hirteenth Series, Vol. VI, No. 28

Wednesday, May 3, 2000
Vaisakha 13, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 3, 2000/Vaisakha 13, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr, Sir, innocent Dalits have been mercilessly massacred in Tundla today. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down and raise this matter in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have returned after visiting the area. Four Harijans were mercilessly done to death in my Lok Sabha Constituency and three. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a very important matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

[Translation]

You raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Central Board for Workers' Education

+

*521. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Central Board for Workers' Education to provide education and training to the young rural labourers;

(b) if so, whether any programme has been formulated by the above said Board;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of places identified for launching this programme; and

(d) the annual expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Central Board for Workers Education was set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour in 1958 to conduct a variety of Workers' Education programme. The main objective of these programmes is to create awareness among all sections of workers in the organised and unorganised sectors both in urban and rural areas. However, Rural Workers Education Programme which is exclusively for rural labour, as initially started in 1977-78 with 7 Pilot Projects. It has now become a regular and country wide programme. It covers landless labour, agricultural workers and marginal farmers, fisheries labour, tribal labour, rural artisans, forest labour, general rural workers and educated unemployed youth in rural areas. These education programmes aim to promote among rural workers, critical awareness of their socio-economic problems, enhance their self-confidence and educate them in developing their Organisations through which they can strengthen democratic secular and socialistic values. The role of the Board is mainly educational and promotional. The three programmes which are conducted for rural workers are–Rural Educations Training Course (1 month), Orientation programme for Rural Educators (one week) and Rural Awareness Camps (two days). The programmes are organised throughout the country by a network of 4 Zonal Directorates at Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai and 49 Regional and 14 Sub-Regional Centres. The expenditure on various activities/ programmes of the Board is met out of the Grants-in-aid provided by the Government. During 1998-99, out of total plan funds of Rs. 1.84 Crore Allocated for the Board, an expenditure of Rs. 1.00 Crore has been incurred on the implementation of Rural Workers Education programme. The total Plan funds allocated for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 3.00 Crore and Rs. 4.68 Crore respectively of which Rs. 1.47 Crore is provisional expenditure for 1999-2000 and Rs. 2.85 Crore is projected expenditure during 2000-2001 on the above programme.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question regarding the setting up of Central Board

for Workers Education, hon. Minister has admitted that it was set up in 1958 to conduct a variety of Worker's Education programme. Started in 1978 with pilot projects, this programme now has become a regular and countrywide programme.

Through, you, I would like to know from the Government the names of the States and the places therein where the training and promotional programmes for workers have been started through the pilot projects of Central Workers Education Board? What are the achievement of these projects? I would also like to know whether any monitoring has been done in this regard and the extent of the progress through these projects?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member knows, the Central Workers Education Board was constituted in 1958. As far the question of implementing this programme in rural areas is concerned, training programme is going on throughout the country by a network of 4 zonal, 49 regional and 4 sub-regional centres. Hon. Member intends to know the number of persons who have been trained statewise through these programmes. I have got this information with me. I have with me the information upto 29 March, 2000 and as per the data 17,30,210 persons have been trained. On the basis of statewise information I can say that our training centres run in Andhra Pradesh. Camps are organised at Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam etc. If the hon. Member seeks to know the full information, then I will read it out for him and if he wants to have more specific information then I can also make that available to him. I do have the information of Andhra Pradesh with me. According to it, 39,479 people in Hyderabad, 29,864 in Vijayawada, and 44961 people in Visakhapatnam have been trained. This information pertains to the year 1999-2000. The number of previous trained at Tezpur in Assam is 33,401 and it is 32,384 in Tinsukhia. 28,148 people at Dhanbad in Bihar, 33,802 in Jamshedpur, 42,089 in Muzzafarpur and 30,868 in Ranchi have benefited from the programme. Thus, a total of 1,33,907 persons have been trained so far.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, in my first supplementary question I had asked as to whether the Department has conducted a monitoring of the programme and if so what is the extent of worker's progress and promotion as a result of this programme hon. Minister has not touched this aspect while replying.

Through you, second suplementary question I would like to ask is as to how much administrative expenditure has been incurred on organising various programmes like Rural Education Training Curriculam, Orientation programme for Rural Teachers, Rural Awareness Camps etc. Secondly, I would like to know the total expenditure incurred on organising these programmes besides their administrative expenditure. Whether the hon. Minister intends to run these programmes on a wide scale for the rural youth? If so, what is the outline of this scheme?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : As the hon. Member has asked about its objectives, I am proud to state that its objectives are to inculcate a feeling of patriotism, national integrity and unity, mutual co-operation and harmony, secularism and national glory among the workers and these programmes are implemented keeping all these objectives in mind. As regards the total expenditure involved in it, I have the information of past two years with me. As per the information available with me, a total of rupees 1 crore 84 lakhs i.e. 18.4 millions rupees have been spent out of total allocation made for this purpose.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I have asked as to what was the total expenditure and administrative expenditure involved in it?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am coming to that. As it has a set procedure and the hon. Member has asked as to what is the total expenditure incurred, I don't have split figures with me but as per the information available with me one crore rupees out of the total allocated amount of rupees one crore 84 lakhs have been spent on that scheme. Certainly it is my duty to satisfy your curiosity. It rose to Rs. three crore in 1999-2000. And out of it 1 crore 47 lakh rupees were spent. This year the total allocated amount is 4 crore 60 lakh rupees while 2 crore and 85 lakhs are to be spent on this scheme. You may like to know as to what has been the achievement of the programme. I can certainly say that the figures of previous year available to me is regarding the trained persons of last year about which I have already told.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can send the information to the hon. Member later on.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: I had asked a specific question about the administrative and total expenditure incurred on the entire scheme. Hon. Minister has not replied to that. Atleast you can direct him to send the reply to me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Central Board for Workers Education was set up in 1958 to impart education and training to the rural workers, particularly agricultural landless labourers and rural artisans. It has three programmes like Rural Educations' Training Course, Orientation Programme for Rural Educators and Rural Awareness Camps. The aim of this training is to inculcate self-confidence and educate them in developing their Organisations through which they can strenghthen their democratic secular and socialistic values.

The rural poor, the agricultural labourers and the landless labourers are the most exploited workers of our country. They do not get even the minimum wage fixed by different State Governments. So, I would like to know whether there is any programme being run by this Central Board of Education for Rural Workers to achieve the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments. As per the reply of the Minister, the expenditure is coming down. It is less than what had been allocated for this training and education programme. As this is a very important programme for lakhs of rural workers, why is the expenditure coming down year after year? Is there any programme to educate the rural workers, particularly the agricultural labourers to achieve the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Speker, Sir, he has asked about the labourers of agricultural sector and unorganised sector. The total labour force in our country is more than 35 crore. Out of it 32 crore are in the unorganised sector, approximately 20 crore are in rural sector and 12 crore are engaged in agricultural sector. Our job is to create a awarèness among them. As you are aware it is not possible to fully achieve our aim in view of the resource constraints. But we are certainly trying to gradually increase our budgetary allocation while keeping this fact in mind.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister, while addressing the 36th Labour Conference had said that in this age it has become imperative to educate the labourers of the revolution in the field of information technology and knowledge based economy. Hence the Government is actively considering for revival of National Labour Institute and Central Workers Education Board as prominent institutions in the country. It is definitely the commitment of our Government. More resources will have to be mobilised for accomplishing this task and I can tell you that we are trying to create awareness among the very big working force available about their rights.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Member knows that there workers are engaged in seasonal work. They don't have regular work to do and hence it has become imperative to be concerned about them and the Government will pay attention towards it.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply given by the hon. Minister, I have come to know that the Government spends crores of rupees in educating workers and creating awareness among them. In my constituency or should I say in entire Rajasthan some such centres are functioning but I am constrained to say that the workers are yet to be fully benefited from there programmes as no awareness has yet been created among them about the method of training being given to them. There is no proper training to make them aware about their rights of pension, gratuity etc. Though you are certainly spending to educate them but they are yet not aware as to what facilities are provided to them by the Government so that they could avail them of.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are marble mines and vast deposits of Kota and soft stones and various other stones in my constituency. The workers in those mines are not aware as to what facilities they are getting and what they are entitled to?

MR. SPEAKER: Meenaji, you ask the supplementary from the Government?

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government as to what facilities are being given to them by the Government, what are their rights and duties. My question is that what kind of training and eduction is being given to the workers?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The hon. Member from Rajasthan has expressed concern that the educational programme should be further expanded and made more comprehensive. It would be proper to provide information about the educational activities in Rajasthan during previous year 1999-2000 in the context of the data available with me. 41,196 persons in Jaipur Centre and 13,619 in Jodhpur Centre a total of 54,365 persons have been trained.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member has asked whether the workers are really benefited from that education or not?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Definitely, they have become more aware through these educational programmes. Other than worker's education programme several other programmes like organising rural awareness camps, implementing one month curriculum for rural training, organising orientation programme for the rural trainers, organising camps for the workers of unorganised sector and organising special seminars for the women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes are the programmes that are organised in the country. This way this awareness campaign is continuously going on. It is true that there is a need to make this compaign more broad based. I agree with the suggestion given by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I was astonished to read this question and its reply. Not only I but all other Members of the House would be surprised to learn that any such programme, as has been mentioned by the hon. Minister, is run in rural India especially in Bihar. The hon. Minister has said that some special capsule programme like Rural Education training course for one month and Orientation Programme for Rural Educators are conducted. I have been associated with the politics of Bihar for 18 year. I have been a member of legislative Assembly and I have been elected to Lok Sabha twice from Bihar but I am yet to come to know of any such scheme from either the newspaper or from any government agency. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this scheme is being run in Bihar also and if so, the details thereof? If not, whether the hon. Minister intends to entrust this job to voluntary organisations in view of the failure of the present system?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I don't have to say anything about the experience the hon. Member had but it has aggravated my concern. In view of this I would like to say that the response which we have been getting towards Rural Awareness Camps can definitely prove to be a sign of encouragement for all of us. I have with me the entire report of Teekamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh wherein the details of everything from the camps organised between 13th to 16th December, 1996 to the method of inviting the people have been mentioned and I have brought this report as a sample.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about Bihar.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: He is definitely asking about Bihar. I would tell him about any state he asks.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, without knowing his answer, I can say with certainity that it is nil. Sir, there is no question of any activity like this in Bihar. All these are mere figures. By raising such things daily in the House, I want to bring it to the limelight whether Bihar is out of the boundaries of this country? . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this sort of perception about Bihar is not good. I can even give details regarding the work done there during 1999-2000. During that period camps were organised in Jamsedpur, Singhbhoom and Hazaribagh. 43 and 3 i.e. 46 villages were covered during that campaign. Under Ranchi, camps were organised at Rohtash, Gumla, Ranchi and Bokaro, Under Muzaffarpur Centre camps were organised at Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Karinagar, Chhapra and Bakhtiarpur.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenge the reply given by the hon. Minister.

[English]

Sir, he has mentioned my district and I am very much aware of it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good. Let the Minister reply. You may speak later on.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am giving the information that I have. If that is wrong, hon. Member may tell me about that.

MR. SPEAKER: You send that information to hon. Member.

SRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenge this information.

[English]

Additional Water to Delhi

+

*522. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has urged the Union Government to take up the matter of releasing additional quantity of water with Government of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for the non-release of additional water to DJB by Haryana; and

(d) the action being taken by the Central Government to ensure release of additional quantity of water to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Government of NCT of Delhi requested to impress upon Government of Haryana, the urgent necessity of filing an indent with Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) for additional 125 cusecs of water to be conveyed through the carrier system of Haryana.

(c) Haryana has expressed inability to convey additional water due to lack of capacity in their carrier system.

(d) Union Minister for Water Resources held a joint meeting with Chief Ministers of Haryana and Delhi on 27.4.2000 and discussed the issue with an endeavour to resolve the same amicably.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from hon. Minister when the people of Delhi are thirsty then the Central Government exerts pressure on Haryana Government to provide water for the people of Delhi and the Government takes water for Delhi from Haryana by all sots of pressure while Haryana itself has been facing water crisis for the last 32 years. Therefore, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the issue of Sutlaj-Yamuna link canal will be solved to quench the thirst of the people of Haryana.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked whether Central Government has put more pressure on Haryana to release additional quantity of water to Delhi Jal Board and SYL is not covered under this question. In this connection I would say that as per Delhi's requirement 300 gallon water falls short during the month of May. And for this purpose a plant already exists in Nangloi. The Government wanted that Haryana should provide the channel which is used for bringing water to Delhi so that 125 cusecs water can be released, Already some correspondence as well as discussion was going on in this regard. Government of Haryana had said that the channel we have is not capable of carrying so much quantity of water. Subsequently, our department referred this issue to Central Water Commission so as to know whether this channel is capable of carrying that much water or not. They said that the channel is capable of carryng water. On the basis of their report we requested the Chief Minister of Delhi and Chief Minister of Haryana to resolve this issue. On our request both the Chief Minister met on 27.4.2000, therefore, we are grateful to them. Some issues came up during their meeting. I want to place those issues before the House.

Our officers were also present with the Chief Ministers. They said that per capita availability of water in Delhi is even more than that of London i.e. in London per capita availability of water in 140 litre whereas it is 210 litre in Delhi. Then where is the necessity of more water. We said that it is alright. We will find out where so much water goes, if there is any loss and how much water is available per person. Later on, it was revealed that the reality was something else. When second issue came up, we learnt that in a public interest litigation, hon. Supreme Court has ordered Haryana to ensure that both the water treatment plants at Wazirabad and Haiderpur in Delhi should always be full of water. There was a contempt of court in that case wherein some of the officers of Haryana were about to be imprisoned.

[English]

MR. SPEKER: A lengthy reply creates a lot of problems.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thereafter Chief Minister of Haryana said that first the contempt of case should be withdrawn then only we will have talks. Because some of Haryana's officers may even be imprisoned. We told him that we would write to Attorney General and obtain his opinion. We have requested him in this regard. Thereafter it was decided that after the report is received the issue of talks would be decided in second meeting.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Haryana state can be in a capacity to ensure that all the tanks in Delhi are always full. In this connection I want to ask a question from hon. Minister whether your department has any information that there is a place called Adi Badri between Ranjitpura and Bilaspur in Yamuna Nagar in Haryana, where Saraswati river used to flow and enter Gujarat from there. There is very sweet water in that stream but that is very deep. Satellite photograph and a research conducted at Jodhpur have proved that there is planty of water over there. The channel of Saraswati river, whose

photograph has been made available by Satellite, has been tapped to solve water crisis in Jodhpur. May be, because of some natural reasons the water level has gone down. Will your Ministry put some efforts to bring that water level up so that the thirst of Haryana and adjoining states can be quenched?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Our department is also doing lot of research work on Adi Badri, the originating point of river Saraswati, as hon. Member has mentioned. Water level has gone down to some extent. After some more research we will try to bring the water level up.

