for it.

I therefore request that the policy of 'hire and fire' should be adopted. Good provisions are made in the Budget but if the implementation of them is not proper, it will not yield the expected result. Therefore, the said policy of 'hire and fire' should be followed.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget. Much has been said on the Budget on the floor of the House, in the media, in Boardrooms, in offices, in market places and in street corners. But, unfortunately, in the same country, the people of the North-Eastern region remain cool to the Budget.

They remain unexcited and indifferent with a sense of resignation. This is the climate which worries all of us. Weighed down with feelings of deprivation and frustration, the people of the North-East have learnt how not to be too enthusiastic about promises.

Sir, it is easy to promise an economic package, but you harm more if it is delayed. The economic packages announced by three successive hon. Prime Ministers in a span of three years are conspicuously missing in the Budget. Sir, delay defeats the purpose. You promise and then procrastinate I am tempted to parody an old pop song "Procastination, that is the name of the game and each Finance Minister plays the same!" There is no doubt that there is mention of a few items of the package in a string of casual sentences that priority will be given to infrastructure development, specially airports, railways, power and national highways. Sir, even after a lapse of four years, the North-East is still being consoled with promises that priority will be given to infrastructural development. Besides Referring to the infrastructural development out of context gives rise to suspicion because the context is Prime Minister's package why does this Budget keep mum on it? Is it because the Government wants to slip out of it quietly, particularly since the Shukla Committee's Report, in the wake of the announcement of the first package, has been awaiting implementation for the last three years? Or is it because this Report too is left to gather dust in its run-up to neat oblivion? Committees and Reports without political will and sincerity of purpose cannot be expected to chisel a way out of the accumulated historical neglect to this region. Had the Government started phase-wise implementation immediately, at least during the last three years, some solid ground work would have been laid by now.

Sir, we are given to understand that 10 per cent of the Plan provision of the Central Ministries and Departments has been earmarked for the development of the region. If we work out 10 per cent of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, the figure will be about Rs. 615 crore - that is 10 per cent of total allocation of Rs. 6,155.97 crore - whereas the lumpsum provision shown in the Budget for projects and schemes for the benefit of the North-Eastern region and Sikkim is just Rs. 295 crore which is Rs. 320 crore less. Let us work out 10 per cent of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Budget allocates Rs. 5.50 crore for the region as against the total allocation of Rs. 222 crore, 20 per cent of which is Rs. 22 crore.

Thus, Rs. 17 crore is less and yet much emphasis is laid on Civil Aviation as a strategic area in infrastructural development of the region.

Take the case of the Ministry of Surface Transport. The Grant demanded is Rs. 7,056 crore, allocation to the North-East is not shown, but if it is calculated as 10 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time now, please conclude.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Please give me some time so that I can make my point.

If it is calculated on the basis of 10 per cent, it should be around Rs. 705 crore. Shukla Commission has rightly identified transport communication as a precondition for national integration and defence and development of the region, emphasising adequate connectivity, intra-regional as well as with the rest of the country, in order to lift the region out of geo-political isolation. It also recommends an allocation of Rs. 10,829.50 crore. I admit, this is a huge amount. But nobody demands that much allocation at one go. What we want is well-demarcated phases in a reasonably calculated time frame.

If I go again to water resources, the Brahmaputra Board submitted a Master Plan of short-term measures

costing Rs. 1,848 crore at 1995 prices, and long-term measures up to 2050 consisting of very large multipurpose storages, which are likely to cost Rs. 50,000 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Handique, please conclude.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: I know, it is a big amount, but it is for the next 50 years. It does not mean that your Budget allocation should be just below Rs. 100 crore. There must be significant allocation every year. At this pace, how can we achieve the objective? It will take one more century to reach the target. So, Sir, I do call upon the hon. Finance Minister to do some rethinking and actually mean business while he handles the problems of the North-East. Otherwise, there is no point in talking big about the development of the North-Eastern region and doing nothing in practice.

Sir, my time is rationed. Would you allow me some time?

MR. SPEAEKR: No, please conclude.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Saroj Tufani and Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi can lay their written speeches on the Table.

[Translation]

*SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider the budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister as anti-Farmer and anti-poor. I also feel that the budget has been prepared keeping in view the interests of rich people and multi-national companies. I consider it anti-Farmer and anti-poor because it has increased the burden on them instead of giving them relief. It is well-known that our's is a agriculture based country. Poor people of our country live in villages and most of them are dependent on agriculture. Most of them are small and marginal farmers who are living in miserable conditions. The Government has done injustice to the farmers by reducing 15% subsidy on Urea and D.A.P. which will lead to 15% increase in the prices of these fertilizers.

By making 5% increase in the price of kerosene, the hon'ble Minister has targetted the poor villagers and labourers. Even today the people in the villages use lamps and lantern which is blown out after use only for short time. Even these people have not been spared in the Budget.

Sir, this budget has been formulated in the interest of Multi-national companies and rich people. I demand from the Government to restore the subsidy on urea and D.A.P.

*SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget for the year 2000-2001. I am grateful to hon'ble Minister of Finance that he has formulated a scheme to benefit the poor and backward classes. Indira Awas Yojana and Insurance Scheme is very beneficial for the poor people and for farmers. This is the best budget in comparison to the last 40 years as none of the Government in the past has formulated credit card scheme for the farmers. Indira Awas Yojana and reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been further extended for 10 years and reservation facility for dalits has been protected. SC/ST candidates have been given maximum representation in the present Government as compared to any other Government during the past 53 years of our independence. A dalit person has been elected as Speaker of Lok Sabha and dalits are being appoined on higher posts. All this shows that hon'ble Atalji's Government is a true well-wisher of Dalits. 11 hundred years ago, there was no class-system in our country as festival celebrations on Holi and Deepawali etc. during those times showed that these festivals helped in strengthening the unity and integrity of the society. Thousand years old 'Ganga Snan Mela' is a proof that no ghat near the Ganga was reserved for any particular community. Even women belonging to dalit community were of the belief that they could ensure a place for their children in the heaven by performing their 'Mundan Ceremony' at Ganga ghat and taking a dip in the holy Ganges. Messiah of Dalits Sant Shiromani Ravidas was sent to jail by Mugals but he did not renounce Hindu religion and continued promoting Vedik religion. In the same way Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was also the Messiah of dalits. Had he been displeased with Hindus, he would have opted Budhism as Budhism is also a wing of Hindu religion. He could have adopted christianity at that time. He had a love for his country but today some leaders are misguiding dalit community through false propaganda of the name and principles of Baba Sahib Ambedkar.

I whole heartedly welcome this budget and suggest that in order to prevent adulteration in Diesel and to save the national machinery, prices of kerosene should be fixed at Rs. 12/- per liter so that kerosene could not be mixed with diesel. Petrol is being mixed with the petrol used for dry cleaning the clothes which is affecting the national machinery. Its price should also be fixed at Rs. 20/- per litre. To have a check over bureaucracy,

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi]

Lok Sabha should exercise its powers strongly so that people could get the maximum benefit from this budget. A policy should be formulated to reduce the rights of high ranking officials.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having spared me a few minutes to make my observations and comments on this Budget. In fact, I would hasten to express my objection and opposition to this Budget and I am constrained to do so not only for the sake of opposition but also on real merit and for manifold reasons.

Sir, by virtue of the fact that this is the first Budget of the new millennium; the first Budget of the NDA Government and the last Budget of the Twentieth century; I thought that this Budget would contain some special characteristics and special features. But, my disappointment, it did very little. On the other hand, the Budget was prepared by the hon. Finance Minister with high sounding jargons and slogans with vain promises.

Sir, as a student of Public Administration, I know the budgetary principles. Every one of us may be familiar with such budgetary principles. Orginally, it was meant as a tool of administration and a basis of orderly finance. Later, in due course, it has become a very powerful instrument to ensure and envisage the upliftment of the nation in terms of econmical, social and cultural developments and promotion of welfare objectives for which one should set the vision and there should be the mission and the means to achieve it.

Sir, the question is, whether the hon. Finance Minister, by applying these parameters has done the exercise properly or not. The Finance Minister may claim to have a vision of his own, but the question is whether he has really worked out strategies or the means to achieve it. I very much doubt. But at the same time the present Finance Minister has been very much lucky and does have wonderful and favourable economic conditions, which were not at all available to other earlier Finance Ministers in terms of improved economic climate and lucky circumstances.

To mention a few such circumstances, I am inclined to cite that the country was in a better economic condition as compared to earlier years. Secondly, the economy was in the process of recovery in industrial and export sectors. Thirdly, there was a comfortable balance of payments position. Fourthly, there was a reduced inflation level. Fifthly, there had been a plentiful foreign exchange reserves and food stocks; and finally, there was a booming stock market As such there has been a good deal of 'good feel factors' that existed when this budget was prepared.

Sir, in spite of all these favourable circumstances, the question is, whether the Budget prepared by the hon. Finance Minister and presented to us wil fulfil the purposes envisaged. It has been well said by the experts and critics that it may be directionally correct but practically defective. Again, it has been said that the Finance Minister has said right things but he did not follow right actions. Again, it has been said that he has targeted the right goals, but he did not score. The Finance Minister has made a number of promises, but likely to disappoint us by performances. We all thought that this is the second phase of economic reforms. But it is only a symbolic noise. This is how the Budget has been commented upon by the political leaders, the Press and other critics.

As far as I could see the Budget document presented by the hon. Finance Minister seems to be very much impracticable and unimplementable. I may be permitted to justify why I say so. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malaisamy, please conclude now.

24.00 hrs.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I have taken not even five minutes so far. I need at least ten minutes more. I should have been told ahead the amount of time I am going to get. In fact, one of the speakers from our ADMK Party was made to cut short his speech which resulted in a saving of four to five minutes of our party's time. I should be entitled to avail such savings.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that we have time constraint. You have already taken five minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I have not even made a beginning. I need at least ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: That is impossible.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I always conclude within the time frame given. I will conclude within ten minutes.

Sir, we all saw the reaction of the stock markets to the Budget. Sensex has collapsed by 300 points when as the Budget was presented. Coming to the industry and trade, they also have sharply reacted and gave negative impressions about the Budget. Leave apart the

stock markets, leave apart the industry, leave apart the trade and take note of the reactions of the alliance partners of the NDA Government. Many of the alliance partners are opposing certain provisions of the Budget. What does it mean? If at all, the Budget should please either this side of the House or that side of the House or both sides of the House. But the Budget does not seem to please anyside. A Budget should ensure greatest happiness of the greatest number of people. What does this Budget aim at? What does it envisage?

Coming to the fiscal déficit, this budget is trying to bring it from 5.6 per cent to 5.1 per cent. Take the case of last year. They said that they would bring it to four per cent and ultimately they could not succeed in doing that. The reason mentioned for that was the Kargil conflict. In reality, it was overspending of 58 per cent of the expenditure on the other fronts rather than Kargil defence. If that is the case, how Kargil conflict alone is responsible for this? There is a huge gap between what the Government says and what it does. There is no correlation at all between the two.