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, this question is related to Haryana. That is why, we should be allowed to put a supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to know whether any discussion was held with the Union Government regarding completion of remaining work on Eradi Tribunal award and Satluj-Yamuna link canal in the meeting of a group of Ministers with the Chief Ministers of the States held on 27 April, 2000 and whether any discussion took place regarding streamlining the implementation of said word and completion of the work on above projects.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: This matter will be discussed in a meeting with Chief Ministers of both States Haryana and Punjab. In the meeting held on 27.4.2000 only the matters pertaining to Delhi and Haryana were discussed.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Shri Ratan Lalji has asked a simple question. Delhi Government have asked the Government of Haryana that Delhi want to use the carrier channel of Haryana and no payment was to be made as it has already been made and there was no demand for water. It was the right of Delhi. That channel has a capacity of 10,000 cusecs and at present 9,000 cusecs water is flowing in it and Delhi's water requirement is 125 cusecs only for which Haryana laid this condition. A PIL in this regard is pending in the court. The Government of Haryana have pleaded that it will allow flow of water to Delhi through this channel only after Delhi withdraw the PIL, whereas the Government of Delhi have also said that it is even ready to construct a new channel and we are ready to provide Rs. 300 crores for that. It seems to me that this matter will not be solved till the Prime Minister intervene in this matter. My question is whether the hon. Minister would request the Prime Minister to intervene in this matter so that it could be solved or only discussions will go on like one that took place in the meeting held on 27.4.2000? . . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said about the discussion that took place in that meeting but Delhi have no right over that water. The water belongs to a board.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: The Board has given water to Delhi.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: At that time a question was raised as to what are the rights of the Board. The States in the board have right over the water and meeting of the Chief Minister will be held and it means that those people have complicated this issue. But Haryana had said that our canal system did not have capacity of carrying additional water.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: You have admitted that it has the capacity of carrying additional water. It has just been said in your reply.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The meeting Chief Ministers was held, they have their own issues. We will request the hon. Prime Minister but it appears to me that this issue will be solved in the next meeting.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Delhi has demanded water from Haryana but all are aware of the situation that Haryana itself is facing the shortage of water. . . . *(Interruptions)* Please let me complete my question.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: We have right over that water not you. Delhi should get water.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Indora, you have to put your supplementary question to the Minister and not to Shri Vijay Goel.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Sir, he is interrupting me. That is why, I am requesting him that he should not interrupt me.

[Translation]

Today there is drought like situation in southern Haryana as is prevailing in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the way in which the hon. Prime Minister has solved the interstate water disputes. Whether he will chalk out a time bound programme to solve the issue of SYL on the line

of formulae devised for Kaveri water dispute? Besides this I would also like to know that what efforts are being made to improve the 32 km. long stretch of Yamuna in Delhi due to which ground water table in Delhi is depleting and if that particular stretch of Yamuna is improved, I think there will be no need to ask any state to give water to Delhi.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The matter pertaining to SYL is subjudice. This issue can be solved only when conducive atmosphere is created for this purpose.

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I have specifically said that there should be a time-bound programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to what the Minister says.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: This is a long-pending demand of Haryana.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The concern of the hon'ble Member is right. We will make efforts to solve that also after one problem is solved.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion to make. I am not asking a supplementary. It is a very important subject. I request you to please allow a discussion under Rule 193 on this. There is a lot of water in the country and yet we are facing droughts. The question is as to how to utilise the available water. There are many Members who want to give valuable suggestions in this regard. So, this matter should be discussed under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: That will be discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and not during the Question Hour.

[Translation]

Setting up of R.P.O/P.O

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*523. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Regional Passport Offices and passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the criteria being followed in the opening of Passport Offices;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up; and

(d) the number of Passport Offices functioning in the country at present, locationwise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No Sir. The Govt. does not, at present, propose to open any new Regional Passport Office or Passport Office in the country.

(b) The opening of a new Passport Office is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices, volume of applications from a particular region and the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of External Affairs that there should be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area where a new passport office is to be opened.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present 28 Passport Offices are functioning in the country at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bareilly, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jammu, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Panaji, Patna, Pune, Srinagar, Thane, Tiruchirappalli, Trivandrum and Visakhapatnam.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government is considering to open Passport Office. It has been stated in the written reply that 28 Passport Offices have been opened throughout the country out of which in the biggest State of India namely Uttar Pradesh, whose population is 15 crores, only three passport offices have been opened. The largest part of Uttar Pradesh is known as 'Bundelkhand.' There is one Lalitpur district in Bundelkhand. If a person from Lalitpur wants to get a passport he wil have to travel a distance of 500 km to reach Lucknow, the state capital. I want to ask hon. Minister whether Government wants to open a Regional Office in Bundelkhand area?

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: There is no proposal for opening any Regional Passport office at Bundelkhand.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: If there is no such proposal then it would be an injustice to the people of this area. As you have said, an office can be opened if 5,000 people demand for it. I think this number is too less, for 50 lakh people from our area are demanding for opening a Regional Passport Office there. I would like to know from hon. Mninister that keeping in the view the demand of the people whether he would make a provision for opening up a Regional Passport Office there?

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not I who had decided not to open a Regional Passport Office in Bundelkhand. It was the Standing Committee of Parliamemt, in the year 1994, which had laid down certain guidelines for opening new Passport Offices. One such guideline is that the expected applications at a place should be annually at least 50,000 in number. Although there is a sizeable population in Bundelkhand, the number of expected applications there has not reached 50,000.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, population of Maharashtra is above ten crore and there are three Passport Offices at Mumbai, Thane and Pune. Especially thousands of people from Maharashtra go to Arab countries seeking employment. Eighty per cent of them come from Konkan region whose Regional Office is in Mumbai. Konkan region which comprises Raigarh, Ratangiri and Sindhupur which is entirely a hilly area, sends thousands of people to Arab countries. Economic condition of this area is very bad. It becomes a very costly affair for a poor person to go to Mumbai for getting a passport and stay over there for a day. Eighty per cent of the people going to Arab countries seeking employment hail from Konkan region.

MR. SPEAKER: Is so much explanation required for asking a supplementary question?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The norms prescribed for opening a Passport Offices stipulate that one office should have around fifty thousand beneficiaries. I mean to say that over fifty thousand people go from there in search of employment. I want to know from the Government through you, whether it would consider seriously and open an office there. You have replied that the decision has been taken not to open an office, but would the Government consider seriously regarding opening a Regional Passport Office there?

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, I appreciate the feelings of the hon. Member. The guidelines, in this regard, have been laid down by the Standing Committee of Parliament. But as the hon. Member himself is saying that there is a need and expectation of 50,000 applications, I would request him, through you, to write a letter to me. We shall put it in the staff inspection unit and they will make a special survey for it.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from hon. Minister whether equal fee is charged for getting a passport in all the Regional Passport Offices throughout the country or it is different at different places? If different fee is charged, what are the reasons thereof and would the Government take steps to make it uniform? If not, then why?

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: There is uniformity throughout the country. For ordinary passport, it is Rs. 300, for tatkal services, there are various provisions. If it is a fresh application, there is a separate charge; and if it is a renewal application, there is a separate charge. But uniformly throughout the country, the same charges are made.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: No, Sir. It is not the truth. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the criteria prescribing a population of fifty thousand for setting up a Passport Office. Hon. Minister has stated in the reply that taking cities into consideration, this criteria has been fixed. There are some hilly or backward area wherefrom people have to go far away in search of employment. Whether the Ministry can consider to relax this criteria keeping in view the geographical constraints of some areas. Second question is also related to this subject. When I requested hon. Minister through a letter to open a passport office at Dehradun, he said that on the basis of criteria fixed, it is not possible to do so. But the matter of opening a Passport Application Collection

Centre over there was discussed. It can also be very conveninet for people. Would you adopt a more relaxed criteria in view of geographical constraints for opening Passport Application Collection Centre where people can submit their application and obtain passport. Say for example, if one has to go to Mumbai, he has to spend a lot. In place of this, whether the Government would make a provision that people can submit their application on a fixed dates and can come and collect the passport on another fixed dates.

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: There are 17 Passport Application Collection Centres existing throughout the country and ten such Centres are in the pipeline, but the place which the hon. Member has mentioned is not in the pipeline. The hon. Member has suggested it. I have noted the suggestion for consideration.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I have got a letter wherein it has been assured that it would be considered. Kindly consider and please include it.

MR. SPEAKER: Now also the hon. Minister is saying that he will consider it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Regarding passport applications, there are many allegations that brokers control the Passport Offices. They take money and if you can bribe, then passports are issued very promptly. I want to know from the hon. Minister (a) the steps the Government has taken so far to hasten issuing of passports; and (b) the criteria which are being followed for issuing Tatkal passports.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Regarding passport applications, Government is aware of such activities of some brokers and, therefore, we have taken certain steps after 13th October, 1999. The first step is to hasten the police verification. The more it is delayed, the operation of these brokers come into play. Therefore, we want to hasten police verification for which we are in touch with the respective States.

Secondly, we are streamlining the passport delivery system so that the deliveries are also expedited.

Thirdly, we have opened up Public Grievances Cells where public can go and tell their grievances so that they are redressed quickly and passport Adalats are also helping them.

So far as Tatkal is concerned, we have made several provisions for providing Tatkal services. Firstly, we have found out that patients who are seriously ill and want to go abroad, they come within Tatkal scheme, that is, within seven days we will issue passport without charging anything extra. But we are charging only an amount of Rs. 300/- as for ordinary passport. When some close relatives of the patient want to go, we will issue them passport under the Tatkal service withhin seven days or as soon as possible without anything extra. For students who have to enter the University within a specified date or who want to go to get scholarships, we issue passports under Tatkal scheme provided the parents of those graduates earn Rs. 2,000 or less per month.

Besides this, there are about ten items in which Tatkal services are given. Passports are given in case of marriage. Recently a demand has been made by some honeymoon couples to give them passports quickly, we have considered it and allowed it under tatkal scheme as ours is a Govt. with human face.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs is very faithful to the Standing Committee's recommendations. I wish that could be for the Standing Committee on Communication. However, I would like to know whether the Cabinet or the State Minister is aware of the logistics of the North-Eastern States. There is only one Office in Assam which is in Guwahati. It is for all the people of Manipur, Mizoram and Barak Valley. For obvious reasons which I do not like to mention, it is very difficult to go to Guwahati. There are now kidnappings from buses, even from Tripura. Considering this fact, some deviation from the guidelines is necessary. Those recommendations are very backdated. Either review them or start giving some facilities to the areas which are remote places so that people can get passports and visas. I do not know the figures. I cannot vouch for the figures, But it is very much needed and for that reason, I would request the hon. Minister kindly to consider Silchar. Some assurance should be given.

MR. SPEAKER: This is only a request, not the supplementary.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I want to know whether they are going to open a Passport Collection Centre there.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes, Sir. At Silchar, a Passport Collection Centre would be opened very soon.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, the agents extort maximum money and issue bogus passports. Mumbai

Bomb-blast is its example. The number of bogus passports in the country is increasing. I want to know from hon. Minister whether Government proposes to take action against such agents or not?

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes, Sir. There are several provisions. One of them is our Vigilance Section. Otherwise, we take the help of the State Police and the Intelligence Department.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There are about five takh Keralites in the Gulf countries. The number is increasing every month. The vital question now is the delay in the issuance of passports. An inordinate delay is caused to people who are going abroad. So, please take immediate steps so that the delay might be shortened. It should be issued within a short period.

We are not in a position to give them employment. They get employment in the Gulf countries. So, let these people get employment in the Gulf countries at the earliest possible opportunity. They are obtaining their visas from the Gulf countries but the passport is not issued at the proper time. So, they lose their jobs. I would request the hon. Minister to immediately take steps in this regard. Even if we are not giving them any employment, let them get employment abroad in the Gulf countries. Please make the process easy. Even a samll technical error has to be decided at Delhi and you will have to prefer the application at Delhi and the applicant from Trivandrum or some other place will have to come over to Delhi to argue his case. This should be avoided. Will you please take the necessary steps?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: We have already taken the necessary steps. I have already stated it. But we have to take care. Our country is surrounded by some people who want to take unlawful advantage of the quick delivery system. So, we have to take all care before issuing the passport. There is no such case where anything should be referred to Delhi, unless it is of an extreme nature where a checking is necessary at the Central Passport Office.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, I call Shri Radhakrishnan. This time, it is Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: After consistent efforts, we have got a Passport Collection Centre at Coimbatore. I have now come to know, through the hon. Minister, that there are certain norms set by the Standing Committee for having a Regional Passport Office. I will go and collect all the norms from him today. I will see to it that Coimbatore fulfils all the norms within another two months. Then, the hon. Minister should give us a Regional Passport Office at Coimbatore. This is my request and I hope the hon. Minister will respond positively.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Supplementary; it is only a request. I have noted it.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The real issue is the inordinate delay in the issuance of passports. Shri Radhakrishnan rightly pointed it out but the answer was not sufficient.

The complaint is that enough staff has not been provided to the Passport Offices. It is because of the shortage of staff in the Passport Offices that the issuance of passports gets delayed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the existing vacancies would be filled up by the Ministry immediately so that the applicants can get the passports without such inordinate delays.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: The hon. Member is right. There is a shortage of staff. We have made a request to the Department of Expenditure and the Staff Inspection Unit of the Department of Expenditure is going around our Passport Offices. They have said that they would give their report for the whole of the country within four months. They have started with Chandigarh. We have reported to them that people are suffering because of lack of staff in our Passport Offices. We have asked for more staff but they have sent their Staff Inspection Unit. I understand, they would give their report within four months. Immediately after the report comes, we would be able to ask for more staff from the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: The present Passport Office in Bareilly accounts for a lesser passport issue than Moradabad. This has been the case for the last three years. It is probably going to be the case for the next five years also. So, I would like to know what provision the hon. Minister is making for providing Passport Offices at places that have greater number of people seeking passports and travelling abroad.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: The hon. Member may write a letter to me and I will answer because this is a question not arising out of the present question.

Water Pricing Authority

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*524. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "water pricing authority proposed" appearing in the Times of India dated December 2, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission on Water Resources has recommended reforms and changes in the law relating to the water policy;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Commission; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have accepted the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes Sir, the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has recommended for enactment of a law on inter-state rivers to be called the Inter-State rivers & River Valley (Integrated and Participatory Management) Act which inter-alia may provide for (i) the constitution of River Basin Organisations and for their powers and functions and (ii) data collection and studies to be made by Union for possible inter-state inter-basin transfer. It has also recommended to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to ensure that awars of inter-state water tribunals are given within a reasonable period of time as also for the effectiveness of such awards. It has emphasised the need for revising the National Water Policy, 1987. An implementation Cell in the National Water Development Agency has been constituted to examine recommendations of the National Commission and suggest modalities for implementation of such recommendations, as found implementable. An Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has been constituted for assisting the implementation Cell in examining the recommendations.

The main recommendations of the Commission are given in the Annexure.

Annexure

The main recommendations of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development are as under:

1. Continued government funding on enhanced scale for major projects, instilling financial discipline and prioritisation of projects for channelising the funds. Central assistance to major projects to be projectwise instead of being part of the overall plan assistance.

2. Need for well laid down compensation packages for all categories of project affected persons. While doing so, the Commission has emphasised that resettlement and rehabilitation projects be implemented by a functional authority with sufficient funds.

3. Need for amending the existing Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, enactment of a new Act in lieu of the existing River Board's Act, 1956, and also amending the existing Irrigation Acts which would facilitate participatory irrigation management.

4. Optimal utilisation of land and water should be aimed at in basins having surplus before considering interbasin transfers (intrabasin transfer to be given first priority).

5. Setting up of River Basin Organisation for each Inter-State River having representation from the concerned State Governments, Water Users etc.

6. Substantial revision of present water rates to cover the entire operation and maintainance expenses, constituting Water Pricing Authority on the analogy of existing Energy Pricing Authorities.

7. For environment protection, the principle of "User Pays, Polluter Pays" need to be adopted for industrial uses.

8. Need for revising the National Water Policy (1987), need for making hydrological data for all basins freely available to all interested.

9. For flood control measures, Commission has recommended preparation of disaster preparedness plans, performance review of

embankments and policy to regulate the land use in different flood zones. Existing flood forecasting system be strengthened and modernised using telemetry and satellite communication.

10. For optimal and integrated development of trans-Himalayan rivers, India should work for cooperation amongst the neighbouring countries. For this purpose, it has been suggested that National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in India, Water Resource Planning Organisations (WARPO) in Bangladesh and Energy Development Authority (EDA) in Nepal be designated to interact as a clearing house of information.

11. For hydropower development, Commission has recommended creation of hydropower development fund, promotion of joint ventures, tariff rationalisation etc.

12. For navigation development, the Commission has recommended that Inland Water Transport be treated as a nascent industry.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, we are talking about the proposed Water Pricing Authority. I just want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister who happens to come from my State, Bihar to some problems. I hope that he would be aware of certain problems that beset the State.

When we talk about water pricing, the most important thing is that different States have different requirements. As far as Bihar is concerned, I am sure that the hon. Minister would be aware that there was a beautiful project that was launched about 12 years ago. It is known as Gandak Project and there is another project known as Suvarnarekha Project. These are the two projects, which are supposed to bring sufficient water to the State of Bihar. Work was progressing at a very high speed at the two canals and the embankments. Seventy five per cent of the work had already been carried out and the remaining 25 per cent of the work had not been carried out for the last 12 years. It is causing a huge loss to the people at large and it is also causing a real shortage of water in the whole of North Bihar. As the hon. Minister knows, we are really reeling under shortage of water.

Despite this, Gandak River is not being harnessed. One of the most important tributaries is in Bihar and it is not being harnessed because of lack of coordination with the workers, and whoever is at job, supervising the work there. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask a supplementary. You need not make a request through the Speaker.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, this is an important question. The Comptroller and the Auditor General of India should be asked to go and survey the area as to why water cannot be harnessed to furnish the area in North Bihar.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: This question is not related to the main question. But I will try to answer.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I asked my supplementary. This is pertaining to water shortage in the country.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: But the main question is regarding Water Pricing Authority. But I will inform the hon. Member about the progress of Suvarnarekha and Gandak Projects. Regarding Suvarnarekha, it is awaiting forest clearance. Therefore, the work is not progressing very fast. We will collect all the information and will inform the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Water pricing has a direct correlation with the farmers, who are the biggest consumers of water. It is used by farmers for irrigation purposes. The pricing that the hon. Minister is doing is basically to raise revenue from the farmers. They are the ones who are going to pay the money. If the hon. Minister do not assure them of the requisite water, how can he decide that they would pay back the money? They have to get it on time. So, water pricing system has a direct correlation with the farmers.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I agree with the views of the hon. Member. Most of the Commissions have also expressed similar views that water must reach the farmer and then the pricing system should be evolved.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Yes. That has a direct relationship. That is what I said.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Water Policy was formulated in 1987. But despite all that, there is a water dispute between some of the States. Now, there was a discussion regarding Haryana,

Delhi and Punjab. Similarly, a water dispute is going on between Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. We are not getting our share from Bhakhra-Beas Management Board. Sir, through you I want to know from hon. Minister whether Government will take any immediate step to settle such disputes by recognising water as a national wealth and would Rajasthan be given its due share.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The main question is about Water Pricing Authority.

[Translation]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, a meeting on National Water Policy was about to be held. But owing to some reasons, it was deferred. Since a case is sub-judice in Supreme Court, therefore, some of the States said that this meeting may adversely affect their case. Now, this meeting is going to be held shortly. After the discussion is held decision will be taken in that meeting.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Two-thirds of our globe is covered with ocean water. With every passing year, we are going to experience more and more scarcity of water for drinking purpose and for the purpose of irrigation. Fortunately for us, we have the technology which can help us to utilise the ocean water. I would like to know from the Government, in view of this fact, whether the Government would spend more money on advancing the existing technology of making it more sophisticated to use the ocean water for drinking purpose and for irrigation purpose rather than selling the water at higher price and taking a retrograde step.

Would the Government like to take a progressive, positive and helpful step by spending more money on technology development?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually many companies have come forward with the new technology to convert saline water into potable water. We will go through the experiment, see those technologies and do it. It is a good suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government, through you, that we have a Water Policy and we need water for irrigation, industries and drinking as well. Today, not only Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra but entire nation is facing drought situation. Through you, I want to know whether the government in future is going to declare water as a national wealth or not? If so, when the Government is going to declare and if not, then what are the reasons thereof?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I understand the sentiments of hon. Members. The whole nation desires that water should be declared a National wealth but for this purpose, it is necessary to obtain consensus of all the States. Therefore, this subject will also be discussed during the meeting scheduled to be covered on National Water Policy.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: In Chennai city there is an acute shortage of water. In the absence of the formation of a Water Pricing Authority, water is sold in tanks at the rate of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per tanker lorry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the commitment made by the Andhra Pradesh Government to supply the Krishna water from 1st of May this year. Till date water has not reached Chennai.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about Water Pricing Authority.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Will the hon. Minister negotiate with the Andhra Pradesh Government to quench the thirst of the people of Chennai city? There is no politics being played here. This is only to quench the thirst of the people of Chennai city.

MR. SPEAKER: What you are asking is entirely a different question. Please go through the original question. It is about Water Pricing Authority. Yours is a separate question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The other question is, within the Corporation limits of Tirunelveli, a part of Tamil Nadu, water flows originate from Tamraiparani. It is a perennial river. Though it is a perennial river, the Tuticorin port city is suffering for want of water. There is an acute scarcity of water. Will the Hon. Minister take steps to quench the thirst of the people of Tuticorin port city and Chennai city?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I will certainly take note of the suggestion of the hon. Member. We will try to negotiate and inform the hon. Member also about Tuticorin.

Minimum Support Price

*525. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation for agricultural produce, the Government reimburses online loss incurred by the nodal agencies for MSP operations;

(b) if so, procurement losses incurred and reimbursed by the Government for commercial crops like jute, cotton and copra during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the losses incurred under MSP operations for jute by Jute Corporation of India is still pending for reimbursement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the entire losses are proposed to be reimbursed?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) The Government announces the Minimum Support Price (MPS) for major agricultural commodities every year and the losses if any, incurred by the respective central nodal agencies on MSP operations are required to be reimbursed by the Government of India on submission of claims.

(b) An annexure showing losses incurred on account of procurement of jute, cotton and copra under MSP operations during the last three years, is enclosed. Since there were no losses in respect of cotton and copra, during 1997-98, 1998-99 no reimbursements were required to be made. Position of losses for the year 1999-2000 is not yet clear because the season is continuing.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Since 1996-97, Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has not been paid any subsidy towards losses incurred for undertaking price support operations. Instead they have been given loan by the Government. As per information available, the cumulative subsidy paid to JCI between 1972-73 to 1998-99 is Rs. 222.4 crores while cumulative subsidy payable, for the period, is Rs. 353.16 crores. The cumulative loan paid during the period is Rs. 125.18 crores. A proposal is already under consideration to reimburse losses of the JCI and convert loans into subsidies.

Annexure

Losses incurred on Account of Procurement of Cotton, Jute and Copra under Minimum Support Price (SMP) Operation

Year	Cotton			Jute			Copra		
	Quantity procured (bales of 170 kgs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity procured (bales of 180 kgs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity procured (Metric tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	NIL	NIL	NIL	985,000	971.8	1398	NIL	NIL	NIL
1998-99	NIL	NIL	NIL	13,000	136.0	6206	1168	338	NIL
1999-2000 (Provisional)	7874	508.0	In Progress	18,000	259	5469	9000	2700	In Progress

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: In parts 'd' and 'e' of the answer, it is stated that the JCI has not been paid any subsidy towards the losses incurred for undertaking price support operations since 1996-97. Instead, they are given loans. From the annexure, it is seen that the JCI has incurred losses to the extent of Rs.13.98 crore in 1997-98, Rs. 62.06 crore in 1998-99 and Rs. 54.69 crore in 1999-2000. Under these circumstances, what is the reason for not paying the subsidy towards the losses incurred during these three years?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I think you can send the reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Land owned by SCs and STs

*526. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families own far less area of agricultural land as compared to the land owned/held by others;

(b) if so, furnish the area of land owned by the SCs and STs and others in terms of acres and percentage thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government for providing agricultural land to the members of landless SCs and STs families in the Ninth Five Year Plan for bringing them above poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) As per data available from Agricultural Census 1990-91, the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others, respectively held 325.43 lakh acres (13.17 million hectares), 442.56 lakh acres (17.91 million hectares) and 3321.52 lakh acres (134.42 million hectares) of operated area. It is estimated that out of these operated areas, 12.84 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Castes and 17.37 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Tribes. The share of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others in the total operated area was 8.0 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 81.2 per cent respectively during 1991. As per the Population Census, 1991, the total population of scheduled castes was 16.48 per cent and the population of scheduled tribes was 8.08 per cent of total population of the country (excluding Jammu & Kashmir). The data for past Agricultural Censuses indicates that the share of scheduled castes farmers in the total operated area has increased from 7.0 per cent during 1980-81 to 8.0 per cent in 1990-91. The share of scheduled tribes farmers during the same period has increased from 10.2 per cent to 10.8 per cent.

(c) The land acquired by the Government through imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings is distributed to the rural poor including SCs and STs. Besides, the Government's wasteland and Bhudan lands are also distributed to the rural poor. Since inception of the programme, an area of 52.68 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land, 147.47 lakh acres of Government wasteland and 21.75 lakh acres of Bhudan land have been distributed to rural poor including SCs and STs. Nearly 50 per cent of ceiling surplus land distributed to the rural poor has been allocated to SCs and STs in the proportion of 36 per cent to SCs and 14 per cent to STs.

Blacklisting of NGOs

*527. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government blacklists 17 NGO's stops funds" appearing the Indian Express dated April 8, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Government have filed FIRs against the NGOs which have misappropriated funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds misappropriated, the funds released and recovered showing the names and addresses of NGOs;

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to check the misuse of funds; and

(f) the efforts being made/proposed to ensure better utilisations of funds and accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs receiving grant-in-aid is carried out through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, nodal agencies and the Ministry's own officials. In order to further improve this process, formats for reporting of work done by the NGOs themselves and the proforma for inspections are being revised to get improved quality of data, which shall enable assessment of the effectiveness of the work done by the NGO and reduce the chances of defalcation of funds. Other measures being adopted are inter alia improving publicity of releases made so that the work of the NGOs comes under public scrutiny, resulting in improved accountability, increase in frequency of inspections for effective monitoring etc.