I now come to the zero-based budgeting in terms of ongoing schemes; reassessing manpower requirement; review of subsidy, etc. Zero-based budgeting is not a new concept. It has been in existence from the year 1980. They have not done any thing new. However, they make tall claims that they would resort to zero-based budgeting.

Coming to the reduction of Government holding in the public sector banks, this measure is totally against the social orientation of our system of governance. Their concept and conviction is one and their policies are different. On the issues of hike in fertiliser price and PDS prices, I join the DMK friends who have said that PDS should not have been attacked. The PDS prices should be restored to the pre-Budget levels. The Government says that it is going to remove poverty but it is very much scared of the poor people and farmers. It has taxed the farmers as well as the poor people.

On the one hand the Government has reduced the Customs Duty, and on the other it has increased the Excise Duty. There is a big industry called TNPL in Tamil Nadu which was the brainchild and pet child of the late leader MGR. He sanctioned crores and crores of rupees for that project. With the increase of Excise duty now from 8 per cent to 16 per cent, the amount payable by this industry comes to about Rs. 25 crores per annum. In another two or three years, this industry may not survive. It is likely to become sick mainly because of the hike in Excise Duty. When the industry is in a state of recovery, some package should be given for the industry. Industry should be not left to the States. Plan outlay for education, health, drinking water, rural housing etc., is only marginal. With such outlay for these areas, how is the Government going to improve the human resources in the country?

I short there is a lot of difference between precept and practice. There is no correlation between what the Government says and what it does. There is a big gap between its vision and its means. In the end, the Government is not going to achieve anything at all of what they propose.

In a democratic country like ours, Government should ensure self-sufficiency rather than borrowing from outside. It should concentrate on domestic resource mobilisation by unearthing black money and, as an hon. Member said, by bringing tax evaders into the tax net; adequate protection for PDS and social sectors; efficient management of public enterprises and banks rather than selling them in the name of private participation; positive move towards domestic competition; decentralisation, rationalisation, simplification of systems and procedures, etc. These are certain areas which the hon. Finance Minister may consider and concentrate and do his best.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Malaisamy, please conclude now.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I will take only two minutes more.

As far as my constituency is concerned, I am very happy to hear from the hon. Finance Minister that Rs. 4.8 crore has been set apart for carrying out a feasibility and economic viability study for Sethu Samudrum project, which comes under my Ramanathapuram Constituency. This project has got a big history. There is no doubt that the area is very backward, chronically poverty stricken and drought-hit place. In that case, a project like this is the most felt need, a crying need. But unfortunately, this has been pending for about one and half century. From 1860 onwards, the proposals have been under consideration. But so far nothing concrete has been done.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Malaisamy, please take your seat.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am just concluding.

Sir, seven feasibility reports have been made. The hon. Defence Minister, when he came to Rameshwaram, had said that this project is going to take-off. This was followed by the Prime Minister's visit to Chennai who too has announced that this project would definitely take off. All these days, we were under the impression that they were going to start this project.

[Shri K. Malaisamy]

This was mentioned in the reports of several committees also.

But now from the Budget it is seen that the project is taking reverse gear by saying 'we are going to make a feasibility study and an economically viable study with the allocation of Rs. 4.8 crores. But Sir, both are already there. If that was the case, why are they making so many announcements? Now, this is neither 'forward' nor 'backward' but 'awkward.' I am sorry, this is what I could say.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that something is done concrete to take up the Sethu Samudrum project. Otherwise, the people of the entire South in Tamil Nadu might resort to something which might even create an agitation leading to a law and order problem. I once again appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to speed up the process by fixing a time frame and closely monitor it besides allocating enough funds. It has been pending for years and decades. It should not be delayed anymore. As this is a very prestigious project, it should be taken as a national project.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing should go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Sir, please see the time, it is the morning of 16th and I am happy that you did not call me to speak at 12 O'clock, rather you called me to speak at 12.05 hrs. I request you to permit me to conclude by 12.25 hrs. because I am speaking on behalf of my party at ninth number and I will do justice to my party with my speech. While looking at Shri Yashwant Sinha and other hon'ble Members. I remember a beautiful couplet of an urdu poet-

"Bare shauq se sun raha tha jamana,
hami so gaye dastan kehte kehte."

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for being with us in these late hours.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes in the game of politics, the least favoured person manage to have the jackpot. Because "Sitaron se agey jahan aur bhi hain, Zindgi ke imtihan abhi aur bhi hain." I rise to strongly oppose this Budget because this budget is anti-working class, anti-farmers and pro-multinationals. The Budget presented in this new millenium is against our heritage and culture. Therefore, I strongly oppose it. This Budget will lead to economic stagnation. While addressing the Chair, I am happy to say that Bharatiya Janata Party headed Government has been opposed by all its allies parties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, NDA is being opposed on two issues which are concerning the entire country, whether it is the food subsidy given to poor people or the price rise of urea and other fertilizers. That is why all the allied parties/partners are opposing it. I would like to say—

"Mulq ki fiqr kar nadan musibat aney valie hai
Teri barbadiyon ke mashvare hain asmanh mein."

I would like to say that all political parties have opposed it.

Hon'ble Shri Yashwant Sinha ji I have no doubt about your capability, but I would like to tell you that during the last budget you had stated that.

[English]

"We are moving into a genuine economic super power by the year 2000."

[Translation]

This was the statement given by you last year. Have we entered into genuine economic superpower 2000? I want to tell you that agriculture production has gone down and agriculture growth rate has been reduced by 2.2%. Foodgrains production has gone down by 1.9%. Therefore, your claim that it is a super budget has been proved to be untrue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now hon'ble Shri Shanta Kumar ji is not present in the House. I have high regards for him. 12 years ago I went to parade ground of Chandigarh as a student to hear the arguments of three Chief Ministers. At that time, Shri Shanta Kumar was the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Shri Devi Lal and Shri Badal were the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab respectively. Shri Shanta Kumar had spoken very eloquently. Has he been present in the House, I would have told him that he was mentioning about 33 crore poor people of our country but he is not aware of the fact that 1/3rd items of PDS are diverted or leaked out and do not reach the poor. He is also unaware of the fact that the people who are living above poverty line corner a sizeable share of it. The House is misguided

* Not recorded.

when it is stated that 33 crores and 40 crores people are being benefited through PDS. Thus, a wrong statement has been given in the House

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): State Government is responsible for that. Central Government is not responsible for it..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Shri Khanduri, I am aware of it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): I want to make an amendment in it, 1/3rd reaches the PDS outlets and 2/3 is leaked out.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI: Does it happen in Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Not in Madhya Pradesh but it happens in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit in the House that during the years 1925-30, our economists were not as expert as compared to those who studied at Harward University. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it on the records that Shri Kishan Singh, Father of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and his uncle Shri Ajit Singh had raised a slogan in 1925- "Pagri Sambhal, Pagri Sambhal, e Kisanan tera maal lut kar ley gaye videshi." I want to say that even after the passing of so many years of our independence. Our country is still in bad shape. There is an old saying for Britishers that —"Danapani mulq ka rali barabar ley gaye." It is written in the old books. Foreigners took away the wealth of our country and there is no exaggeration in this statement. After 5-10 years you will understand it when foreign multi-national companies who have entered our economy will do the same. They will earn maximum profit here and our country will become economically weak. We should understand it.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this occasion, I am remembering a couplet of the eminent poet of the east, Alama Iqbal. He has been a great poet of the east. India was an unidivided country when he wrote this beautiful couplet:

> "Jis khet se dekha ko mayassar na ho roti,
> Us khet ke her Gosha-e-Gandam ko jala do."

The policy you have formulated in this budget will not provide food to poor farmers and a day will come when farmer will be compelled to burn his crop. I would also like to say that expenditure on defence has been increased. I welcome it but can I ask through you as to why all the 16 essential items of the uniform were not provided to the soldiers during Kargil war where their body parts were getting badly affected by frost bite. He is talking about the budget of 34 thousand or 50 thousand crores but he should be aware of the fact that proper uniforms were not provided to the soldiers of the age of 20-21 years who were fighting at 17,000 feet high mountain ranges of Tiger and Drass and were writing letters to their Kith and Kin for the first time. Your Intelligence failed on Kargil front. By rising the prices of fertilizers you are affecting the people who send their sons to fight the enemy and scrifice their lives for the country.

You are saying that you are going to take concrete steps for the security of the country. I agree that security of the country is foremost. I am not talking about Bajaje or Ambanis but I am talking about the families whose near and dears have sacrificed their lives in Kargil war. Has the Finance Minister visited any of those grief sticken families? I want to tell you that more than 65 soldiers from Punjab have sacrificed their lives. However, none of the leaders of our country has gone there to listen to the problems and agony of the families of those killed in Kargil war. Those families have resentment about it. You should pay attention towards it. Families of the deceased solidiers of Para-Military forces are not given as much compensation as given to the families of the deceased soldiers of Kargil war. Despite the fact that insecurity and insurgency conditions are prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir, will the people who are fighting against it not get any compensation? I request you to increase the amount of compensation for them also. I will conclude my points as early as possible.

On this occasion, I would like to tell you that I am not going into the details of the circumstances which forced our solidiers to fight the Kargil war. I would like to speak about Punjab. The State which was the most prosperous earlier became the poorest due to the policies of the BJP and Akali Dal. I want to tell you that Punjab is having a debt liability of Rs. 26 thousand crores. What assistance you have provided to the State which is fighting against terrorism for the last 15 years? Chief Minister of Punjab who belongs to opposition party has exhausted himself while demanding the funds from the Central Government. I would like to mention that Punjab needs assistance and you should help it.

Besides, financial position of Punjab State is very poor. It is not in a position to pay salaries to its employees. No Nationalized bank is ready to grant the loan. Salaries of the employees and pension of the retired employees have been stopped. This is the condition of Punjab which was earlier the most prosperous State. My friend Shri Kirit Somaiya despite belonging to an other

[Shri J.S. Brar]

party has rightly mentioned about State's condition and so did many other members. You should take a strong and concrete step in this regard. I would also like to mention that the Constituency to which I belong.

[English]

It has the maximum consumption of fertilizer Industry.

[Translation]

My constituency has the maximum consumption of fertilizers but the farmer of my constituency lives in most miserable condition, whether it is the cotton grower, wheat grower, sugarcane grower or potato grower. Coconut growers and coffee growers of other parts of our country are also leading a miserable life. such is the pathatic condition of our farmers. There is a saying in Punjabi and I hope my friends will understand it—"Tere bache dudho tarse aur tu gauo da pali aye." Farmer who keeps cows is unable to provide milk to his children. This is the plight of the farmers of our country. They are in distress. When agriculture production of our country went down, you did not provide assistance to the farmers rather you raised the price of fertilizer for which you cannot be pardened.