Statement

List of NGOs found involved in misutilisation of funds or misrepresentation of facts, the money involved and the action taken by the Government

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the NGO	Grant Released	Action taken	Amount Recovered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Pandit Bachan Pandey Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Gopalganj, Bihar [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	33.94	State Government asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Government funds. State Government being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
	Pandit Bachan Pandey Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Gopalganj, Bihar (under the Scheme for running a Residential School for Scheduled Castes)	–	It had been released grant-in-aid upto 1995-96 for running a residential school. No inspection report has been received from the State Govt.	Nil
2.	Gulab Singh Mahila Evam Bal Kalyan Sangh, Vill & P.O. Rukundipur, Daraunda, Siwan, Bihar [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	9.54	State Govt. asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Govt. funds. It is being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
3.	Associaton of Moral Guide and Service to Poor [AMGALAS], At/P.O. Distt. Nayagarh, Orissa [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	6.25	-do-	Nil
4.	Asha Bal Mandir Shiksha Samiti, Plot No. 1, B. Krishnapuri, Jaipur-1 [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	2.52	-do-	Nil
5.	Social Welfare Society, 2-A, Main Road, Tittagudi, Tamil Nadu [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	0.87	-do-	Nil
6.	Haldia Samaj Kalyan Parishad, P.O. Anantpur, Via Gutahata, Dist. Midnapore, West Bengal [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse.]	19.49	-do-	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	Haldia Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Distt. Midnapore, West Bengal (Under Scheme for Street Children)	3.70	On receipt of the complaints against the organisation in 1996, the further grant to the organisation was stopped. Enquiry was made by the Ministry. It transpired that no activity was being carried out in the premises of the organisation. The Govt. of West Bengal was requested in June, 1998 for a Special Report on the activities of organisation. Inspite of last reminder sent in Dec, 1999, the State Govt. have not so far sent the report.	Nil
7.	Shaheed Abdul Hameed Education Institute, Dherwha, Khatipura, Ward No. 60, Dist. Yuvatmal, Maharashtra [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	0.84	State Govt. asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Govt. funds. It is being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
8.	SHRADHA, Pakyong, East Sikkim [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	3.81	State Govt. asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Govt. funds. It is being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
9.	Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Kalyan Prathisthan, Sewa Puri, Deoria, U.P. [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alocoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	2.54	-do-	Nil
10.	Anjuman Madrasa Islamia, Jalaun, U.P. [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	5.10	-do-	Nil
	Anjuman Madrasa Islamia, Jalaun, U.P. (under ADIP Scheme)	8.81	Blacklisted on 28.9.99 on the basis of enquiry conducted on receipt on complaints against the organisation which were referred to the State Govt. of U.P. The organisation has filed a Writ Petition against blacklisting in the High Court of Allahabad.	Nil
11.	National Institute of Social Welfare, Faizabad, U.P. (Under Drugs Scheme.)	7.94	State Government asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Government funds. State Government being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
	National Institute of Social Welfare, Faizabad, U.P. (Social Defence Scheme.)	7.47	The State Government have decided to file FIR against oganization.	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	National Institute of Social Welfare, Faizabad. U.P. (ADIP Scheme.)	10.00	The State Government is taking appropriate action against the organisation. Further grant to the organization has been stopped.	Nil
	National Institute of Social Welfare, Faizabad. U.P. (Under the Scheme for running a Residential Primary School for Scheduled Castes)	5.49	Grant-in-aid to this organisation had been released in the year 1999-2000 as Ist instalment. Further grant has not been released since inspection report for the year 1999-2000 has not been received.	Nil
12.	Sarvodaya Gram Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan, M. Rampur, U.P. [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	7.38	Organisation found defunct and inactive. The State Govt. Has been asked to take action against the State Government officers who had been sending satisfactory reports in respect of the organisation. The State Government also been asked to recover the grant released and seize the assets created by the organisation, out of the Govt. funds, and file a criminal case against the organisation	Nil
13.	Ambedkar Shiksha Prasarak Samiti, Nilchlaul, Maharajganj, U.P.	5.10	Blacklisted by TD Division of this Ministry for forgery of signature of State Govt. officers. The matter has been taken up with the Govt. of U.P. for establishing whether the recommendation of the State Govt. for grant under the Scheme for Prohibition was also forged. The State Govt. asked to recover the grant and seize the assets in case forgery of signature is proved.	Nil
14.	Abhinav Sewa Sansthan, Dwarika Ganj, Sultanpur, U.P. [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	5.10	State Government asked to recover the grants and seize the assets created out of the Government funds. State Government being constantly reminded for speedy action.	Nil
15.	U.P. Rana Beni Madhav Jan Kalyan Samiti, Rai Bareilly, U.P. [Under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse]	14.70	On receipt of a report from DM, Rai Bareilly that the Secretary of the organisation forged signature of DM and other State officials to obtain grant from this Ministry, all grants under the Scheme of the Ministry have been discontinued. DM, Rai Bareilly has informed that FIR has been lodged against the Secretary of the organisation and a few others in forgery cases. The State Govt. has been asked to enquire into the matter and furnish a factual report.	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Indian Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Social Change, Jehanabad, Bihar	16.86	The grants to these organisation have been released after receipt of requisite documents required to be submitted like audited accounts, item-wise break up of expenditure, audied utilization certificate etc and the recommendations and inspection report of the State Govt. In these cases it had come to the notice of the Ministry subsequently during a test inspection that the recommendations of the State Government has been fraudulently obtained.	Nil
17.	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gaya, Bihar (Under Scheme for Spl. School for MR Children & Scheme for Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally Retarded)	29.75	The Office of Chief Commissioner for Disability vide their letter dated 12.2.99, on the basis of a communication received from Secretary (Welfare), Govt. of Bihar informed the Ministry that this organization has received funds from the Ministry on the basis of false recommendations and, therefore, recommended for blacklisting. The Ministry was also informed that the Govt. of Bihar is initiating action at their level also. The Ministry vide its communication No. 37-3(1)-HW-II dated 2.6.99 addressed to Secretary, Deptt. of Social Welfare, requested the State Govt. to recover the grant-in-aid mentioned in the previous column. The State Govt. was also requested to freeze the bank accounts of these organizations and attach the premises. The State Govt. was also advised that all assets whether movable or immovable may be confiscated and a detailed report on the action taken against the organizations may be intimated. Subsequently, a circular was issued on 29.9.99 conveying the decision of the Ministry to blacklist this organization. Further grant to this organization has been stopped under the Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with Disability. It is expected that the State Govt. would act on the advise of the Ministry. No feed back has been received from the State Govt.	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gaya, Bihar (under Grant-in-aid for Type & Shorthand Centre, Tailoring Centre and Motor Driving)	–	Grant-in-aid till 1997-98 for 1) Type & Shorthand Centre 2) Tailoring Centre and 3) Motor Driving. No inspection report from the State Govt. has been received.	Nil
18.	Nandini Bal Vikas and Gramin Gramodhyog Sewa Samiti, Vill. Parbati, P.O.-Harwanshpur, Distt. Gonda, U.P. (Under setting up of one Old Age Home, One Day Care Centre and One Mobile Medicare Unit for Old Age persons)	5.95	It has since been blacklisted and further grant-in-aid to the organisation has been stopped. The organisation has represented against the action of blacklisting and refuted the report of designated inspecting agency. The reply of the organisation is under examination.	Nil
19.	Orissa Association of the Deaf, Plot No. 105/A, Palashpalli, Aerodrome Area, Bhubaneshwar, Pin-751009. (Under setting up of one Old Age Home, One Day Care Centre and One Mobile Medicare Unit for Old Age persons)	1.95	It was released grant-in-aid for the first time during the year 98-99 for setting up of one Old Age Home, One Day Care Centre and One Mobile Medicare Unit for the aged people. But the State Govt. on 17.11.99 reported that the organisation did not start even a single programme even after a long period. On the basis of this report, further grant has been stopped and the Director, Social Welfare, State Govt. of Orissa has been requested to recover the grant released to this organisation. The reply of the State Govt. is still awaited.	Nil

Safety of Nuclear Installation

*528. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the deficiencies listed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board report prepared in 1995 regarding safety measures at the nuclear installations in the country;

(b) the action taken on the report;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the present status of safety on the nuclear installations in the country; and

(d) 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) During 1995, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) prepared a report on the safety status of installations of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). This report detailed the evaluations and safety upgradations which are required in the installations of the Department of Atomic Energy. The report was based on the proceedings and recommendations of various Committees over the past decade as well as on the reports of other safety studies carried out from time to time by the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPCIL) and DAE.

The areas of possible safety upgradations indentified in the document include desirable improvements and modifications in the emergency core-cooling systems of reactors, further evaluations and in-depth inspection of Zircalloy pressure tubes in Pressurized Heavy Water

Reactors (FHWRS) for their integrity, improvements which could further reduce the collective radiation exposure to occupational workers, means to lower the potential for leakage from radioactive waste management systems, the evaluation of structural response to earthquake forces in some of the facilities, the preventive measures related to fire safety and flooding. A total of 134 such issues were listed in the report.

(b) AERB and the concerned DAE installations had jointly prepared corrective actions for each of the items identified. The progress in the implementation of the action plans is being continuously monitored by AERB. Of the 134 issues, 90 were closed after completion of agreed action plans, 23 issues which are of continuous nature are being followed up by the Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP). The remaining 21 issues are being followed by a dedicated cell set up in the AERB. None of the 21 issues warrant restrictive actions on any nuclear installations.

Out of the 21 safety issues which are being followed up, one item related to modification and updating of the off-site emergency preparedness manual in the nuclear power stations has been completed. Out of the remaining 20, there is significant progress in the following two items:

(i) The training simulator at the Kaiga Generating Station has been installed. Operators have started training in the simulator.

(ii) The Rod Worth Minimiser (RWM) has been installed, commissioned and is in operation in Unit 2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station. The same is being installed at Unit 1 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, in line with the general practices, safety upgradation is a continuous process.

(d) Does not arise.

State Farm Corporation of India

*529. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Farm Corporation of India has been making losses continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons and remedial steps taken/ being taken for the revitalisation of the Corporation;

(c) whether M/S SBI Capital Markets Limited, Mumbai has been awarded consultancy for the purpose; and

(d) if so, when it was awarded and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) State Farms Corporation of India has been making losses since 1996-97.

The main reasons for the losses are as under:

1. inadequate irrigation facilities in the Farms of SFCI and, therefore, vulnerability to vagaries of nature;
2. disproportionately large staff strength, and heavy wage bill;
3. obsolete equipment and machinery; and
4. erosion of working capital and lack of financial liquidity.

The following remedial steps are being taken for revitalising the Corporation:

1. improved management practices and close monitoring of farm operations;
2. introduction of VRS/VSS to reduce staff strength;
3. disposal of non-viable farms;
4. prudent financial management and reduction of expenditure;
5. optimum utilization of available resources;
6. augmentation of irrigation facilities to expand cultivable area;
7. replacement of obsolete machinery;
8. shift in production strategy to focus on high value seeds; and
9. improved marketing strategy.

(c) and (d) The SBI Capital Market Ltd. was awarded consultancy on 9.12.99 which was accepted by the Consultants on 25.1.2000. The time-frame for submission of the report is two months. However, considering the volume of work involved, the Consultant is likely to require some additional time to complete the study.

Soil Testing Laboratories

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

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the number of soil testing laboratories are too meager to cover the entire length and breadth of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to introduce a system of issuing soil health card for each farmer to enable them to know about the nutrients/ deficiency in their soil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) There are 514 soil testing laboratiories with an analyzing capacity of 6.4 million soil samples annually in the country.

In view of the usefulness of soil testing in determining fertility status of the soils, this programme is being strengthened by the Union Ministry of Agriculture under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Balanced and integrated Use of Fertilizers. A total of 287 soil testing laboratories have been strengthened in different States and sixteen new laboratories approved under the scheme since 1991-92. For this purpose, funds amounting to Rs. 15.10 crores have been released to different States.

Soil testing is basically a State plan activity. The State Governments and also the Fertilizer industry, are, therefore, periodically advised to strengthen this programme by setting up more soil testing laboratories for providing this facility to more and more farmers.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture has devised a format of Soil Health Card which has been circulated among the State Governments with the advice that it may be adopted with appropriate modification, if considered necessary, for issuing to the farmers.

Contract Labour System

*531. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract labour system has been abolished as per the recent Supreme Court Ruling;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that certain private and public sector undertakings in the country have been employing contract labour even after the above ruling;

(c) if so, the details thereof, industry-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the erring private and PSUs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act was passed by both the Houses of Parliament in 1970. Tne central objective of the Act is to abolish contract labour in certain jobs and processes in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the Act and to regulate the employment of contract labour in other jobs/ processes where it cannot be abolished. The Act does not envisage total abolition of contract labour system. Instead it permits continuance of contract labour system in those jobs or processes where it has not been abolished. The Supreme Court of India in Airport Corporation of India Vs. United Labour Union (AIR 1997 SC 645 and 1997 LLR 288) while superseding its earlier judgement in Gujarat State Electricity Board, Thermal Power Station, Ukai, Gujarat Vs. Hind Mazdoor Sabha and others [JT 1995 (4) SC 264] came to the following conclusions:-

- The objective of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act is to prevent exploitation of Labour.
- The objective is to ensure continuity of work to the workmen in strict compliance of the provisions of the law.
- The principal employer is bound by law to regulate and ensure payment of wages as also provide all facilities and amenities to contract labour under the rules framed thereunder.
- The principal employer has also an obligation to absorb all contract labour who are retrenched as a result of issue of a notification under section 10(1) by the appropriate government.
- Direct relationship is established between workmen and the principal employer the moment the contract labour has been prohibited under section 10(1).

From the above it is clear that Supreme Court has not ruled the total abolition of contract labour system.

The Central Government as well as the State Governments are the appropriate governments for the purpose of implementation of the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 in establishments falling within their respective jurisdictions. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery headed by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) enforces the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder in respect of establishments falling under the central sphere. The establishments are inspected by the inspecting authorities prescribed under the Act and wherever instances of violations of the Act/Rules/Notifications come to their notice, prosecutions are launched against the defaulting establishments.

Export of Eggs

*532. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of eggs (poultry) in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have explored the potential of high exports in the sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of eggs?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The total production of eggs in the country during the last three years is as under:

Year	Egg Production (in billion)
1996-97	27.5
1997-98 (Prov.)	28.5
1998-99 (Prov.)	30.1

(b) and (c) The following measures have been taken for increasing production, and for export of eggs :

(i) Backyard poultry is being encouraged by the implementation of a new scheme in the North Eastern Region of the country. This scheme is proposed to be extended to other States from 2001-2002 onwards.

(ii) Import of pure line poultry breeding stock is under concessional rate of custom duty.

(iii) Production and use of Specific Pathogen Free eggs for the production of vaccines as well as for export is being encouraged.

(iv) Air freight subsidies is being given on export of hatching eggs.

(v) Financial assistance is being given to exporters of poultry products.

(vi) Assistance is being given for promotional activities, quality control, brand publicity and packaging development.

[Translation]

Competitive Exams in Indian Languages

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

(a) whether the Government have given the option that in all the competitive exams conducted by the UPSC and SSC for the recruitment in various services answers can be given in any Indian language;

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

(c) whether the resolution passed by the Parliament on January 18, 1968 for this purpose has been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to allow all the languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as medium for all the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC and SSC; and

(g) 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) to (e) No, Sir. In pursuance of the resolution passed by the Parliament in January, 1968 the option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India has been extended only in the Civil

Services (Main) Examination conducted by UPSC. The question of extension of this facility to other examinations conducted by UPSC is under the consideration of the Government on the basis of recommendtions made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee.

(f) and (g) In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Govrnment's endeavour is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and other concerned, efforts for which are on.

[English]

Production of Cotton

*534. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton crop for the new season is likely to be similar to that of the previous season;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether sowing operation in most of the major cotton growing States have been delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which it is likely to affect the cotton production in these States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) Cotton sowing generally starts with the onset of the monsoon in the country, as almost 66% of cotton area is rain-fed. However, in the irrigated areas in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, sowing starts from the first week of May except in some areas where desi cotton is sown from mid-April onward's. Therefore, it is too early to say about the prospects of cotton sowing in the coming season. So far cotton sowing has not been delayed.

Eco-Friendly Fertilizers and Pesticides

*535. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various research centres have conducted studies to develop eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) if so, the number of such fertilizers and pesticides registered by the Registration Committee under the insecticides Act, 1968;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to popularize the use of these eco-friendly fertilizers and pesticides, State-wise;

(d) the number of bio-fertilizers development centers financed by the Government in each State;

(e) whether any grants-in-aid is being provided to State Governments for setting up bio-fertilizer trial laboratories; and

(f) if so, the funds provided State-wise for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing an All India Coordinated Research Project on biological nitrogen fixation at 13 centres in the country and on Micro-biological decomposition of Farm and City waste at 9 Centres where research is carried out to develop eco-friendly fertilizers like bio-fertilizers and compost. Research on Biological Pest Control is carried out at 16 Centres in different parts of the country. Research is also undertaken by the Agricultural Universities in different States in these aspects.

(b) Beneficial bio-fertilizers have been identified and standardized for use in agriculture. The specifications of useful bio-fertilizers have been circulated among States and the entrepreneurs for their adoption. No registration has been stipulated for bio-fertilizers under any Act/Order. The producers of bio-fertilizers are expected to follow the specifications notified by Bureau of Indian Standards and those circulated by the Union Ministry of Agriculture.

With regard to eco-friendly pesticides, a large number of Pesticides of botanical origin such as neem based formulations have been registered under Insecticides Act, 1968. Pesticides of biological origian terms as Bio-pesticides such as Bacillus thuringiensis, Bacilus sphaericus and Trichoderma viride have also been registered under Insecticides Act, 1968 for use in the country.

(c) and (d) For promoting the use of eco-friendly fertilizers i.e. bio-fertilizers and compost, Government of India is providing financial support for establishment of bio-fertilizer production units and Compost plants. A total of 82 bio-fertilizer production units and 28 compost units have been financed by the Government of India. State-wise number of units financed is at statement-I.

To popularise the use of eco-friendly pesticides, the Union Ministry of Agriculture has set up 26 Integrated Pest Managemet Centres located in 21 States and one Union Territory in the country. These centers demonstrate the usefulness of biological pest control measures through training and field demonstrations. Besides, the State Governments also promote the use of bio-pesticides under various crop oriented intergrated pest management programmes. State-wise location of these centers is at statement-II.

(e) and (f) The Government of India provides assistance only to set up bio-fertilizer production units under a Central Sector Scheme.

Statement-I

Details of Statewise Number of Biofertiliser and Compost Units Financed by Government of India

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Biofertiliser	Units Compost
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	–
3.	Assam	3	1
4.	Bihar	6	1
5.	Meghalaya	1	1
6.	Mizoram	1	–
7.	Nagaland	1	–
8.	Orissa	4	–
9.	West Bengal	3	1
10.	Haryana	1	–
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	–
12.	Uttar Pradesh	5	–
13.	Karnataka	8	4
14.	Kerala	3	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	8	6
16.	Pondicherry	1	1
17.	Gujarat	5	–
18.	Madhya Pradesh	8	2
19.	Maharashtra	16	4
20.	Rajasthan	2	2
21.	Punjab	–	1
22.	Delhi	–	1
	TOTAL	82	28

Statement-II

Locations of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres

States/UT	Location
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad/ Vijayawada
Assam	Guwahati
Andaman & Nicobar Island	Port Blair
Bihar	Patna
Goa	Madgaon
Gujarat	Baroda
Haryana	Faridabad
Himachal Pradesh	Solan
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu/Srinagar
Karnataka	Bangalore
Kerala	Ernakulam
Madhya Pradesh	Indore/Raipur
Maharashtra	Nagpur
Mizoram	Aizwal
Nagaland	Dimapur
Orissa	Bhubaneswar
Punjab	Jalandhar
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Trichy
Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur/Lucknow
West Bengal	Burdwan

Milk Production

*536. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia and the National Dairy Development Board of India have joined hands to improve the productivity of ruminant animals and thereby increase milk production in the country;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith results likely to be achieved by entering into this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is intended to improve the efficiency of feed utilisation by developing technology for preparing feed supplements that comprise by-pass proteins and fats produced from by-products. Trials conducted on bypass nutrient technology in Australia revealed that dairy cows fed with protected nutrients from sunflower meal has resulted in 10-15% extra milk production in high producing dairy cows. Locally available raw materials having good nutritive value will be treated suitably to enhance their rumen bypass value and field tested. In India, where milk production is much lower, cows and buffaloes could possibly yield additional 1-2 litres milk per animal per day, on feeding bypass nutrient (proteins and fats).

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*537. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of the NDC was set up to look into the matter of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Govermment have handed over some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details of the schemes alongwith the time by which these schemes are likely to be handed over to the State Governments; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NDC Committee on Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been set up under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Minister of Finance, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Affairs and Minister for Agriculture and Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal are Members of the Committee. The terms of the Reference of the Committee are:

1. To identify the CSS for retention by the Centre and those for transfer to the States/UTs and to classify all the CSS accordingly.

2. For those CSS which will be identified for transfer to the States/UTs, suggest the modalities of transfer including earmarking, the funding pattern, the time frame for the transfer and the monitoring mechanism.

3. In order to avoid future proliferation of CSS lay down the criteria for the introduction of new CSS.

(c) to (e) The Ninth Five Year Plan document indicates that Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be confined to only those Schemes which have an inter-State character, address matters impinging on national security, Schemes which fulfil national priorities and where Central supervision is necessary for effective implementation and externally financed projects where Central coordination is necessary for operational reasons. Except for such schemes all other schemes should be transferred to the States. These principles would guide the work of the NDC Committee. The term of the NDC Committee is up to 30th September, 2000.

Role of Planning Commission

*538. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission wants a larger role in decision making as is reported in 'The Hindu' dated April 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 Planning Commission is currently engaged in an exercise to reorient the planning process and redefine the role of the Commission with a view to make it more responsive to the changing domestic and global economic scenario. The exercise is in progress and the draft proposal is being discussed internally with a view to finalise it.

(c) The question does not arise, at this stage.

[Translation]

Collaboration with NRIs

*539. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
DR. SANJAY PASWAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee in collaboration with the Non-Resident Indians to develop information technology;

(b) if so, the objectives of this Committee;

(c) the extent to which the information technology in the country is likely to be benefited by it;

(d) the mumber of eminent computer professionals migrated from India during the last Five year, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) A Select Group of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Information Technology. The objectives of this group are to:-

- keep the Ministry of Information Technology abreast with the latest developments taking place in the world of Information Technology and also the market trends in this regard.
- advise in the formulation of policies in the area of Information Technology and strengthening of telecommunication infrastructure vis-a-vis Information Technology policies and the specific targets laid by the Government.
- advise the Ministry of Information Technology with regard to facilitation of angel investment, venture creation and incubation facilities.
- advise in the matter of human resource development in the area of information technology with focus on IT education and IT-based education and promotion of knowledge-based enterprises.
- assist in creation of pool of expertise and foster research and development activities in select areas.

(c) The interactions with the members of the Select Group would help in identifying key growth areas in the area of information technology.

(d) No data is maintained by the Government in respect of Indian Computer professionals who had migrated from India.

(e) The migration of computer professionals from India is largely because of better employment opportunities abroad. Government policy is to encourage software development and hardware manufacturing in the country with the motto "Move works to India". Various measures are being taken from time to time in this regard so that there is creation of wealth and economic growth leading to better employment opportunities within the country. This will discourage computer professionals from migrating abroad.

[English]

Intelligence Agencies

*540. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the permission given to US Embassy in Delhi to open a Legal Attache Office manned by FBI officers, a corresponding office of the CBI of India is likely to be set up in the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar permission is likely to be given to intelligence agencies of other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The CBI and FBI have a co-operative relationship particularly involving cases of financial crimes and terrorism, which the United States and India are pursuing jointly. Our security organisations are represented in the Embassy of India, Washington. The CBI can also have such a presence as considered necessary, depending on our requirements.

(c) and (d) The question may be considered on the merits of the case if and when such a proposal is received.

Commission of Enquiry

5712. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Commission of Enquiry was appointed by the Secretary, Department of Electronics in the year 1994-95 to investigate corruption charges against senior management personnel of Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the findings of the Commission;

(c) whether some of the alleged officers were promoted by the present Chairman and Managing Director; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) A fact finding Board of Enquiry was constituted by the Department of Electronics (now Ministry of Information Technology) in March, 1995 to inquire into the complaints against the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director and other senior officers of Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd.

On receipt of the Enquiry Report, disciplinary proceedings were initiated and action was taken against the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director by the Ministry.

A five member Committee headed by Director (Marketing) was constituted by CMD, ET&T to consider the findings and recommendations of the Fact Finding Board of Enquiry which had suggested suitable action aginst the then General Manager, Joint General Manager, Dy. General Manager and Chief Manager.

Based on the recommendations of the said Committee, disciplinary action was taken against the General Manager, Dy. General Manager and Chief Manager. No action was taken against the Joint General Manager as nothing specific was proved against him.

Of the above persons, Chief Manager and Deputy General Manager resigned and left the Corporation in August, 1996 and December, 1997 respectively without any promotion. The Joint General Manger was promoted to the post of General Manager with effect from 01.04.1998 while the General Manger was promoted to the post of Chief General Manager with effect from 01.04.1999 on the basis of recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committee. These promotions were made alongwith promotion of other officers in the various grades as per the Company Policy.

Disposal of Passport Applications

5713. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by passport offices in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the average time taken by these offices in issuing passports;

(c) the number of applications pending for passports in these offices from more than six months; and

(d) the steps taken or likely to be taken to dispose of these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The number of passports issued in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

State	1997	1998	1999
Tamil Nadu	1,67,294	2,69,355	3,37,103
Andhra Pradesh	2,65,622	2,43,066	2,62,998

(b) At present these offices are issuing passports on an average in a period of 5 to 7 weeks.

(c) No applications are pending for more than six months in which the documents are complete and the police report is clear.

(d) All passport offices contact the applicants at the stated addresses to complete the application forms. This process is undertaken on two occasions at least before the files are closed. In cases of negative police report an opportunity is given to the applicant to resolve the issue so that such cases are expeditiously dealt with.

Development of Infrastructure

5714. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan for the development of infrastructure to assist Horticultural Board has been chalked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States exporting horticulture products to the maximum extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) For promoting horticulture in the country and particularly to strengthen post harvest infrastructure, the Government is providing assistance to beneficiaries through the schemes of National Horticulture Board (NHB). NHB was set up by Government of India in 1984 under the Societies Registration Act 1860 as an autonomous body. NHB is wholly funded by Government of India by way of grants-in-aid. Major thrust was given to NHB programmes during the 8th Five Year Plan where NHB took up various activities/programmes right from production to post harvest management, in accordance with its objectives, with a financial outlay of Rs. 156.00 crores. NHB has been implementing schemes of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure (PHM) of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities which include pre-cooling units, refrigerated transport vehicles, specialised transport vehicles, grading/packaging etc. and Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan under which financial assistance is provided in the form of soft loan for setting up integrated projects in the field of fruits and vegetables marketing and processing etc. In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages, government recently approved a scheme for construction/expansion/ modernisation of cold storages and storages for horticultural produce under which capital subsidy is provided and the scheme is under implementation by National Horticulture Board.

In the light of the experiences gained and considering the recommendations received from various quarters like State Governments, Expert Groups, Parliament Committees, Farmers' Associations etc. and also keeping in mind the emerging needs for extending support to the horticulture industry, the 9th Plan proposals for NHB have been made more broad-based and reoriented to encompass every aspect of horticulture promotion in the country.

(c) The State-wise data for export of horticultural product are not maintained.

[Translation]

Renovation of Irrigation Projects

5715. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for renovation and modernisation of irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government for approval at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The Detailed Project Report of Water Resources Consolidation Project envisaging improvements in 54 irrigation projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 441.92 crores was submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to Central Water Commission in January, 2000. Clearance of the project is, however, linked with the compliance of observations of various central appraising agencies by the State Governments.

[English]

Cadre Review

5716. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fifth Pay Commission has recommended periodic review of cadre structure of a regularly constituted service;

(b) if so, the reasons for non review of Centralised cadre of the grades of Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary of CSS ever since inception of the service rules in 1962; and

(c) the details of action taken in pursuance to Fifth Pay Commission recommendations to meet the legitimate career progression of CSS officers?

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) Under the Central Staffing Scheme, the posts of Under Secretary and above in the Central Secretariat are not earmarked for any service and are filled by drawing officers form three All India Services, 34 Group 'A' Central Services, and the Central Secretariat Service. The Central Secretariat Service is basically a Group 'B' Service starting from the cadre of Assistants (non-gazetted Group 'B') and the highest post available to CSS under the CSS rules is Deputy Secretary. Inspite of this rule, at present, more than 90% posts of Under Secretary, more than 25% posts of Deputy Secretary, 91 posts of Director, 34 posts of Joint Secretary and 5 posts of Additional Secretary are being held by CSS officers under the Central Staffing Scheme. Moreover, the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme, recently introduced by the Government, is applicable to CSS also, as it is a Group 'B' Service.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries

5717. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enough scope to set up the food processing industries particularly mango and other fruits growing areas in Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such industries with the foreign collaboration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of food processing industries set up in the State during the last three years;

(e) whether the number is almost close to the targetted number;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) As per study conducted recently, there is potential for setting up of food processing industries in the country including Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Central Government does not set up food processing industries on its own. However, Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector. Under its plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to food processing industries. Besides, other agencies like National Horticultural Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

(d) The number of licences granted under Fruit Products Order (FPO), 1955, in the states of Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during 1997, 1998 & 1999 is as under:-

State	No. of FPO licences granted
Gujarat	118
Bihar	17
Madhya Pradesh	20

(e) to (g) No targets are laid down as the Government does not set up units on its own.