My last point is very relevant. I would like to speak about population. We have been provided with a paper which is relevant to this Budget. By 11th May, 2000.

[English]

India's population is projected to be one billion, 16 percent of the world population and in 2045, India will overtake China.

[Translation]

This is the situation of our country. Will the Union Government take any step to improve the Budget and also the condition of the people of our country? It is difficult to present your views on the Budget in 15 minutes. I want to submit that it is a general Budget and I have not quoted all the figures as I do not want to waste the precious time of the House. But humbly, I would like to submit that during session period media persons remain present in the House premises from morning till evening and ask us to comment on certain aspects of the Budget. But at the time of the discussion ot the country's Budget, very few members were present in the House. I would also like to say that during the discussion on the general Budget, country's Prime Minister and the opposition leaders should remain present in the House till the end of the discussion. It will enhance the dignity of the House. It is an anti farmer Budget. It has worsened the condition of the farmers. I strongly oppose it.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I rise to support the General Budget. I congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a balanced budget at a time when the country is passing through a crucial financial period. Earlier apprehensions were there for a hard budget, but barring a few exceptions, in general, it is a balanced and optimistic budget. How long is it possible to manage the economic affairs of the country by taking loans and giving subsidy to various commodities as various Governments have done in the past. In order to make the country self-dependent and economically balanced, someone has to take some initiative at some point of time. It is improper on the part of the opposition just to oppose the things for the sake of opposition. Had appropriate steps been taken to honestly implement the schemes and policies, our villages and farmers would have been prosperous and our labourers would have been happy today, there would have been proper education facilities, village would have been linked with the block headquarters and districts and they would have been provided with good medical and telephone facilities. Hence, there is a need for introspection today.

Our country's economy is rural and agriculture based. Our farmers are hard working, determined and self contented. If our farmers are timely provided with adequate water, electricity and fertilizers, they can produce sufficient foodgrains to feed the people of the country and can also help in repaying our foreign debts. For this purpose, more funds should be provided to construct small and big dams for increasing irrigation facilities. Mobile camps should be arranged to provide information to the farmers regarding Kisan Credit Card Scheme and Crop Insurance Scheme so that they could get the maximum benefit through these schemes.

Defence outlay has been increased in the budget, which is justified. The interested youths of the families of the martyrs should be given special reservation to encourage them to join defence forces. The problem of unemployment is assuming menacing proportions. Our country is having huge population. It should be our priority to generate employment opportunities for the growing population. Today, Centre and State Governments are preferring to get the work done through contractors than to employ the daily wagers which is increasing the problem further. Therefore, Central Government should make efforts to set up big industries in all the States so that employment could be provided to maximum people.

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

Madhya Pradesh is one of the States of the country which has minerals, precious and other stones and wood in abundance. In Madhya Pradesh as also in other similar States, the Union Government should promote the supplementary industries with the co-operation of State Government and special provisions should be made in the budget for this purpose. Besides, to make the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana effective, it should be monitored properly so that our youth could get its benefit through banks.

I whole heartedly welcome the budget presented by hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister in limited time period and I hope the country will progress under their leadership.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. For the last nine hours we have been hearing the views expressed by the different sections of the House. I would like to give some suggestions to the Finance Minister through you. I would be very grateful if the hon. Minister implements two or three suggestions of mine. Time and again people are speaking about the fiscal deficit. But nobody has given any measure or suggestions how to reduce the fiscal deficit. I feel that the time has come to implement the suggestion given by one of the hon. Member during the days of Jawaharlal Nehru. The suggestion was that we should introduce tax on expenditure and not on income. We have been repeatedly saying that there is a parallel economy, namely the black money. People are paying tax only on white income and they do not pay tax on black income. We should think of introducing tax on expenditure. Let us see how we can do that. In a city like Mumbai, if a person is living in a flat of a size of 700 sq. ft., with one Maruti car, an AC, a television, and a fridge then he must be spending Rs. 15,000/- per month. So, he has to pay Rs. 1,500/- per month as tax. There should be no compulsion of filing tax returns etc. The Government has to make the taxation system very simple. So, tax the expenditure. The time has come when we have to introduce this tax to increase the income of the nation. To increase the income, the Government has thought of a solution, namely disinvestment of public sector. I am very sorry to say that disinvesting public sector is nothing but protecting the corrupt and most inefficient bureaucracy. I can give hundreds of examples to show their corrupt practices and misconduct. But I would like to cite only two examples.

In Maharashtra one public sector company wanted to erect a plant of caustic soda. When the project was started, the estimated cost of the project was Rs. 44 crore. But at the time of completion of the project, the cost went up to Rs. 89 crore and because of that the selling price of the caustic soda went up to Rs. 21,000 per metric tonne, whereas, the caustic soda was available in the market at the rate of Rs. 14,000 per metric tonne. So, Rs. 89 crore has gone waste. But no bureaucrat has been questioned as to why the cost has gone up. When I wrote to the concerned Minister, the Secretary of that Department had written a strong letter to the company asking it why the cost had increased. There is a representative in the company from the Government side. When the cost of the project increased from Rs. 44 crore to Rs. 89 crore, nobody questioned that and it went on increasing.

Now, I would like to give one example. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik on 20th November, 1999 asking certain questions which could have discovered the corrupt practices in ONGC. I am sorry to say that four months have passed but I am yet to receive a reply to that letter. We are bringing some corrupt practices to the notice of the concerned Minister, but they are bringing the proposal for disinvestment. When the detailed discussion will take place on disinvestment, definitely I will speak on that. But I would like to say that disinvestment is not the solution and it would not increase your income. By disinvestment you are bringing those people on the streets who are working there for years together. But you are protecting the corrupt officers.

Thirdly, whenever we write a letter to any Minister we get a formal reply which says: 'We are in receipt of your letter and we are looking into the matter'. There would be no further reply after that. I had written one letter to our Finance Minister on 10th February, 2000 requesting him for income tax exemption on interest, dividend and long-term capital gains received under Section 10 (23-G) to attract huge investment for infrastructure. I think the concerned officer must be advising that if we give this exemption we will be losing Rs. 1000 crore of income tax. But if you give this exemption, at least Rs. 10,000 crore will be available for infrastructure which will create more jobs in the country. I hope the hon. Minister will accept this suggestion and give exemption on gross income under Section 23(G) by amending the Act.

Sir, I had said in the last speech also that we need a long term industrial taxation policy. But it has not been introduced so far. Now people are talking about fiscal deficit. The basic things of economics are demand and supply. The demand is more and the supply is less, that is why the prices are increasing. May I ask this august House, can we pass a Bill saying that in Hindustan for the coming 20 years there should be only one kid for one family irrespective of caste, creed and religion? If we can pass such a Bill and control our population many

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

of the problems can be solved. But for the cheap popularity no political party would be in favour of such a Bill as everybody is afraid of his votes. A bold step from this august House is expected now. We should at least do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, since the Budget was presented, we are working hard. It means only seniors know the problems of the nation and we do not know anything.

MR. SPEAKER: You are the third speaker from your party.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: sir, this is injustice because if you ask us to lay our speech on the Table of the House, we will get a reply that they are looking into the matter. But nothing would be done. This is our experience of the last four years. So, we must get an opportunity to say something here. Ultimately, we are saying this in the interest of the nation. I am working in a constituency.

Now I have received a clumsy letter.

For the last three years I have been asking them to increase the MPLAD fund. The MPLAD fund should be given in proportion to the number of voters. Mine is the second largest constituency consisting of 27,81,000 voters.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Mine is the third largest constituency.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I have received a letter from them saying that out of an allocation of Rs. 1580 crore for the current year 1999-2000, they have been able to release only Rs. 268 crore up to 31.1.2000. They seem to have forgotten one thing. Last year the Budget was passed when there were elections and for the first nine months this money was not utilised. Now they are saying that because the money was not utilised, they cannot give extra money.

I can give one example. There is a class with fifty boys. Forty boys have failed and ten boys have passed. Because forty boys have failed, the remaining ten boys are also declared as not having passed! I am utilising the money in a proper fashion and am demanding that money should be given in proportion to the number of voters. But they are not sanctioning it. I am sorry to tell the Minister that they are not being very frank. For what happened in 1999-2000 they are saying sorry, but they cannot increase the money. They are not doing justice to the people who are spending the money in a proper fashion. Because others are not spending the money, I am also not getting it. This is not the rule and this should not be treated in this fashion. My humble request to the hon. Minister is to link the MPLAD fund to the number of voters proportionately—say, for ten lakh voters, Rs. 2 crore; up to fifteen lakh voters, Rs. 3 crore; up to 20 lakh voters, Rs. 4 crore; and above 20 lakh voters, Rs. 5 crore. I would be very much thankful to you if you accept my suggestion.

There are a lot of things that I want to say. But, to honour the Chair's words, I would conclude by reiterating my suggestion that this august House should pass a Bill to control the population. Then and then only can we get justice.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion.

*SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, at the outset, I would like to point out that the Government of India has increased the allocation for the education of girls belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community from Rs. 72 crore to Rs. 132 crore. I humbly feel that this is not at all sufficient. Hence, there is a need to increase this amount to at least Rs. 200 crore. The Government has also announced financial assistance to 61 lakh scavengers through the Government and the Financial Development Corporations. Also, a new Ministry of Tribal Affairs has already been created for which the amount has been increased from Rs. 684 crore to Rs. 810 crore.

Secondly, the Non-Plan Expenditure has been increased from Rs. 2,24,343 crore to Rs. 2,50,385 crore thereby the total increase would be of the order of Rs. 26,044 crore. This being, so where is the reduction in Non-Plan expenditure?

Now, I come to the cut in fertilizer subsidy and PDS items. From these things, we can draw the conclusion that this Budget is anti-people, anti-poor and anti-farmers.

Reducing the Non-Plan expenditure is very essential. If they are opening some new Departments like Information Technology, Disinvestment Department etc. then they have to close down some Departments which are not essential. Otherwise, it is impossible to check the Non-Plan Expenditure.

The major problem of the country is the huge debt. Interest payment alone comes to Rs. 984 crore. I am

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

happy to note that the Defence expenditure has been increased by Rs. 9392 crore. In fact, I had expected a substantial increase as far as this expenditure is concerned.

Next, cold-storage and marketing facilities must be provided to the farmers and they should be encouraged to increase production.

Coconut is imported freely into this country. In order to stop this, a minimum duty of 35 per cent should be imposed on such imports from forien countries. Silk import should also be stopped in order to encourage our domestic industry.

The Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) is 120 years old and more than 4000 employees have been thrown out of employment. The dependants of these employees will amount to a total of more than two lakh. In fact, these employees were on a protest march in the City of Bangalore very recently. Therefore, it is high time for the Central Government to revive the BGML. Those who have already lost the jobs should be provided alternate jobs.

The amount allocated for PMRY must be increased susbtantially.

The amount that is allocated to the Welfare of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people is not at all sufficient. The total population of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people in our country is more than 25 per cent. Therefore, the amount to be allocated for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be about 25 per cent of the total Budget.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to set up more residential schools for the children belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community at the taluka level.

More than 80 per cent of the population of our country are dependent on agriculture. Therefore, farmers should be given all the facilities like marketing, cold-storage etc. Agriculturists are the backbone of the economy of our country. Therefore, the fertilizer subsidy and the PDS subsidy should continue.

The percentage of irrigated land should be increased. Otherwise, there cannot be any increase in agricultural production. There is a lot of imbalance between the States with regard to the irrigated land. So, the Centre should try to maintain some balance between the States. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to link the northern rivers like the Ganga, Mahanadi etc. with the southern rivers like the Krishna and the Cauvery.

I now come to the problem of the BEML. My point is that the BEML should get the contract from the Railway Ministry for the supply of at least 2000 bogies during the current year. There are more than 5000 workers working in this unit. Hence, they should get orders from the Government. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to do the needful in this regard.

As I said earlier, there should be residential schools for the children belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community at the taluka level. Also, more Navodaya Schools must be set up in Karnataka State, particularly in Kolar District. Also, computer education should be provided to them. Then only the children belonging to the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribes and the rural areas can come up in their life.

Sir, I hope the hon. Minister will take a serious note of all the points that I have mentioned in this speech and do the needful for the benefit of the downtrodden people.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I conclude now.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir, I would like to speak in support of the budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to improve the financial position of the country under the leadership of the hon'ble Prime Minister and I congratulate him. The present Government has made commendable efforts to improve the financial position of the States which had deteriorated during the Congress regime of past 50 years. Every year a loan of Rs. one lakh crore has to be taken, even then the hon'ble Finance Minister has increased the plan outlay by rupees one thousand crore in this financial year. It has been increased from Rs. 77 thousand crores to Rs. 88 thousand crores. It is a welcome step. Funds provided under the Defence head' has been increased from Rs. 45694 crores to Rs. 58587 crores. Funds to the tune of Rs. 5000 crore have been provided for the villagers under the Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana'. It is also a commendable step. An additional tax relief of Rs. 5000/- for women is also a welcome step. To admit all children in the schools by 2003 under 'Sarv Shiksha' campaign is also a praise worthy step. Central Plan allocation has been increased from Rs. 103527 crores to Rs. 117334 crores. Farmers have been provided with Credit Card facility. Financial

* Speech laid on the Table of the House.

[Smt. Jayashree Banerjee]

position of Madhya Pradesh is causing concern. Crores of rupees have been spent on the visits of Ministers and Chief Ministers. The employees who are working for the last 10 years are being retrenched due to financial crunch. Roads are in poor condition and drinking water facility is also not available there. Farmers and general public are not getting electricity. Central Plan funds are being misused. Pension is not being paid to widows. Therefore, Central Government should intervene and tackle the problems directly.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget. This year's budget is not a good budget for the people living in Bodoland territory and north-east areas. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and the Vice-Chairman of Planning Commission Shri K.C. Pant had visited Shillong during last January. For the development of North-eastern areas, Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced there a special economy package of Rs. 10,271 crore. However, in this Budget, hon'ble Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 500 crore only for these areas. How the rest of the funds will be arranged? It is very strange that the hon'ble Prime Minister has announced a package of Rs. 30 crore annually to Bodoland Autonomous Council for three consecutive years though the total population of Bodoland Autonomous Area is 30 lakh. On the other hand, Assam's total population as per the census of 1991 is 2 crore 32 lakh and proportionately, we should be provided with at least Rs. 200 crores annually. We should have been provided with Rs. 1200 crore ever since the Bodoland Autonomous Council has been set up but we have got only Rs. 100 crores. From where will the rest of the amount of Rs. 1100 crores be arranged for us, has not been specified.

[English]

It is a great discrimination against us. So, I cannot support this Budget. I would like to appeal to the Government of India that Bodoland should be separated immediately from the existing State of Assam. Due to the lackadaisical attitude and step-motherly treatment meted out to our hill tribal brethren like the Nagas, Mizos and others, they have been compelled to go out of Assam in 1960s and 1970s. They could not develop themselves before being separated from Assam but when they got separate State of their own in 1960s and 1970s, they could develop themselves in a far better way. The same was the situation with the then Haryana when it was with Punjab. When Haryana region was under the control of the erstwhile Punjab, it could not develop well. But when Haryana region was separated from Punjab, it could develop in a far better way. That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India that Bodoland Territory should be separated immediately from the mainland of Assam. Otherwise, you cannot expect any kind of peace and development in the North-Eastern region. Since last year, I have been keeping on asking the Government of India to set up a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and a separate National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority and a separate National Scheduled Tribes Commission. Till today, that sort of a Commission has not been set up. Then what about the special allocation for the welfare of the down-trodden people of the country? I do have a lot of problems and grievances. I have incorporated all my demands and points in my written speech which I would submit to the hon. Speaker.

I would appeal to the Government of India and all the learned Members who have come here from various parts of the country to have a look at the problems and tragedies being suffered by the Bodo people. We also want to live in India as dignified Indian citizens with our own distinct language, culture and identity. We can survive even without food for seven days or ten days or one month, but we cannot survive without identity. So, the Government of India should take us into confidence while formulating policies for the development of the North-Eastern region.

With these words, I conclude and submit my written speech to the hon. Speaker.

*I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to make necessary arrangements to allocate adequate amount of Central Fund to meet the project cost and recurrent expenditure of the proposed projects and development schemes as mentioned hereunder.

Sir, I am not at all satisfied with this Budget. This Budget also has betrayed the Bodoland Territory. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Finance Minister to be kind enough to take necessary steps to allocate adequate amount of Central Fund for the schemes and projects which I mention now.

For the setting up of a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, a total minimum Paid-up Capital of Rs. 1000 crore should be provided. Adequate allocation should be made for setting up of a separate National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority at the national level. Also, for setting up of a Bodoland Territorial Development Corporation, a minimum Paid-up Capital of Rs. 500 crore should be provided. Further, for setting up of a Bodoland Territory Forest and Plantation Development Corporation a Bodoland Territorial

*Also laid on the Table some written portion of his speech.

Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd., a Bodoland Handloom and Handicrafts and Textile Development Corporation; a Bodoland Handloom and Handicrafts Exports Corporation; a Bodoland Ashoka Hotel Corporation at Kokrajhar; a Central University; a Central Agricultural University at Kokrajhar; an Engineering College at Kokrajhar; a Medical College or a National Institute of Bodoland Medical Science and Hospital on the lines of the AIIMS; a National Institute of Information Technology at Kokrajhar; Multipurpose Irrigation Dam Projects, Hydro-electric Power Projects, Agro and Forest-based industries within the Bodoland Territory, Downstream Industries basing the by-products of the BRPL, adequate amount of Central Fund should be provided. Moreover, a minimum of Rs. 1000 crore should be earmarked by the Centre annually for the development of the Bodoland Territory until the territory is completely separated from the present State of Assam. Apart from this, adequate fund should be allocated for the establishment of a domestic Airport within Kokrajhar district.

A minimum of Rs. 100 crore should be sanctioned to the Assam Financial Corporation in order to revive the Joint State Financial Corporation. In addition to this, a minimum of Rs. 100 crore should be allocated for the construction of roads and bridges within the Bodoland Territory. Further, a minimum sum of Rs. 500 crore should be allocated for re-afforestation within the Bodoland Territory.

A minimum sum of Rs. 500 crore should be allocated for the development of Tourism and Cottage Industries. A minimum sum of Rs. 100 crore should be allocated for the development of Agricultural sector within the Bodoland Territory. A minimum sum of Rs. 100 crore should be allocated for the renovation, modernisation and operation of the BTPS, Salakoti (Kokrajhar). Also, a minimum sum of Rs. 100 crore should be provided for strengthening the BRPL, Dhatigaon.

The Government should take a positive policy decision to give exemption to the plains tribal people of Assam too from payment of Income-Tax on the same basis as is given to the hills tribal people of the entire south eastern region.

Finally, I would like to say that there should be a minimum allocation of a sum of Rs. 10 crore annually for my No. 5 Kokrajhar (S.T.) H.P.C.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you gave me to speak.

I rise to express my views on behalf of Janata Dal (Secular) on the Budget which was presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister for the year 2000-2001. Budget is an economic document of the country. But this is a deficit Budget. This budget has been presented in the back drop of Kargil war, Orissa crisis and unstable political situation. The Budget seeks to introduce new crop insurance scheme, credit card and new textile policy. It seems the Finance Minister has tried to sidetrack the main issues. Actually the Budget should be made keeping in view the welfare of farmers. But by increasing the prices of fertilizers farmers and poor people have been badly hit Shri Bala Saheb Vikhe Patil is the son of a well known father he is a farmer and he always works for the farmers.

Sir, in the year 1999-2000 Rs. 2338 crore were allocated to the Agriculture department and out of this amount only Rs. 1191 crore were spent. Even though the hon. Minister belongs to a farmer's family nothing was done for the farmers. Farmers have been pushed to our economic crises. Quota of foodgrains in the PDS has been increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. but since the prices have been increased, purchasing power will decrease. Survey of poor people was not carried out properly. It is necessary to undertake survey again. No attempt has been made to reduce the budgetary deficit. Similar no efforts have been made to increase employment. Nothing was done to unearth black money. Economy is in bad shape and the Finance Minister is merely going it a face lift. They talk of Swadeshi but they are allowing the entry of foreign companies. Thus there is a lot of difference in what they preach and what they practice.

Maharashtra State Government has formulated scheme for drinking water in inaccessible areas of the State specially in Nasik district. Earlier cent per cent amount for drinking water scheme used to be provided by Government. But now Union Government has issued a G.R. and has sent that to the State Government. People should contribute ten per cent amount for this scheme. Inaccessible areas are inhabited by tribals and they are not in a position to contribute money for this scheme. My request to the Union Government is to withdraw this G.R. and extend cooperation in preparing the scheme.

Attention should be paid to land reforms, availability of drinking water and farming. Maha Kumbh fair is going to be organised in Nasik. Trumbkeshwar. Therefore financial assistance should be provided for this purpose. There is a big poweloom industry in Ichal, karanji, Malegaon and Bhiwandi. Their condition is very bad. Arrangement should be made for cotton yarn, storage, electricity and housing.