Composite-Fitment Centres

5718. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set-up composite-fitment centres in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the objectives of this scheme;

(c) whether such Centres would be set up in every district of the State; and

(d) if so, the details of the districts selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Scheme is to reach rehabilitation services to the grass roots level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following districts have been selected from Uttar Pradesh:-

(1) Gonda

(2) Mau

(3) Gorakhpur

(4) Lucknow

(5) Pilibhit

(6) Almora

(7) Bareilly

(8) Tehri Garwal

(9) Meerut

(10) Agra

(11) Varanasi

(12) Allahabad

(13) Kanpur

(14) Farrukhabad

(15) Jhansi

(16) Haridwar

(17) Ballia

NGO's in Bihar

5719. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Government organizations working in Bihar at present location-wise;

(b) the material/information made available by the Government and private agencies to NGO's during the last three years in Bihar;

(c) whether any review has been undertaken about functioning of these organizations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Ministry only has information about the NGOs being assisted by it under various grant-in-aid schemes in Bihar, the location-wise details of which are given below:-

S.No.	Location	No. of Organisations
1	2	3
1.	Arrah	1
2.	Bathanaha	1
3.	Betiah	1
4.	Bhagalpur	1
5.	Buxer	1
6.	Chhapra	2
7.	Dhanbad	1
8.	Dumka	1
9.	Gaya	3
10.	Jamshedpur	3
11.	Jahanabad	1
12.	Katihar	1
13.	Madhubani	1

1	2	3
14.	Munger	2
15.	Muzaffarpur	2
16.	Nalanda	1
17.	Palamu	1
18.	Patna	31
19.	Purnea	2
20.	Rohtas	3
21.	Saharasa	2
22.	Saran	1
23.	Sitamarhi	1
24.	Siwan	1
25.	Vaishali	1

(b) The Ministry provides grant-in-aid assistance to the NGOs only in monetary form.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is releasing grant-in-aid to the organizations on the basis of inspection report/ recommendation of the appropriate authorities every year. At the time of applying for the grant the organizations are also required to submit documents like utilization certificate, audit report, etc. Alongwith the application for the grant the Ministry obtains information regarding number of beneficiaries and activities under-taken by the NGO, which enable monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs and assess its case on merits for assistance.

[English]

Vacant Posts

5720. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise/category-wise number of SCs/STs and OBCs provided with jobs in his Ministry/Departments/ autonomous bodies and subordinate offices under his Ministry during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs posts lying vacant in each of the above offices as on March 31, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by his Ministry for filling up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Total number of SCs/STs and OBCs recruited by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement-I in a tabular form. The information in respect of the Central Passport Organisation, under the Ministry is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The number of SCs/STs and OBCs posts lying vacant in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Coundil of Cultural Relations as on 31st March 2000 is given in enclosed Statement-II. The information in respect of Central Passport Organisation is being colleced and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(c) According to DoP&T guidelines, the unfilled vacancies in respect of reserved candidates for a particular recruitment year are carried forward to subsequent recruitment years. Continuous efforts are made to place indents as and when required.

Statement-I

Ctgry	No. of posts filled by								
	SCs			STs			OBCs		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
					MEA				
Grp A	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	4	2
Grp B	9	2	Nil	3	1	Nil	12	8	6
Grp C	6	5	1	6	Nil	1	12	7	3
Grp D	4	8	11	1	5	2	Nil	4	Nil

ICCR:

The number of SCs/STs/OBCs posts filled in all the categories in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations during the last three years is NIL.

Statement-II

Ctgry	No. of posts lying vacant as on 31.3.2000 in r/o		
.	SCs	STs	OBCs
	MEA		
Grp A	Nil	Nil	Nil
Grp B	2	5	3
Grp C	3	Nil	23
Grp D	Nil	4	6
	ICCR		
Grp A	1	Nil	1
Grp B	2	1	3
Grp C	2	Nil	4
Grp D	2	Nil	1

[Translation]

Maintenance of Atomic Energy Plants

5721. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atomic reactor in Rajasthan at present alongwith the dates of their setting up and installed capacities, seperately;

(b) the reasons for frequent closure of some of these atomic reactors;

(c) whether the country do not have the know how to repair them or their construction is flawed or they have become outdated;

(d) the quantum of atomic energy generated in each of these reactors; and

(e) the year-wise amount spent on the maintenance of these plants during the last three years 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, four units RAPS-1 (100 MWe), RAPS-2 (200 MWe) RAPP-3 & 4 (2x220 MWe) are located at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan. RAPS-1 and RAPS-2 commenced commercial operation in the years 1973 and 1981 respectively. RAPP-3 after completion was synchronised to the grid for the first time on 10.3.2000 and RAPP-4 is expected to be completed for achieving criticality in the year 2000.

(b) RAPS-2 which came on line after the en-masse coolant channel replacement has been performing well and recorded availability factors of 80% and 83% during the financial years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively

RAPS-1 which came on line after the repair of Over Pressure Relief Device (OPRD) leak recorded availability factors of about 49%, 67% and 71% during the financial years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 respectively, indicating a progressively improving trend of performance. The unit had repeated problems in its turbine generator during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(c) The country has all the knowhow, capability and expertise to take up complex repair and refurbishment works in its operating nuclear power plants.

(d) The quantum of electrical energy generated from RAPS-1 & 2 during the last three years is given below:

	Electrical energy in Million Units (MUs)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
RAPS-1	480	827	934
RAPS-2	*	990	1405

(e) The total expenditures incurred towards running RAPS-1 and RAPS-2, which includes cost relating to fuel, heavy water, operation and maintenance, depreciation and interest during the last three years, are given below:

	Expenditure-Rupees in Crores		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Provisional
RAPS-1	81.93 (21.22)	106.09 (22.12)	124.41 (37.24)
RAPS-2		132.28 (21.37)	176.67 (38.12)

* RAPS-2 was under en-masse coolant channel replacement and up-gradation works up to June 1998

Note-The break-up of operation and maintenance expenditure is given in brackets.

[English]

Production of Seeds and Pulses

5722. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up Seed Villages for the production of seeds of pulses and oilseeds to enable the farmers to increase the production of these two items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to boost the production of oilseeds and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) One of the component under the on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), is the Seed Village Programme which provides an assistance of Rs. 200 per qtl. to the farmers for the production of certified seeds of Pulses and Oilseed crops. This component has been introduced with a view to ensure timely availability of seeds to the farmers at a reasonable price reducing the handling cost etc.

(c) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are in operation in various States/UTs. to increase the production and productivity of Oilseeds and Pulses in the country. Under both these schemes 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 farmers 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.

IDBI Finance to Steel Projects

5723. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Industrial Development Bank of India for providing additional finance to certain steel projects, which have gone into heavy cost overruns, only after re-establishing the long-term viability of each project;

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

(c) whether some suggestions were submitted by the sub-committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith suggestions accepted by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Seasonal Khalasis

5724. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seasonal Khalasis working in every monsoon season under Central Water Commission field offices throughout the country;

(b) the total payment made to the seasonal Khalasis in the monsoon season;

(c) whether there any proposal to absorb all the seasonal Khalasis on regular employment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The number of seasonal Khalasis engaged in the workcharged establishment of the Central Water Commission in every monsoon season is not fixed, but varies with the number and nature of requirement of data collection schemes in operation. In flood season of 1999, that is June to October, 1999, 1712 seasonal khalasis were employed.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) There is a scheme called "Grant of Temporary Status and Regularisation of Seasonal Khalasis in the Workcharged Establishment of the CWC, 1997" which, is effective from 1.6.1997. This Scheme, inter alia, provides for grant of temporary status to the seasonal khalasis working in Central Water Commission and fulfilling the terms and conditions as on 1.6.1997, as stipulated in the Scheme, and their regularisation in the workcharged establishment of the CWC subject to the availability of

vacancies and on seniority-cum-fitness basis as per procedure laid down in the Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Backwaters

5725. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government provides assistance to State Government for the development of backwaters in the State; and

(b) if so, the assistance given to Kerala Government in this regard for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Bus Service between India and Nepal

5726. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a bus service between India and Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) The Government have no proposal at present to introduce a bus service between India and Nepal. Private operators are, however, engaged in providing bus services between the two countries. There is also a proposal to conclude an agreement on trans-border movement of vehicular traffic between India and Nepal. Drafts have been exchanged and discussions are expected to begin shortly.

[English]

Education for Disabled

5727. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are committed to care the disabled specially the weaker gender;

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard and the annual budget earmarked therefor;

(c) whether it is correct that the education of the disabled has been allocated to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment thereby alienating it from the mainstream education handled by the Human Resource Development and causing a further disadvantage to the disabled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the education of the disabled will therefore by actively inter-linked to the HRD at the earliest; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The commitment of the Government is reflected in the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which came into force w.e.f. 7.2.1996. In addition, a number of schemes are being implemented by this Ministry for benefit of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities. During the current financial year, 2000-01, provision of Rs. 230.10 crore (Plan) and Rs. 31.05 (Non-Plan) has been proposed in the budget of this Ministry for the disability sector.

(c) to (f) Special Education falls within the purview of this Ministry. Certain schemes to promote special education, including special schools, are already being implemented by this Ministry. As per the National Education Policy as also under the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, children with disabilities are to be given education in general schools as far as possible. To facilitate this process, the Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).

PMRY

5728. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by DDA, NDMC, MCD and Cantonment Board for allotment of shops/sheds etc. to the

beneficiaries of PMRY particularly for reserved categories separately, and

(b) the number of industrial sites, shops/sheds, etc. allotted to the beneficiaries to PMRY during each of the last three years by the each State?

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) There are no specific criteria for allotment of shops/sheds etc. to the PMRY beneficiaries, under the existing guidelines of the scheme.

De-addiction Centres

5729. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of de-addiction centres at present State-wise.

(b) the amount spent on these centres during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Statement-I showing the number of De-addiction Centres being funded by this Ministry under the Scheme for Prevention of Alocoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) The financial assistance released to grantee organizations under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse during the years 98-99 99-2000 & 2000-01 (till 28.04.2000), is indicated in the statement-II

(c) and (d) As per the existing policy, the Government considers proposals recommended by the State Government concerned/nodal agency for setting-up of De-addiction Centres, in terms of the provisions of the Scheme, and taking into account the need for opening such a centre in the area applied for.

Statement-I

Number of De-addiction Centres–State-wise
(As on 31.3.2000)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	DC
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Assam	6
3.	Bihar	13
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	7
6.	Haryana	12
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
8.	Karnataka	14
9.	Kerala	15
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10
11.	Maharashtra	47
12.	Manipur	18
13.	Meghalaya	2
14.	Mizoram	6
15.	Nagaland	7
16.	Orissa	29
17.	Punjab	13
18.	Rajasthan	8
19.	Sikkim	–
20.	Tamil Nadu	11
21.	Tripura	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	35
23.	West Bengal	12
	UNION TERRITORY	
24.	Chandigarh	1
25.	Delhi	8
26.	Pondicherry	1
	TOTAL	292

Statement-II

Grant-in-aid released to NGOs under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Drugs Abuse

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Grant Sanctioned		
		98-99	99-2000	2000-2001 (upto 28.4.2000)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.93	71.22	–
2.	Assam	19.03	29.59	–
3.	Bihar	30.32	44.38	–
4.	Goa	6.18	17.51	–
5.	Gujarat	44.46	54.94	1.19
6.	Haryana	84.05	94.09	–
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	13.65	10.12	–
8.	Karnataka	41.30	71.69	–
9.	Kerala	103.82	119.24	1.19
10.	Madhya Pradesh	33.58	41.64	3.02
11.	Maharashtra	124.32	227.28	–
12.	Manipur	163.64	158.07	2.50
13.	Meghalaya	11.62	9.97	–
14.	Mizoram	49.70	51.01	–
15.	Nagaland	32.05	49.86	–
16.	Orissa	103.80	131.10	1.19
17.	Punjab	62.42	88.04	2.24
18.	Rajasthan	66.93	66.54	–
19.	Sikkim	–	3.12	1.03
20.	Tamil Nadu	65.46	83.07	–
21.	Tripura	7.97	9.25	–
22.	Uttar Pradesh	235.74	245.68	5.66
23.	West Bengal	82.20	116.27	–
24.	Chandigarh	9.98	10.66	–
25.	Delhi	66.87	60.49	5.20
26.	Pondicherry	8.60	5.43	–

Integrated Cooperative Development Projects

5730. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State of Uttar Pradesh regarding Integrated Cooperative Development Projects under consideration with the National Cooperative alongwith their places and the dates of their receipt; and

(b) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The NCDC received six proposals from Government of Uttar Pradesh to consider the ICDP Projects in the following districts. These were however refered back to the State Government for Detailed Project Report:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Districts	Dates on which NCDC has Sought Detailed Project Report from Government of U.P
1.	Chamoli	13.4.99
2.	Deoria	6.2.99
3.	Aligarh	29.10.99
4.	Lakhimpur Khiri	29.10.99
5.	Bijnore	29.10.99
6.	Barabanki	29.10.99

(b) The proposal will be cleared as and when the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) are received from the State Government.

[Translation]

Employees State Insurance

5731. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees States Insurance Corporation, New Delhi owes a huge amount to Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra since 1997;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Corporation for the immediate payment of such amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The expenditure on medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is shared between the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and the State Governments in the ratio of 7:1 subject to a ceiling prescribed in this regard. Based on the Audit Reports, the entire contribution of the ESI Corporation as admissible under the ESI Scheme has been released to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra up to 1995-96. The Corporation has also made an "on account" advance payment to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra as under:

Year	Govt. of U.P. (Rs. in Crore)	Govt. of Maharashtra (Rs. in Crore)
1996-97	12.13	35.60
1997-98	15.61	44.90
1998-99	18.09	54.37
1999-2000	20.94	63.98

The balance payment will be made if the same is found admissible under the scheme in accordance with the audit certificates of the competent authority.

[English]

Improving of Infrastructure

5732. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give grants to the State Government for improving their infrastructural facilities like construction of roads/bridges on link roads to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce to the market; 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) A scheme for construction and development of rural roads is under formulation. In this connection a "National Rural Roads Development Committee" (NRRDC) has been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development and its recommendations are awaited.