Sir, quite a large amount has been spent on broadcasting department. Big people have been benefited by way of interest. Defence budget has been

[Shri A.F. Golam Osmani]

given a big boost. It is necessary to protect the motherland. The hon. Minister has held Shri Musharraf responsible for increase in the Defence expenditure.

Union Government is like Ravana having ten heads. Sometimes they demolish Babri-Masjid, instigate communal riots, caste riots, Hindu-Muslim riots and sometimes they indulge in attacks on Christians. Due to this reason international atmosphere gets disturbed and terrorism spreads. Welfare of the country goes to the background. It becomes a case of self-destruction. If internal health of the country is sound, other country cannot dare to attack India. Government itself is responsible for increasing Defence Budget. Sir, this Budget is like the tail of goat which can neither protect itself nor it can shoo away flies. This Budget is disappointing and inflationary.

[English]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whoever speaks from the North-East, the problem of deprivation of the North-East is projected. I shall not do it because of paucity of time. It is a ritual that every party speaks of the North-East. In fact, what is done? That is the main question.

Sir, the Finance Minister is kind enough in his speech in para 58 to say that priority is given for the development of infrastructure etc. At least, he has said about the infrastructure. In 1997, the Shukla Commission had gone into the problem of the North-East. I would like to point out for the perusal of the hon. Finance Minister as to what it has said. I quote:

> "The high level Committee in its report submitted on March 7, 1997 estimated a requirement of about Rs. 9396 crore for covering the backlog in Basic Minimum Services for the seven States in the Region. In respect of the infrastructure development, a broad overview of the indicative requirement of funds was given, and the total "gaps" in the key areas amounted to Rs. 93,619 crore and Rs. 17,996 crore during the Ninth Plan itself."

So, that was the backlog, How is to be overcome? All the Members from the North East, who have spoken before me, have said nothing had been done in this regard and there is utter deprivation. I would like to point out to the hon. Finance Minister that infrastructure has to be developed. In the North East, especially in Assam, there is acute unemployment among the uneducated, educated and also among the technically qualified persons.

Sir, if the owners of small-scale units, who have taken loans from the banks, could run their units, it would have helped the economy. From 1980 onwards, for the last 20 years there is law and order problem in the North East and everybody knows about it. So, these small-scale industries could not be run and 18,000 such units have run into difficulties. They are now being involved in Debt Recovery Tribunal. It means that all of them are defaulters. That is the tragic aspect. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should see that the owners of such small-scale units should not be treated like other defaulters, because they could not run their units due to reasons which were beyond their control. They are not simple defaulters. Now, the Act in respect of recovering debts due to banks and financial institutions has been reinforced again two or three days back. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that he should, at least, send a direction that, in the case of small-scale units, those who have loans below Rs. 10 lakh would not be referred to the Debt Recovery Tribunal and only those who have loans beyond Rs. 10 lakh would be referred to the Debt Recovery Tribunal. That should be the criterion. First, he should examine whether they could run their units or not. This should be done as was done in the case of Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has given encouragement to the entrepreneurs from the North East and stated that they are not required to pay tax for a period of 10 years. He has announced tax holiday for them. We, in the North East, do not need tax holiday, but we need interest holiday. If he could give this concession, then most of the small entrepreneurs in the North East will be saved. If they can repay the principal amount, the Government will also be benefited and they can also carry on with their business. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to study the problem from this aspect and take necessary steps to help them.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity, at midnight, to participate in the debate on the General Budget. I will be making my submissions at super fast speed.

Sir, in the Budget presented by the Finance Minister, in paragraph 47 he referred to the non-banking financial companies. It is a *post-mortem*. The innocent depositors have already been cheated. There is a mushroom growth of non-banking financial companies, particularly in Tamil Nadu. Most of them are facing winding up petitions, the Managing Directors of such companies have been arrested and lakhs of innocent depositors, who were hoping to get heavy interest, are on the street.

It works out to about Rs. 1,000 crore. This is regarding the non-banking financial institutions. It is a futile exercise.

As far as banking and services are concerned, it is very easy to purchase a car. But you cannot purchase a pumpset. Without any surety, you can walk into a company and purchase any car. If the people in a constituency want about 1,000 cars, I can purchase 1,000 cars the next day itself. They can do so directly. They can sign the bond without any surety. The advertisement says, "No papers, no guarantee" Anybody can purchase any new car — Maruti or Santro. So, these banking services are only available to the rich people.

Then Rs. 7 lakh crores have to be unearthed. Had action been taken to unearth these Rs. 7 lakh crores, the Minister of Finance would have done better to the people. I appeal to the hon. Minister to unearth these Rs. 7 lakh crores.

Then, while we were sitting in a meeting of tho Committee on Home Affairs, a Member brought a bunch of Rs. 500 notes printed by the ISI. It is with our Chairman, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. It has been printed by the ISI from Pakistan. It is being circulated in India. I appeal to the Minister of Finance to demonetise all the Rs. 500 notes just to save the economy. Pakistan is printing notes. Then, these will come to India. ...*(Interruptions)* You have to demonetise these notes. These Rs. 7 lakh crore must be only in Rs. 500 notes. So, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to take action on this.

Last month, I saw an interview 'India Matters' conducted by the Star News. It was conducted State-by-State wherein we came to know that wherever the transport system failed, that State was bankrupt. In so many States in India, the transport system failed. Even in our State, the transport system has failed. Last time, I brought forward a matter under Rule 377. I submitted a notice here. I read that matter under Rule 377 wherein the Government was not able to pay the matching grant to the panchayats and they were not able to purchase new buses. They are building bridges. So, the Minister of Finance should strengthen the hands of the States.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): How are the people moving in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: They are moving by maxi-cabs and not by State transport.

I went through the Economic Survey wherein it has been said that all the unutilised public property should be sold. If that principle is adopted, no public property will be saved. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to delete that portion.

Then, I come to the value of the rupee inside the country and outside the country. Outside the country, in 1981-82, it was Rs. 8 per dollar, in 1983-84, it was Rs. 10 per dollar; 1985-86, Rs. 12 per dollar; 1988-89, Rs. 14 per dollar; 1990-91, Rs. 18 per dollar; and in 1991-92, it went up to Rs. 25 per dollar. In 1995-96 it was Rs. 37 per dollar; in 1998-99, Rs. 42 per dollar and now in 2000, it has come to Rs. 43.5 per dollar. So, outside the country, we are unable to stand against the dollar. Inside the country, the purchasing power of the rupee has come down because of the hoarding. All these Rs. 7 lakh crore have been hoarded by vested interests, industrial houses, of course, politicians and anti-nationals. So, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to take action on that.

As far as the commodities are concerned, even that Survey says that in 1981-82, Rs. 100 are for grains. Now, it is Rs. 443. So, it went up to Rs. 443. I appeal to the hon. Minister to stabilise that value inside the country. And for commodities, it was Rs. 100. Now, it is Rs. 365.

It is all in the Survey Report. The Finance Minister knows how to stabilise the Indian economy inside the country. He has to take hard decisions. He has to unearth black money. He has to instruct his Departments, like Income Tax, Excise, Customs, etc. to recover more. An Excise Superintendent at Madurai is in jail for having transported drugs worth Rs. 400 crore from Madurai to Tuticorin. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to streamline all the departments.

Regarding the non-plan expenditure, the Finance Minister has said about the withdrawal of subsidy on food and fertilizer. On that account, I may not be able to support him fully. I appreciate his honest and sincere efforts in the preparation of this Budget, but it has nothing. It benefits only the cellular companies and cellular phone holders, not all the 100 million people of this country are having cellular phones. So, while passing or debating this Budget, we must think of the common man.

It is not a common man's Budget. It is not going to help the common man because the common man's purchasing power has come down from Re. 1 to 9 paise. It may come down even now to 8 paise. So, I appeal to the Finance Minister that these are all indirect methods of devaluing our rupee. It is totally devalued, but the common man does not know about this. The Finance Minister is a well-known economist. He is economically sound in the sense that he has a good knowledge of Economics.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He is otherwise also very sound.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: But the poor man is not economically sound. The poor man does not know the ABC of economy. So, let him not be indirectly taxed. Let him not be indirectly penalised. So, I appeal to the Finance Minister to correct all these positions.

I cannot oppose the Budget because it has to be passed. Without passing a Budget, you cannot run the country. So, constitutionally I support his Budget. I have to support it. I cannot say that it cannot be passed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But you can oppose it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Yes, I can. But naturally, the Appropriation Bill has to be passed and the money has to go to the Departments. Everybody has to get one's salary and the Government servants have to survive. We have to operate the Government also. So, with that view, constitutionally I support his Budget.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

I appreciate his hard work in preparing this Budget, but he has to put in more hard work in unearthing the black money. Rajiv Gandhi used to say that criminals are in suits. The same Budget was not appreciated by my leader, the General Secretary of AIADMK, Dr. Jayalalitha, as soon as it was presented here in Parliament that this Budget is anti-people. I now say that constitutionally we have to support it. So, for that the hon. Minister should oppose the hoarders, the black money holders and he should not have a selective approach in conducting raids, whether one is a present Minister or a former Minister, he should have them on the same plane.

Lastly, regarding subsidy I would say that he should think once again on the point of withdrawal of subsidy. I think, he should roll back. I think, he will do it because everybody is in favour.

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. This is the first Budget of the millennium. That is why I was also interested in participating in this debate in this Parliament and that I should not miss this opportunity.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to support this General Budget. It is really a progressive and development oriented Budget.

I want to be brief because of paucity of time. It is progressive because it has envisaged 7 to 8 per cent of GDP growth. It is self-explanatory, so I need not explain much.

The hon. Finance Minister has given top priority to Defence to make this country stronger and super power in the course of time.

01.00 hrs.

In regard to information technology, the Finance Minister has been very wise enough to make some concessions and also to make our country super power in that field.

I consider this Budget as a reformist Budget. I call it a reformist Budget because the Finance Minister has envisaged many programmes to transform rural economy itself. We all know that India lives in rural India. So, the Finance Minister has taken a lot of pains to transform the rural India. He has taken adequate steps to educate all the children by 2003, housing for all, social security for the poor, empowerment of women, and so on and so forth. So, it is rightly called a reformist Budget also.

I must thank the Finance Minister on behalf of Tamil Nadu for having given the consideration to have a study on Sethusamudaram project. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has reiterated many times about the importance of Sethusamudaram Ship Canal project. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to make it a free port in course of time, like in Singapore. If you make it a hub port, it will be a reality that we are sailing with the world regarding globalisation and liberalisation. I think, it will open the economy to the world and India will be the leader in commerce in course of time also.

Regarding the East Coast link, I want to say that in the southern area of Tamil Nadu, we must have a link. We can have a road link, railway link and also ferry service from Kanyakumari, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, and Rameswaram. It will promote tourism also. The Finance Minister, in his Budget, has allocated only a sum of Rs. 195 crore to tourism. It is a very meagre amount. It is a very silent and successful service industry. I would request the Finance Minister to encourage tourism.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar made Kanyakumari really great by installing the Tiruvalluvar statue on 1st of January. It is a millennium project. I actually want the Central Government to contribute its mite to have Planetarium, Aquarium, and Health Centre so that the people of our country and also the foreigners can visit and make Kanyakumari really great.

Regarding drinking water facilities, the Budget has allocated only Rs. 2,100 crore. It is not sufficient. In the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, actually there is scarcity of water. The Government of Tamil Nadu is making all efforts to contain it. Nevertheless, people have to buy water. This unfortunate situation must be eliminated. For that, the Central Government must come forward.

I can suggest a prestigious project to connect the Ganges with Cauvery and to connect Cauvery with Tamirabarani so that all the problems of drinking water can be solved. You can call this project as a project of the millennium.

There is a need for cold storages in our State. I have to again refer to the efforts made by our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar for constructing the farmers' market. They are dealing with the perishable commoditics. They need cold storages. The Central Government must come forward to have these cold storages in course of time.

In our area, three industries are in the offing. For that, I will give a request to the Hon. Minister of Industries and Commerce. The Central Government must come forward to give its help in this regard.

I must thank the hon. Finance Minister for encouraging sports and games but he is encouraging it only at the higher level. We have to encourage sports and games at the grassroot level. The income-tax exemption may be extended to the Federations and the

State level Olympic organisations also. I want the Central Government to encourage the tiny and small scale industries.

Sir, due to proper monetary and fiscal policies, inflation rate has been contained at a very low level.

We are having a sound foreign exchange reserve. The stable exchange rate of our currency has to be appreciated. Al this shows the strength and the stability of the economy. This Budget would make our economy and the country stronger. On behalf of the DMK Party, congratulate the Prime Minister and his team. I support this General Budget.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in all humility to reply to the debate which has taken place today on the General Budget. We have spent ten-and-half hours discussing this Budget. I would like to assure you, Sir, that I will try and be as brief as possible because I realise that at this late hour, each one of us is tired and anxious to go home. Therefore, while I wish to and try to touch upon some of the important points which have been raised in the course of the debate, if I happen to miss some of the points which have been raised by the hon. Members, I hope they will bear with me.

I am grateful to all those who have participated in the debate; I am more grateful to those hon. members who have made their written submissions; and I am most grateful to those Members who are present but have not participated.

Sir, much has been said about the Budget. about the two years that the Government, in its previous incarnation and in its present incarnation, has spent in office and references have been made to the past.

The great socialist leader and thinker of our times, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar would like us to believe that the decade of the 1980s was the last decade of socialism in this country. I will have something to say about that later. But I would like to assure him and I would like to assure my colleagues in this House that I have no wish to become personal. I have no wish to respond in the manner in which he has spoken.

Sir, the two years that we have spent in office have been years of exceptional challenge. There are many challenges. Even if one of these challenges had been faced by a Finance Minister, it could easily be said that his cup of woe was full. I remember when I went to that office in North Block, the whole international and national media, everyone was waiting on that 19th or 20th of March, 1998, and the only question which each one of them was asking me, because it was uppermost in their minds, was how did I propose to take the Indian economy from the morass into which it had fallen. How did I expect to kick-start, jumpstart the Indian economy because the growth rate in the previous years had fallen to as low as five per cent of the GDP?

Industry was in recession, agriculture had recorded a decline in valued added in production. Confidence in the economy was at its lowest level. That was the situation in which I took office. The East-Asian nations were in crisis. The world economy was in the grip of a crisis the like of which had not been seen before. We, in this country, tend to remember and refer to the crisis of 1991. It was a difficult year. We had a balance of payments crisis. The reserves which were left were only of 15 days requirement of our imports. But that was a crisis which was a crisis of India. It was not a world crisis. We had our problems, but the rest of the world was not in crisis. Here with our economy in the doldrums, the world economy was even in worst situation. Country after country was collapsing. Foreign exchange reserves were haemorrhaging and currencies were tumbling into a bottomless pit. World trade was shrinking. That was the situation internationally. I am not regretting this, but I must refer to it. The fact is that we showed the courage to go ahead with our nuclear test. Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee, as the Prime Minister of this country, had the courage to go ahead and do what other Prime Ministers had prepared, but failed to take the last step. Sanctions were imposed by the most powerful nations of this world on India. They were prophets of doom, they were Cassandras who predicted that we will not be abel to manage the economy. People with greater international credentials like Shri Madhavrao Scindia, the Maharaja of Gwalior, who brought tears to my eyes because of his concern for the poor of this country, had predicted that India will face, in the next few months, a crisis of greater proportions than we had faced in 1991...*(Interruptions)* That was the prediction. The debate in this country was by the people who ought to have known; the debate was whether the growth rate of the economy will be 3.5 per cent or 4 per cent; the debate was whether agriculture and industry will pick up; the debate was whether we had the capability and the capacity to manage the economy.

Our friends sitting on that side had predicted the worst. I do not want to relate that in any great detail and I do not want to take the time of the House in that. But I remember when I had presented the 1998 Budget, it was said in this House and in the other House that this is only half a Budget because we have not taken into account the sanctions, the impact of sanctions. It was

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

predicted that I will have to come back to the House with another Budget. This is what was said.

Sir, sanctions have come and gone..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think Shri Sinha will agree that we were saved because we were not globalised because our economy was self-sufficient, because we were self-reliant. If we were globalised, as we are globalised today, then we would have collapsed at that time because of sanctions.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as if these three crisis to which I have referred are not enough, our friends conspired to bring down that Government by one single vote. Of that luckless Chief Minister of Orissa who came to this House against all the norms of decency and democracy and exercised his vote..*(Interruptions)* The price that the Congress Party has paid for that one vote cast here in this House is something for which the price that they have paid in Orissa is now a fact of history; I do not have to repeat it. Six months of last year were lost for this country in political instability which was entirely uncalled for and unnecessary. That was the fourth crisis. Then we had a neighbour who decided to indulge in an adventure along the Line of Control and we had a 50-day war in Kargil. Today, the international oil prices are almost at the same level at which they were in 1991 after the Gulf crisis. It is puting a burden on the economy of this country. We had collapsed in 1990-91 and I shall come to the reasons why it happened. But this year nobody is even talking about it because everyday, every week we are adding to our reserves, which has crossed $36 billion. These were the challenges that the economy has faced in the last 24 months. And what has been the performance? The growth rate in 1998-99 was 6.8 per cent and the growth rate for this year has been projected by CSO to be 5.9 per cent. I am confident that we are going to do a little better on the agricultural front and we will cross six per cent. This is against the backdrop of all these challenges that we have met and, therefore, when you judge me, I shall plead with you, Sir, and through you to the hon. Member sitting on the opposite side, that please be a little objective. Condemn me by all means but give me what is due to me. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar would like us to believe that after the Gupta dynasty of our history, the next golden era of the Indian history was the decade of eighties.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I said that the eighties were better than the nineties. I did not compare with the Gupta dynasty.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Okay, I stand corrected, Sir. It was slightly worse than the golden age of the Guptas. I have some figures here. The growth rate in the decade of eighties was 5.8 per cent. But at what cost was this growth achieved, let us look at it because these are also some figures which are equally official.

Sir, the stock of external debt during the Nineteen Eighties increased by 60.3 billion U.S. dollars. We were adding, we were borrowing from the international market at the rate of 6 billion U.S. dollars every year in that famous decade of Eighties. The ratio of external debt to GDP increased from 14.3 per cent in 1980-81 to 41 per cent in 1991-92. Debt service ratio increased from 10.2 per cent in 1980-81 to 35.3 per cent in 1990-91.

On the gross fiscal deficit I am guilty of letting go of expenditure. I have been condemned roundly for having let the fiscal deficit slip in 1999-2000 to 5.6 per cent of the GDP and not keep it at 4 per cent as I have promised in my Budget Estimates.

On a calibrated basis, which means that the figures are adjusted to the new series of GDP that we have now started and also adjusted for the small-scale savings, which we have taken out of the Budget, in 1985-86 the fiscal deficit was 7.2 per cent of the GDP. In 1986-87 it was 8 per cent of the GDP and in 1987-88 it was 7.2 per cent of the GDP. In 1988-89 it was 6.8 per cent of the GDP.

I am guilty. I admit that the fiscal deficit has increased and I am pleading guilty. But the only point that I would like to make is should the guilty people sitting there—what right do they have to throw it back it us.

'Shameful' 'disgusting' are the words which have been said about me. This is the golden period of the Eighties.

We talked about agricultural production. I have the average figures of agricultural production for each of the Five-year Plans. For 1951-56 it was 3.2 per cent. For 1956-61 it was 3.6 per cent. For 1961-66 it was 0.8 per cent. For 1969-74 it was 3 per cent. For the three Annual Plans between 1974-79 it was 4 per cent. For 1980-85 it was 6.2 per cent. For 1985-90 it was 3.6 per cent and for 1992-97 it was 4.1 per cent. As far as my two years are concerned, it was 7.2 per cent in 1998-99 and this year, the CSO estimates are that it might be 0.8 per cent. I am hoping we will do better than that figure as we have done in 1998-99.

So, even the point is that this golden period of socialism to which you are referring and if you look at all these figures, you will find Indian agriculture growth has

been in the neighbourhood, inathe best years, of around 4 per cent. That is the point that I am making.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point was made and it was said that if I have not read the article of Shri Gaurav Dutt then it was shocking and if I have read the article, then it was even more shocking. I do not know whether I should claim that have read it or I have not read it. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I said it would be more shocking because you have not mentioned anything about poverty reduction in your Budget speech. Please quote me fully. *..(Interruptions)* I said the article is even more shocking, if you really did not mention it. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The article of Shri Gaurv Dutt deals with a period up to only 1997. It does not touch 1998-99 or 1999-2000 because these are too recent years. Anyone who is even slightly familiar with how figures of poverty and employment are maintained would be aware of the fact that there is always a time lag. The last complete study of poverty in this country was done in 1993-94 and after that, there have been thin samples of 25,000 people, but a more detailed study is going on. I do not have to stand here and defend what their Government did in the early part of 1990s. I do not have to do that, but objectivity demands of me that I should put the record straight by saying that the liberalisation years of the decade of 1990 in terms of economic performance including employment, including poverty reduction, including agricultural growth and including sustainability of that growth are better in all respects than the famous decade of 1980s. Shri Gaurav Dutt says:

> "However, the failure of rural poverty measures to decline can hardly be interpreted as implying that the benefits of post-reform economic growth have been limited to the relatively rich and the poor have been bypassed in that process. The evidence does not support such an interpretation."