Upliftment of Workers

5733. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored scheme is being launched for the upliftment of workers engaged in the iron ore and manganese mines in Orissa and especially in Keonjhar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of workers benefited under the Schemes during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A number of welfare schemes have been formulated for the benefit of workers engaged in Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, and Chrome Ore Mines and their family members in the sphere of health, education, housing, recreation and water supply. A list of such schemes is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of workers who have benefited under the various schemes in Orissa under Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines & Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare fund during last three years are as under:-

1997-98	2,06,821
1998-99	2,10,971
1999-2000	2,22,712

Statement

List of Welfare Schemes for Mine (Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines) Workers

A. HEALTH:

1. Scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Mental diseases.

3. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Leprosy.

4. Scheme for Domiciliary treatment of Mine Workers suffering from T.B.

5. Maternity benefit scheme for female mine workers.

6. Re-imbursement of actual cost of treatment to mine workers suffering from Cancer.

7. Grant of financial Assistance to mine workers for purchase of Spectacles.

8. Scheme for payment of extra Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to mine workers.

9. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Heart Diseases.

10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

11. Scheme for payment of Compensation in case of Fatal and Serious Accident to mine workers.

12. Scheme for providing artificial limbs to mine workers.

13. Grant-in-aid to Iron Ore, Manganese Ore & Chrome Ore Mines and Limestone & Dolomite Mines Managements for purchase of Ambulance Vans.

B. HOUSING:

1. Financial assistance to mines management for construction of low cost type-I and type-II houses for mine workers near work site.

2. Build Your Own House Scheme; Interest free loan and subsidy to mine workers for construction of their own houses.

C. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to School/College going children of mine workers.

2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of mine workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.

3. Assistance to mine owners for running Central Library.

4. Assistance for purchase of School buses to the Mine managements.

5. Assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of Libraries.

6. Grant-in-aid for recognised schools in the Iron Ore mining areas for purchase of furniture & equipment.

7. Mid-day meals scheme.

8. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.

9. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re.1/- to female children of mine workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

D. RECREATION:

1. Organising Sports, Social Cultural activities for mine workers.

2. Scheme to provide buses for transportation of mine workers.

3. Establishment of Audio Visual sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of films.

4. Excursion-cum-study tours.

5. Supply of T.V. Sets.

6. Setting up of Multipurpose Institutes/Developed Multipurpose Institutes.

7. Setting up of Welfare Centres.

8. Grants to M.P.Is/D.M.P.Is/Welfare Centres.

9. Sports Grounds.

10. Holiday Homes.

E. WATER SUPPLY:

1. Financial assistance to small mine owners for sinking of wells.

2. Financial assistance to small mine owners for execution of water supply schemes.

3. Financial assistance to big mines management for execution of water supply scheme.

[Translation]

Strike by Central Government Employees

5734. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of organisations of gazetted and non-gazetted employees of the Union Government went on strike during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the measures being contemplated by the Government to check the recurrence of such strikes by the Government employees?

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) Government servants are prohibited from resorting to or in any way abetting any form of strike in connection with service matters. Any Government servant who violates these instructions is liable to disciplinary action. Further, the principle of 'no work-no pay' is being adopted to regulate the strike period absence of the employees and such unauthorized absence can also result in a break in service for the purpose of leave travel concession, quasi-permanency, eligibility for departmental examinations as also for the purposes of pension. These instructions are considered as adequate and no new measures are contemplated to check strikes.

Since the various Ministries/Departments are competent to take action against the employees who participate in strikes, details of the strikes organised by various employees' associations during the last three years is not centrally available.

[English]

Production of Kharif and Rabi Crops

5735. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agriculture production during Kharif and Rabi seasons during 1999-2000 upto March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the production of wheat, gram and rice separately;

(c) whether India is self-reliant in agriculture production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to make India self-reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The state-wise estimated production of major agriculture crops during the kharif and rabi seasons of agriculture year 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) According to the Report of Working Group on "Demand and Supply Projections of Agricultural Commodities and Improvement of Agricultural Statistics" for formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, the consumption and production requirement of foodgrains by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan according to normative approach is given as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Commodity	Consumption Requirement 2001-02	Production Requirement 2001-02	Actual Production*
Cereals	160.00	177.30	188.01
Pulses	13.90	17.20	13.55
Foodgrains	173.90	194.90	201.56

*Estimated production as on 27.03.2000.

To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

Statement

State-wise and Season-wise Advance Estimates of Production of Major Crops during Agriculture year 1999-2000@

Production ('000 Tonnes)

State/UT	Rice			Wheat	Gram	Foodgrains			Total Oilseeds			Sugarcane	Cotton*	Jute**	Mesta**
	Kharif	Rabi	Total			Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif	Rabi	Total				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(21)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)
ANDHRA PRADESH	6662	3297	9959	16	80	8547	4397	12944	982	759	1741	14840	872	0	645
ASSAM	3100	400	3500	100	2	3124	575	3699	30	197	227	1200	1	660	26
BIHAR	6439	300	6739	4367	110	7193	6212	13405	28	145	173	5339	0	1104	127
GUJARAT	851	0	851	1032	82	2758	1171	3929	1357	615	1972	16750	1595	0	0
HARYANA	2483	0	2483	8300	110	3070	8540	11610	4	715	719	8000	1150	0	0
HIMANCHAL PRD.	120	0	120	641	3	807	687	1494	2	7	9	139	0	0	0
JAMMU & KASHMIR	434	0	434	501		964	537	1501	12	44	56	7	0	0	0
KARNATAKA	2567	813	3380	176	174	6792	2456	9248	881	467	1348	29233	838	0	9
KERALA	906	125	1031	0	0	928	143	1071	15	0	15	410	20	0	0
MADHYA PRD.	6303	0	6303	8400	2500	8489	11643	20132	4695	630	5325	1886	316	0	6
MAHARASHTRA	2484	60	2544	1174	568	8062	4191	12253	1927	515	2442	55798	2889	0	43
ORISSA	4445	526	4971	0	17	4787	819	5406	104	58	162	1990	61	102	108
PUNJAB	8716	0	8716	14200	12	9169	14314	23483	11	111	122	6500	950	0	0
RAJASTHAN	253	0	253	5825	900	2843	7131	9974	885	2273	3158	1215	1104	0	0
TAMIL NADU	6465	1035	7500	0	5	7546	1972	9518	774	941	1715	27200	650	0	0
UTTAR PRD.	12898	14	12912	24500	760	16583	26835	43418	142	1613	1755	119974	10	0	0
WEST BENGAL	10452	4650	15102	796	30	10721	5642	16363	158	407	565	1776	0	6510	90
OTHERS	1617	138	1755	65	0	1879	232	2111	35	0	35	380	13	50	46
ALL INDIA	77195	11358	88553	70099	5353	104262	97297	201559	12042	9497	21539	292637	10449	8426	1100

*Bales of 170 kgs. each.

**Bales of 180 kgs. each.

@Advance Estimates as on 27.03.2000.

Nuclear Reactors

5736. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) had identified Atomerg as its Russian partner for building two nuclear reactors;

(b) if so, the capacity of the two nuclear reactors and their locations;

(c) the terms of the agreement; and

(d) the capital outlay involved by each partner?

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) No, Sir. ATOMSTORY EXPORT (Atomerg) is the Russian agency identified by Government of Russian Federation for the implementation of 2x1000 MWe light water reactors at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) A decision on the implementation of the Project, its techno-commercial terms and conditions, capital outlay etc. would depend on the evaluation of the Detailed Project Report, for the preparation of which a contract has been signed with the Russian Federation on 20.7.98.

Disinvestment in SAIL

5737. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a plan to allow "creeping disinvestment" in SAIL after implementation of the restructuring proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual sale of equity of SAIL in terms of percentage;

(d) whether SAIL is likely to be retained 50 per cent of the total equity; and

(e) if so, the details of proposals in this regard?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Consideration Zone for Promotions

5738. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the Government to fill up vacancies of General quota in a particular cadre, in case candidates are not available within the normal consideration zone; and

(b) the criteria for making extended consideration zone for general candidate which is required to fill up balance vacancies?

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 (SHIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The instructions issued by Department of Personnel and Training provide that the zone of consideration would comprise officials equal to twice the number of vacancies plus four. Normally, the aforesaid arrangement indicates

Statement

List of Projects in State of Maharashtra showing the balance Expenditure to be incurred w.r.t. the

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Appro. Orgnl. (Rvsd.)	Date of Commissioning Original (Revised)	Date of Commissioning Anticipated (L.Rep.)	Time Over Run (Months) Total (% on original)	Time Over Run (Months) Addl. over last Qtr.	Time Over Run (Months) Tot (% on Revised	Cost Approved Orgnl. (Rvsd.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sector : Atomic Energy									
NPCIL									
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Tarapur Maharashtra	MW 2x500	1991/01 1997/12	2007/01	2007/06	5 3	0	5 3	3447.06 6421.00

the outer limit and the zone is generally not extended beyond the limit. However, if there are specific provisions in this regard in the relevant Recruitment Rules, these have superior authority over the general instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. Also, occasionally, if adequate number of eligible candidates possessing the qualifying service etc. for promotion to a higher grade in any service/grade are not available, the administrative Ministries/Departments are free to seek relaxation of the condition to tide over the situation if permissible in terms of the relevant Recruitment Rules. These proposals are considered on their individual merits in consultation with the UPSC, whenever needed.

Abolition of Torture

5739. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign and ratify the UN Convention Against Torture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Major and Medium Projects

5740. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of medium and major projects under implementation in the States particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of financial and physical achievements in terms of funds allocated, released and utilised alongwith the unspent balance during each of the last three years project-wise alongwith cost escalation; and

(d) the details of new projects approved for execution and funds provided therefor alongwith funds allocated for ongoing projects, States-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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Status of medium and major projects in the State of Maharashtra showing allocation, utilisation and balance funds project-wise for the last three years is given in the Statement-I. As regards projects situated in other states, a summary is enclosed at Statement-II. For projectwise details, the Annual Report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for 1999-2000, available in the Parliament Library, may please be referred to.

(d) 18 projects, approved during 1999-2000, were brought on the monitoring system of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implmentation. The project-wise allocations for these projects are given in the Statement-III.

I

anticipated cost of the project during the last 3 years i.e., 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 (As on 1.1.2000)

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure : Rs. in Crores)

Anticipated	%Cost over run on orig. (Revised)	Expenditure till 3/99	1990-00 B.E. (R.E.)	Annual Expenditure till quarter	Cumulative Expenditure	Balance Expenditure to be Incurred w.r.t. now anticipated cost during 1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	Remarks
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8949.00	160 39	1180.76	422.00 260.00	71.24	1252.00	5525.00	7905.53	7697.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sector : Civil Aviation									
	AI								
2.	Const. Hanger No. 4-S, Cruz Mumbai Maharashtra		1993/11	1996/12	1999/12	36 97	0	36 97	49.00
	AAI								
3.	Aerobridges Bay 17, 18, 19 Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	1999/08	2000/03	7 33	0	7 33	27.25
Sector : Coal									
	CCL								
4.	Saunda 'D' OC Maharashtra	0.80 MTY	1991/08	1999/03	2001/03	24 26	0	24 26	48.96
5.	Saunda 'D' UC Maharashtra	0.63 MTY	1991/03	1998/03	2001/03	36 43	0	36 43	47.94
6.	Urimari OC Maharashtra	1.30 MT	1994/08	1999/03	2000/03	12 22	0	12 22	95.33
	WCL								
7.	Gondegaon OC Chandrapur Maharashtra	0.75 MTY	1992/12	2000/03	2000/03	0 0	0	0 0	67.96
8.	Makardhokoa II UG Nagpur Maharashtra	0.27 MTY	1992/09	1999/03	2000/03	12 15	0	12 15	25.92
9.	Sasti R/O UG Maharashtra	0.36 MTY	1993/04	1998/03	2001/03	36 61	12	36 61	38.25
10.	Pauni OC Maharashtra	0.6 MT	1996/09	2001/03	2001/03	0 0	0	0 0	45.63
11.	Saoner Exp. UG Nagpur Maharashtra	0.42 MTY (Incre.)	1998/02	2002/03	2002/03	0 0	0	0 0	47.56

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
72.54	48 48	45.21	– –	2.27	47.48	36.22	36.22	25.06	(Complete)
27.25	0 0	0.58	9.82 16.00	2.06	2.64	0.00	0.00	24.61	
48.96	0 0	29.08	– –	0.89	29.97	27.85	19.88	18.99	
47.94	0 0	15.58	– –	0.06	15.64	31.62	32.36	32.30	
95.33	0 0	56.07	– –	1.09	57.16	41.01	39.53	38.17	
95.60	41 41	70.28	4.44 –	3.90	74.18	23.93	26.20	21.42	
25.92	0 0	14.14	1.74 –	0.45	14.59	13.10	11.93	11.33	(Complete)
38.25	0 0	17.57	5.72 –	1.34	18.91	26.82	21.52	19.34	
45.63	0 0	14.67	3.00 –	1.53	16.20	40.34	27.89	29.43	
47.56	0 0	3.06	5.25 –	1.04	4.10	47.56	45.15	43.46	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Nirguda OC Yeotmal Maharashtra	0.75 MTY	1999/05	2004/03	2004/03	0 0	0	0 0	95.03
13.	Kumbharhkani UG Yeotmal Maharashtra	0.36 MTY	1998/12	2004/03	2004/03	0 0	0	0 0	56.90
Sector : Fertilisers									
	RCF								
14.	Ammonia PLT Revamp TMB'I Trombay Maharashtra		1997/01	2000/05	2000/05	0 0	0	0 0	98.02
15.	Moon. Suphala Bagging PLT Trombay Maharashtra		1998/10	2000/01	2000/01	0 0	0	0 0	28.00
16.	Sewage Treament Plant Trombay Maharashtra		1999/01	1999/12	1999/12	0 0	0	0 0	39.30
17.	NFSS for Ammonia-Plant Thal Maharashtra	NM3 89272 NM3 CO2 Per Hr.	1999/08	2001/01	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	83.35
Sector : Petroleum									
	HPCL								
18.	D.Hydro Desulphurisation, Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/06	1999/03	2000/01	10 48	3	10 48	758.17
	ONGC								
19.	Insitu Combustion, Balol Maharashtra	MMT 5.57	1995/10	1997/07	2000/03	32 152	0	32 152	133.64 118.49
20.	Dev. of B-55 Structure W-offshore Maharashtra	6.2342 BCM/6 Yrs.	1996/03	1999/03	2000/01	10 28	0	10 28	376.74
21.	Addnlcogen-E Ration Plant Uran Maharashtra	MW 19.5	1998/07	2000/12	2000/12	0 0	0	0 0	116.95
Sector : Railways									
	DOUBL								
22.	Borivili-Virar WR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 25.84	1995/04	2001/03 2000/06	2004/03	36 51	9	45 73	131.34