I am quoting from the article of Shri Gaurav Dutt.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I did not give this interpretation.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We will have to look into the records to find out what exactly he said. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it says that the 1990s was a wasted decade as far as poverty reduction is concerned.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is what Shri Gaurav Dutt has to say. If we realiy want to judge the*..(Interruptions)*. You are condeming yourself either way. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Of course. But I am willing to be truthful. I just ask you to be the same.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Then, we will have to ask Shri Vijendra, go back to that old teacher of yours and his to find out what exactly he thought of you. *..(Interruptions)*

Sir, the poverty ratio, as I have mentioned, is of 1993-94 and 1993-94 is too early, as I said, to judge the impact of the liberalisation policies on poverty. But according to the last survey, we have the poverty ratio in the rural sector coming down from 39.1 per cent in 1987-88 to 37.3 per cent in 1993-94 and combined all India figure is 36 per cent for 1993-94 compared to 38.9 per cent for 1987-88. These are the figures. We will have to wait for another year before we get the latest figures. *..(Interruptions)*

Now, I come to certain issues raised by hon. Members. Our friend Shri Rupchand Pal is sitting here. One other friend who spoke called the Budget anti-national. Shri Rupchand Pal saw in it not only the impact but also the dictation of the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. I will only plead very humble that India is not under any programme of the IMF.

Let us understand clearly and distinctly the functions of these three international organsations.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I described it as a WTO Budget.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is good that you have not described it as IMF or World Bank Budget, I am so relieved.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I had said that the World Bank has come out with a report where the role of the Government has been re-emphasised.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am very happy that Shri Rupchand Pal and his Party are finally able to see some merit in World Bank and its reports.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is now becoming the world's Socialist Bank.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, at least 15 projects of the West Bengal Government are being operated with the assistance of the World Bank.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: As such, we have never objected to the World Bank. We have objected to the terms being imposed against our national interests.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the year 2000-2001 is a very difficult year. Why is it that I have not been able to bring the fiscal deficit below 5.1 per cent? Why did I leave that wretched 0.1 per cent? Why did I not talk of 5 per cent, and why did I talk of 5.1 per cent? I will mention two or three things.

For Defence, as I mentioned in my Budget speech, we have had to make an additional allocation—an increase of Rs. 13,000 crore in one single year. I have some figures here. When the last Congress Government led by Shri Narasimha Rao was in power, just before that, in 1991, the spending on Defence was 2.88 per cent of the GDP. When that Government demitted office, 1995-96 was the last year, the spending on Defence had come down to 2.27 per cent of the GDP.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Very good.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes, very good.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There was no war, and we were completely safe..*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You start when the war starts..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: When you start increasing the defence expenditure, start exploding unnecessary bombs, start being completely irresponsible on the frontier, you get into war. You create a war and then you justify spending the money. Ours is a Gandhian country; we should not be increasing the defence expenditure unless we have to. You create a war and you just go on increasing the defence expenditure..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): You start spending after the war. If somebody questions, then you start getting agitated. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You create war and you start spending. We bought down the defence expenditure and there was no war. Do you think that national security is taken care of by increasing the defence expenditure? What do you know about foreign policy? We can be at peace. We are a peace-mongering country. After the BJP came and started exploding bombs, we increased our defence allocation. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: They start spending after the war. If somebody questions as to why, then they start getting agitated. That is all. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad, please take your seat.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): When you said, "You create war", what do you mean by that?..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There was no war between 1991 and 1996. I mean only that..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is not yielding. Shri Aiyar, you are a senior Member and you should please understand that.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is not yielding. Why are you unnecessarily disturbing him?

..*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Shri Aiyar, it is because of that mentality we had the war of 1962..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, apart from the fact that in percentage terms, in terms of the percentage of the GDP, the Defence expenditure was allowed to fall between the five years of 1991-92 to 1995-96. When we look at absolute numbers, then I find that in these five years, the Defence expenditure has gone up by about Rs. 8,000 crroe in five years.

Sir, in my three Budgets, the Defence expenditure has gone up by Rs. 26,000 crore.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Finance Minister, despite whatever failings, we welcome it. The nation has to be defended and defended unambiguously. You have done the right thing.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I was trying to make a totally different point. I was not making that point that we are more war-like than you are. No. I am saying that this is the increase that has taken place in Defence exenditure. It is a need-based increase. It is an increase that is called for by the situation, the security situation around us. So, we have done it.

Sir, what is the other thing that we have done? I have raised the Plan allocation this year by Rs. 11,100 crore. I have the Plan figures from the year 1985-86 onwards. I would like to say that in the year 1991-92, the Gross Budgetary Support to the Plan went up by 9.2 per cent. In the 1992-93 accounts, it went up by 18.4 per cent. It is a very impressive figure. In the year 1993-94, it went up by 19.1 per cent. In the year 1994-95 it came down to 8.5 per cent and in 1995-96, the last year of Shri Narasimha Rao's Government, it actually declined to 2.1 per cent. It was-2.1 per cent.

Sir, in the three Budgets that I have presented, the first year, the Provisional Account it increased by 13.1 per cent. In the year 1999-2000, the RE figure is 18.8 per cent and in the year 2000-2001, it is going up by 11 per cent why am I referring to Defence Expenditure and Plan allocation? I am referring to Defence expenditure and Plan allocation to make the point that for successive Finance Ministers, the favourite areas to reduce expenditure have been either Defence or Plan or both. I have deliberately eschewed that path.

Sir, together, Rs. 13,000 crore plus Rs. 11,000 crore comes to Rs. 24,000 crore. That is 1.1 per cent of the GDP. Additionally, what was exceptional...

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: How much of this 12,000 crore is for non-Plan and how much is for capital expenditure?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In the year 2000-2001, these are published figures, the revenue is Rs. 40,000 and odd crore and capital is Rs. 17,936 crore.

I was coming to the other exceptional point in 2000-01. It was the interim award of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The interim award came two-three weeks before the Budget. The detailed award has not yet come. I could have easily not included that Rs. 11,000 crore in my Budget. I would have taken care of it in my Supplementary. But, I wanted to be upfront; I wanted to be honest. Therefore, despite the fact that the final report of the Eleventh Fiance Commission is still awaited, I have included this figure of Rs. 11,000 crore in my Budget Estimates. Where is this Rs. 11,000 crore going? All of it is going to the States. Every State Government is going to benefit from this money which will go in the form of Grants. So, when we are looking at the fiscal deficit, Rs. 11,000 crore is exactly 0.5 per cent of the fiscal deficit. This 0.5 per cent of the fiscal deficit has been added to the Government needs Budget. But, to that extent, as far as the national fiscal deficit is concerned, it evens out because that part it—the 0.5 per cent - will be less as far as the States' fiscal deficit is concerned. But, if you add this, what is the figure we arrive at? It is Rs. 35,000 crore. Just add one more item of expenditure to this - and that is interest payment of Rs. 10,000 crore - and Rs. 45,000 crore of the expenditure increase in this year's Budget is accounted for by these four items alone.

Let me make this point again in all humility but with all the confidence at my command that as far as the revenue expenditure is concerned - the non plan revenue expenditure—it is going up only by 1.8 per cent which represents the will of this Government to control unnecessary expenditure in Government. That is the achievement that I can genuinely take credit for. We will cntinue to control Government expenditure with the sternest iron hand that we have. I would like to assure this House that there is no way in which we shall permit expenditure to go out.

When Shri Madhavrao Scindia who began the debate, Shri Manishankar Aiyar and many friends from that side were speaking, they were quoting from this Expenditure Budget the exact figures and the percentages of where the expenditure had gone down. Every time when anyone made that point, Shri Manishankar Aiyar was sitting there and thumping the desk. I had said in my Budget speech that as far as agriculture was concerned we had converged 34 schemes; that we had taken recourse to zero-based budgeting; that we were trying to streamline expenditure. Therefore, when you look at the total figures, after all where has this increase of Rs. 11,000 crore in the plan expenditure gone? Obviously not into my pocket. It has gone to various sectors. It has gone to agriculture; it has gone to rural development. Now, if you pick up only those items where you have noticed a decline over the last year and completely ignore where it has gone up, or completely ignore the overall budgetary support on the expenditure side, then I will be compelled to say that we are taking recourse to half truths and untruths.

Sir, many Members from the North-East were making the point about 10 per cent allocation being reserved and going to a non-lapsible pool for the North-East. I also have the details. I can quote chapter and verse from this Expenditure Budget which I have prepared of how under various heads, for instance, there are expenditures mentioned which belong to the North-East.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

And because they are mentioned as expenditure for the whole of the North-East, you might notice that there has been decline in regard to allocations in those schemes because these figures are separately mentioned. I do not want to take the time of the House in mentioning those figures because I will take 15 to 20 minutes to counter each one of the points which have been made.

But let me make this point that as far as Agriculture is concerned, the actual expenditure in 1998-99 was Rs. 6,434 crore. The Revised Estimates for 1999-2000 is Rs. 7,664 crore and the Budget Estimates for 2000-01 is Rs. 7,896 crore for Agriculture. And, according to the little arithmetic that I know, Rs. 7,664 crore is less than Rs. 7896 crore.

Similarly, in the Rural Development, the actual expenditure in 1998-99 was Rs. 9,297 crore, the Revised Estimates for 1999-2000 is Rs. 9,370 crore and the Budget Estimate for 2000-01 is Rs. 9,781 crore for Rural Development.

Now, if you want to nit-pick, you can pick up something here or something there and say, "This is what has happened. That is how you are not serving the interests of the agriculture workers."

Sir, what kind of constituency have I got elected from? Is it the metroplitan city of Mumbai? Is it the metropolitan city of Delhi? No. The constituency from where I got elected is one of the most backward constituencies of this country, and there is no doubt tc be proud of. But certainly, a point to be mentioned that I am the only Finance Minister, in recent memory, who has been returned to the Lok Sabha and by a bigger margin than in 1998. So, whether Shri Madhavrao Scindia or Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar or the Congress Party or the Opposition sitting here has confidence and faith in me or not, does not matter to me, as long as the people of this country have put faith here and as long as the people of my constituency have faith and trust in me. ..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: As you withdraw subsidy, faith and trust will be eroded.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In the same as you have been wiped out. ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, in my Budget Speech in paragraph 18, I had myself said that 40 per cent of our villages are without proper roads, that 1.8 lakh villages do not have a primary school within one kilometre, that 4.5 lakh villages have drinking water problems and some estimates indicate a shortage of 140 lakh rural dwelling units. These are the figures which I have quoted in my Budget Speech. It is not a commentary on the two years that we have in office. It is a commentary on the five decades of independent India and it is the commentary on the four decades that the Congress Party has been in power in this country. This is not the result of all that they have done and where they have left the country. This is the position, and they have the gumption to come and tell me what we have done in two years!..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: And now, you forget what we have done. You only want to mention only what we did not do..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have the Gramodaya Yojana. Much was made of the fact. 'Rs. 5,000 crore — the Basic Minimum Needs Programme has been included in that. I have fudged the figures, I have played with the figures and I have done this and I have done that.'..*(Interruptions)*

Sir, for the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana I had made an allocation of Rs. 5,000 crore and I have clearly said there that Rs. 2,500 crore out of that is earmarked only for the rural roads.

Nobody knows more than me what the *kashta* is, what the difficulty is when you do not have rural connectivity. This election, we were all contesting, at least in North India, during the rainy season. In my backward constituency, there were a number of occasions where the most powerful Indian vehicle was stranded on the road because we could not cross the mud that encountered. This is the situation.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the ten years of your misrule in Bihar has made people forget forty years of the other misrule.

[Translation]

What are you talking. Is it possible to go to any place in Bihar? And you are telling me what is poverty in rural areas? I am being invited to visit his constituency and he will show me as to what is poverty in India? I have seen poverty of India very closely. I did not go to study in any foreign university. I studied here on this very land in a very ordinary school.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): You have forgotten all that in Delhi.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: This is a new marriage between ten years of misrule and forty years of misrule.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I happen to be a Minister today. Is it a sin? We are all sinners here because we are all in Government. The point is, whatever you did was very virtuous and when I do the same things, I become vicious. Of course, this is the double standard that you are applying. This is the duplicity for which your party is well known. The latest example of that duplicity is Bihar.

[Translation]

You have joined hands with them. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: (Mumbai South Central): Congress had said that there was 'jungle raj' in Bihar.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In Bihar Assembly Elections your leaders spoke many things against RJD. Today you have joined hands with them and have joined their Government.

DR. RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When you were with us do you remember what did you say about BJP and today you are the Finance Minister of BJP?..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am being taught the lesson of morality..*(Interruptions)* and those people are teaching me whose political career is full of blemishes. I am ready to take lesson of morality but I will take lesson of morality from those who are on a high pedestal. I will not take lesson of morality from these people..*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Please restore fertilizer subsidy. ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am quoting from somewhere. I am coming to the question of subsidies which has been raised. I will say later where I am quoting from..*(Interruptions)* I never doubted your intelligence.

I now quote:

> "The economic rationale for an increase in the price of fertilisers is so obvious that it does not need to be stated. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there has been no increase in fertiliser prices since July, 1981. In these ten years, there has been a continuous increase in the procurement prices of paddy and wheat as also in the market prices of other crops received by the agricultural sector. Farmers will be compensated for the proposed increase in the price of fertiliser which had been raised by forty per cent through suitable increases in procurement prices."

Then I will read another paragraph. It says:

> "The sugar subsidy which is costing the Exchequer Rs. 350 crore per annum is indeed an aberration which crept into the system from January 1990, when the increase in the levy price paid to producers was not matched by a simultaneous increase in the issue price for consumers in the Public Distribution System."

So, as you said, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Dr. Manmohan Singh went on to increase the price of sugar by 85 paise per kg. But he had stated a very important principle that it was allowed to creep in because the issue price was not allowed to keep pace with the levy price. This is the justification that he has given for the increase in fertiliser subsidies.

I have some figures here. Between 1984-85 and 1989-90—the famous golden years of Indian history—the issue price was raised four times. Between 1990-91 and 1995-96, the issue price was raised four times.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: By how much per cent?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: From Rs. 289 per quintal for rice, to Rs. 537 per quintal. The issue price so-fixed was always 70 per cent of the economic cost.

I have great respect for my friends who have raised the issue of subsidy. But I have no respect for the crocodile tears that they shed. If they raise the prices of foodgrains and fertilisers, then it becomes a matter of virtue and all kinds of justifications are given. If I raise it by 15 per cent, then, it is a vice and a sin. Can anything be more shameful and more disgusting than this?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We raised it when production was going up, when the remunerative price was better; but, when prices are coming down and the output is increasing by 0.8 per cent, you want to increase the fertiliser prices? This is no justification. The food subsidy at this moment has increased—in one year—by 68 per cent for the poorest people in this land. It never happened like that under the Congress rule. This is what I call fudging and this is what I call fiddling.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: When the United Front Government was in power, they introduced the Targeted PDS. TPDS was introduced by the UF Government; it was implemented from June 1997. They fixed the price of wheat at Rs. 2.50. They fixed the price of rice, I think, at Rs. 3.50 or so, for the families below poverty line. Before that, as long as the Congress party was in power, there was no TPDS; there was no distinction in the Public Distribution System between below poverty line families and above poverty line families.

What was the price of wheat at which the BPL families were buying their ration from the PDS outlets in this country before TPDS was introduced in June 1997? It was Rs. 4.02. What is it that we have fixed? It is Rs. 4.20. Rs. 4.02 their price and it has gone up by only 18 paise. It has gone up, of course, compared to Rs. 2.50, by 68 per cent.

02.00 hrs.

But compared to your price of Rs. 4.02, it has gone up only by 18 paise. The same is the story with rice. You are sitting here and clapping when our friends are asking me to roll back the prices! You have the gumption and the shamelessness to sit here and clap!

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Do not speak more.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You are not understanding. Ours is an old argument. We are old friends. You are new friend.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Surely we do not want you to depart early. We want that this Lok Sabha last for five years.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to assure the House, especially the hon. Members from this side that we shall keep their sentiments in mind. This is not a Budget related matter. This need not be part of the Budget. These are administratively controlled prices. They can be revised at any time. It can be increased or brought down at any time. We will keep their sentiments fully in mind and do whatever we can. But let me make it very clear to my friends on the other side that if they are sitting here in the hope that the NDA is cracking up, then I would say, 'Please give it up'. The NDA is solid as a rock. We are solid as a rock. Therefore, let them not nurse any hope that it is going to be their day.

[Translation]

I want to say in clear words that I understand left parties point of view and I give respect to it also. I have been continuously saying that they have learnt only one 'mantra' and they keep on repeating it like a parrot. We are not afraid of that..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Do you remember what you said on that day when you took charge as Secretary of Janata Party in 1984 when you entered politics for the first time..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As far as RJD is concerned, Raghuvansh Babu delivers thunderous speeches in the House in the absence of Shri Laluji. Laluji is well replaced by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad. His language is the same anti-labourers, anti-farmer, anti-people and that too in stero type language. I have been listening to him for the last three budgets. His speech has not changed, even words have not changed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: But that is not proving to be effective.

'Koyela hoye na ujra, sau man saban khaye.'

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I want to inform Raghuvansh Babu very politely that whatever Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government has done after decades for Bihar that will remain as an evidence in history. The extent to which we have made investment in public sector in Bihar was not seen during the last decade. And you are saying that step motherly treatment is being given to Bihar..*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar is being given the treatment of an enemy.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I will say only one thing that whenever Shri Chander Babu Naidu who is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh visits Delhi, once or twice in a month, I definitely meet him and hold talks with him about the problems of Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister of Karnataka comes and meets me. Former and present Chief Minister of Orissa meet me..*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You are from Bihar and you know everything about Bihar..*(Interruptions)* You do not know about other States and therefore, they make you understand about their States...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Such languages does not look good..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is not a question of language.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Name of Shrimati Rabri Devi was just mentioned..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have not mentioned her name.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have not mentioned it, someone from the back seats mentioned it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Leave it if somebody from the back seats have mentioned it ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one thing comes to my mind and that is, if something is lacking somewhere then all MPs of Bihar should sit together and talk..*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Two years have passed. You have not called even once...*(Interruptions)* On the issue of Bihar you do not have even one minute's time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Raghuvansh Babu it needs some hard work to prepare Budget of the Union Government. It is not the type of Budget that is prepared in Bihar..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: You say that you have won the elections because of the good work that you did. The RJD has also won because of the good work they did..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have also won because of the good work that you did in the Revenue Department...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the point I am making is that we have gone out of the way to help the areas like North East, Bodo land, Jammu and Kashmir, etc. The Budget is not a document where everything can be cramped. I spoke for almost two hours in this House. I will have to speak for four hours if I were to include everything. But that does not mean that we are neglecting any part of this country and certainly not the parts like the Special Category States of North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, etc. They are as central to us as any other part of the country. That is why,the Prime Minister and all of us went to Shillong; that is why, we had large meeting of the Governors and the Chief Ministers; that is why, we are continuously in dialogue with the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir; and that is why, we will continue to extend all the assistance and help that we are capable of to these areas so that the feeling of alienation which unfortunately has been created by the neglect of the past is erased.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Where is the Jammu and Kashmir package?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The Jammu and Kashmir package is Rs. 88,000 crore which I have been able to give to the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission will come out with a programme.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the specific economic package of 10 thousand crores rupees which was announced by the Prime Minister..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I would like to know whether this amount is allocated in addition to the normal allocation.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we face many challenges as a nation and we are determined to overcome those challenges. This Budget is neither the first nor the last word on economic policy. It is only one step, a major step maybe, on that road to progress on which we have launched India. Sir, let me assure you and this House that every word that I have said in my Budget Speech and every promise that I have made in my Budget Speech shall be kept.

Whatever the prophets of doom dick like might have been predicting year after year over the last two years nothing of that is going to come true. India shall continue to progress and progress much more than it has in the past.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Minister did not say anything about fertilizers..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji.

. .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has not made any announcement to roll back the increased prices of foodgrains. To oppose this Samajwadi Party is staging boycott of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

02.11 hrs.

Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This Budget is anti-poor anti-farmer. Therefore we are staging boycott of this House. ..*(Interruptions)*

02.11$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2000-2001 to vote. The question is:

> "That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, *on account*, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2001 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28, 30, 31, 33 to 59, 61 to 93, 95, 96, 98 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1999-2000 to vote. The question is:

> "That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 2000 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5 and 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 16, 23 to 25, 27, 29, 34 to 42, 44 to 49, 51 to 54, 56, 58, 66 and 67, 69 and 70, 73 and 74, 76 to 81, 83, 85, 87 to 89, 91 to 93, 95, 99 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

02.13 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2000-2001*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the Financial Year 2000-2001.

MR. SPEAKER: the question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for, the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the Financial Year 2000-2001."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the Financial Year 2000-2001 be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the Financial Year 2000-2001 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of Bill.

The question is:

> "That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 15.3.2000.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

02.14 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1999-2000*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appopriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move the motin for consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000 be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1999-2000 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to meet again today at 11 a.m.

02.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March, 16, 2000/Phalguna 26, 1921(Saka).

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 15.3.2000.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Wednesday, March 15, 2000/Phalguna 25, 1921 (Saka)

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Col./line	For	Read
22/7 (from below)	SHRI CHANDREASH PATEL	SHRI CHANDRESH PATE
140/10 (from below)	343.4	343.44
145,146/14	58.95	558.95
182/12	422525	4.2525
253/13	975.53	975.83