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
95.03	0 0	–	0.50 –	0.93	0.93	0.00	0.00	94.10	
56.90	0 0	–	2.75 –	–	–	0.00	0.00	56.90	
98.02	0 0	54.19	41.32 42.39	37.49	91.68	0.00	0.00	6.34	
38.50	38 38	2.54	10.00 18.00	6.16	8.70	0.00	0.00	29.80	
39.30	0 0	26.34	6.06 12.96	9.84	36.18	0.00	0.00	3.12	(Complete)
83.35	0 0	–	20.00 –	1.71	1.71	0.00	0.00	81.64	
758.17	0 0	328.55	368.78 375.00	172.91	501.46	736.96	433.14	256.71	
118.49	11 0	75.54	26.92 –	16.03	91.57	51.96	45.24	26.92	
411.14	9 9	227.00	6.28 –	12.03	239.03	203.63	274.52	172.11	(Complete)
116.95	0 0	9.19	30.00 –	36.93	46.12	0.00	0.00	70.83	
401.66	206 206	7.04	36.00 –	4.70	11.74	397.31	394.65	389.92	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Daund-Bhigwan, CR Maharashtra	KMS 27.68	1995/04	1998/06	2000/02	20 53	0	20 53	38.78
24.	Mumbai-Borivili 5th & 6th Line, WR Maharashtra	KMS 13.81	1995/04	1999/03	1999/03	0 0	0	0 0	39.80
25.	Diva-Vasai Road, CR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 41.65	1995/04	1998/03	2001/03	36 103	0	36 103	90.00
GC									
26.	Gondia-Chandafort, SER Maharashtra	KMS 258.50	1992/12 1994/04	1996/12 1997/03	1999/06	30 63	0	27 53	158.83 215.14 232.52
27.	Miraj-Latur Road, CR Maharashtra	KMS 359	1993/04	2001/03	2000/03	-12 -13	0	-12 -13	225.00
28.	Solapur-Hotgi, CR Maharashtra	KMS 15.70	1996/06	1997/06	N.A. 1999/03	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	24.40
MTP									
29.	Belapur-Panvel Mumbai Maharashtra	10.90 KMS	1995/02	2000/03	2001/03	12 20	12	12 20	279.83
30.	Thane-Turbhe-nerul-Vashi Mumbai Maharashtra	22.60 KMS	1992/05	2000/03	2001/03	12 13	12	12 13	403.39
31.	B'pur -S'wood-uran Elec. Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 27	1996/03	N.A.	2004/03	N.A. N.A.	24	N.A. N.A.	401.81
32.	Kurla-Bhandup, 5 & 6th P.I Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 10	1995/04	2000/03	2001/03	12 20	0	12 20	49.84
33.	Virar Dahanu RD Auto BLK Maharashtra	KMS 65	1997/04	N.A.	2001/03	N.A. N.A.	0	N.A. N.A.	25.44

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
32.42	-16 -16	11.62	– –	2.89	14.51	32.30	30.24	17.91	
64.17	61 61	22.49	– –	–	22.49	42.90	41.68	41.68	
112.00	24 24	60.71	40.00 –	17.61	78.32	89.66	57.57	33.68	
232.82	47 0	175.80	– –	1.91	177.71	57.02	44.93	55.11	
310.38	38 38	52.61	46.49 –	8.60	61.21	274.95	259.64	249.17	
41.35	69 69	8.36	– –	2.81	11.17	21.61	8.46	30.18	
279.83	0 0	105.22	26.34 –	7.21	112.43	238.84	188.76	167.40	
403.39	0 0	106.05	81.07 –	32.01	138.06	362.50	319.05	265.33	
495.44	23 23	9.30	17.76 6.30	5.42	14.72	495.42	489.51	480.72	
95.43	91 91	31.69	22.50 –	4.55	36.24	42.92	42.92	59.19	
27.19	7 7	0.36	11.70 –	2.46	2.82	25.44	25.44	24.37	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34.	Bhandu-Thane 5&6th LIN II Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 8	1997/04	N.A.	2001/03	N.A. N.A.	12	N.A. N.A.	46.69
35.	Santacruz-Borivli 5 THL Mumbai Maharashtra		1995/04	2000/12	2001/12	12 18	12	12 18	64.17
NL									
36.	Amravati-Narkher, CR Maharashtra	KMS 138	1994/06	1999/06	2003/12	54 90	0	54 90	120.90
37.	Panvel-Karjat, CR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 28.05	1996/02	1997/03	2002/12	69 531	0	69 531	89.00
38.	Ahmednagr-Parli Vaijnath CR Maharashtra	KMS 250	1997/02	N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	353.08
39.	Addl. Loops-8 STN VIR-Surt WR Maharashtra		1998/02	N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	20.19
T.F.									
40.	Mumbai CST Remod; Ph-I CR Maharashtra		1995/04	1998/12	2002/03	39 89	0	39 89	19.72
41.	Kurla PSR. TRM. FAC. PH2S CR Maharashtra		1996/04	1999/12	2000/12	12 27	0	12 27	34.94
S & T									
42.	Repl. MW Link Mumbai-Bhwai CR Maharashtra	GHZ 7 MB 34	1992/04	1997/12	N.A. 1999/10	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	20.53

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
56.79	22 22	2.00	13.50 –	5.04	7.04	46.69	46.69	49.75	
82.42	28 28	43.46	18.00 –	10.43	53.89	0.00	0.00	28.53	
175.30	45 45	25.88	6.00 –	4.84	30.72	159.52	151.12	144.58	
106.90	20 20	5.23	8.00 –	7.42	12.65	106.47	103.92	94.25	
353.08	0 0	0.40	3.00 –	0.01	0.41	352.74	352.68	352.67	
20.19	0 0	10.43	5.16 –	2.85	13.28	0.00	0.00	6.91	
62.39	216 216	3.34	10.00 –	1.04	4.38	47.77	61.50	58.01	
39.44	13 13	4.46	13.66 –	4.71	9.17	39.02	37.98	30.27	
20.53	0 0	16.15	– –	0.60	16.75	9.23	6.29	3.78	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43.	Mumbai-Kalyan Train DES SYS, CR Maharashtra		1996/04	1999/03	2001/12	33 94	0	33 94	25.89
44.	Lonavala-Pune Auto BL Signal, CR Maharashtra	KMS 64	1996/04	1999/03	1999/03	0 0	0	0 0	25.00
45.	CCG-VR Train Describer Mumbai Maharashtra		1995/04	2000/09	2000/09	0 0	0	0 0	33.57
Sector : Surface Transport RORTS									
46.	Repl.7 Sub-Marine Pline Mumbai Maharashtra	7.0 Million Tons P.A.	1995/03	1998/01	2000/06	29 85	0	29 85	165.15
47.	Repl. of ELL Portal Whar Mumbai Maharashtra	Tonnes 10	1996/12	2000/01	2000/07	6 16	0	6 16	49.61
48.	Renewal of P.Way Wadia Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/02	1999/03	2000/03	12 48	0	12 48	30.06
49.	Modern of Mot Jetties Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/08	2002/03	2003/03	12 22	0	12 22	167.99
50.	Replacement of Rigs Mumbai Maharashtra	Nos. 3	1996/12	1999/08	2000/02	6 19	0	6 19	28.56
51.	Repl. HTugs Atul & Ankus Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/09	2000/01	2000/02	1 4	0	1 4	46.08

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
35.79	38 38	–	– –	0.48	0.48	41.23	35.79	35.31	
34.33	37 37	–	– –	–	–	34.33	34.33	34.33	
33.37	-1 -1	2.17	6.94 –	5.79	7.96	0.00	0.00	25.41	
279.00	69 69	5.24	160.00 –	66.40	71.64	268.20	266.76	207.36	
49.61	0 0	4.01	3.00 –	–	4.01	49.61	45.60	45.60	
30.06	0 0	11.88	10.00 –	11.00	22.88	29.93	18.18	7.18	
167.99	0 0	1.91	12.00 –	1.25	3.16	167.51	166.08	164.83	
28.66	0 0	–	0.01 –	–	–	28.66	28.66	28.66	
46.08	0 0	5.36	16.00 –	12.07	17.43	0.00	21.28	28.65	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
52.	Repl. of Crane Sharvan Mumbai Maharashtra		1998/06	N.A.	2000/12	N.A. N.A.	0	N.A. N.A.	16.00
RD & BR									
53.	NH 8:4 Laning (KM 439 - 497) PWD Maharashtra	KMS 58.00	1993/04	1997/05	2001/03	46 94	0	46 94	117.73
Sector : Telecommunication									
	VSNL								
54.	Inmarsat-P Mumbai Maharashtra		1995/11	2000/12 2000/12 2000/12	2001/06	6 10	3	6 10	546.00
55.	Mumbai-Arvi MW SYS. Maharashtra	CKTS 3780	1996/11	1998/03 1999/07	2000/01	22 138	3	6 19	24.41
56.	Int. NWK MGT. Centre Mumbai Maharashtra		1996/11	1999/01 2000/05	2000/05	16 62	0	0 0	40.00
Sector : Others									
	CPWD								
57.	General Pool Residence Qr. Mumbai Maharashtra	No. 1016	1985/09 1995/05	1989/09	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	29.50 62.75

LEGENDS :

NPCIL	:	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.
AI	:	Air India
AAI	:	Airport Authority of India
CCL	:	Central Coal Fields Ltd.
HPCL	:	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
DOUBL	:	Doubling
MTP	:	Metropolition Transport Project
GC	:	Gauge Conversion

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
31.18	95 95	–	– –	–	–	0.00	31.18	31.18	
300.00	155 155	105.10	65.00 –	36.23	141.33	256.50	194.90	158.67	
546.00	0 0	550.44	– –	–	550.44	169.36	–	–	
24.41	0 0	9.70	6.10 –	3.26	12.96	24.34	22.12	11.45	
40.00	0 0	–	20.00 –	–	–	40.00	40.00	40.00	
62.75	113 0	1.95	– –	–	1.95	60.73	60.80	60.80	

NL : New Line
S&T : Singnals & Transmission
WCL : Western Coalfields & Fertilizers Ltd.
RCF : Rastriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.
RD & BR : Roads & Bridges
VSNL : Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
CPWD : Central Public Work Department.

Statement-II

Summary of Central Sector Projects in Various States/UTs as on 31.12.1999

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Projects	Total Cost (Rs. Crores)			Exp. Till Previous Financial Year (Rs.Crs)	Outlay 1999-00 (Rs. Crs.)	Cum. Exp. Till Qtr. (Rs. Crores)
			Original	Latest Approved	Now Anticipated			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37	8150.28	8576.08	8727.25	2561.87	1345.86	3031.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	488.78	831.74	1635.63	797.64	163.00	914.35
3.	Assam	12	5198.28	5377.01	6436.65	2788.62	551.00	3199.69
4.	Bihar	34	7043.29	8057.71	10016.05	3387.88	788.66	3612.81
5.	Goa	5	406.00	406.00	410.55	5.11	19.50	15.54
6.	Gujarat	20	7684.37	7739.86	8549.38	6093.30	680.18	6773.21
7.	Haryana	4	1421.54	1542.05	1567.94	640.49	386.29	910.72
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	3362.04	9350.33	9350.33	3817.71	1371.00	4336.27
9.	J & K	5	2891.57	6625.63	7415.94	2810.34	460.78	3049.48
10.	Karnataka	16	2093.12	3639.35	5241.11	2622.00	391.47	2826.39
11.	Kerala	9	2538.19	2538.19	2592.67	1738.01	641.36	1691.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38	9399.60	9564.92	9691.91	4254.01	1474.48	5065.39
13.	Maharashtra	57	9710.29	12776.02	16432.18	3570.71	1477.72	4214.20
14.	Manipur	1	578.62	578.72	578.62	–	–	–
15.	Mizoram	1	368.72	368.72	368.72	5.47	59.00	9.95
16.	Nagaland	1	96.31	331.59	758.70	522.69	110.00	620.12
17.	Orissa	28	15446.07	17127.22	19791.64	5688.16	1706.37	6671.53
18.	Punjab	5	496.68	748.00	929.54	530.02	84.28	579.36
19.	Rajasthan	7	1484.12	2879.56	3553.92	2007.67	346.00	2182.75
20.	Sikkim	1	181.15	181.15	408.20	357.66	106.55	427.81
21.	Tamil Nadu	33	8126.50	8423.55	9386.57	2749.86	1526.56	3580.75
22.	Tripura	2	594.32	594.32	869.21	37.85	43.15	47.36
23.	Uttar Pradesh	29	7972.27	8260.45	11869.35	4264.22	1539.63	5102.24
24.	West Bengal	34	2879.82	3442.45	4080.86	1616.30	427.74	1759.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
25.	A & N Islands	1	47.63	47.63	47.63	25.80	9.50	33.20
26.	Delhi	14	5414.68	5470.92	5900.39	618.92	483.47	765.47
27.	Multi-State	65	13343.98	14723.72	17596.00	5552.89	2791.29	6917.67
	All India	463	117398.22	140202.79	164206.94	59065.20	18964.84	68609.50

(NIC-DPI)

Statement-III

State-wise the list of projects added on the Monitor during 1999-2000 (As on 1.1.2000)

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure : Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Approval Original (Revised)	Date of Commissioning Original (Revised)	Date of Commissioning Anticipated (L. Rep.)	Cost Approved Original (Revised)	1999-2000 B.E. (R.E..)	Annual Expenditure Till Quarter
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
State : Andhra Pradesh								
Sector : Coal								
	SCCL							
1.	GDK-6B BG-I Andhra Pradesh	0.33 MTY	1999/05	2003/03	2003/03	44.63	4.00 –	–
Sector : Surface Transport								
	PORTS							
2.	Procure : GRAB Hopper DRGER Vizag Andhra Pradesh		1999/08	2001/04	2001/04	30.90	2.00 5.00	5.04
3.	Const. of 2nd Mulpur Berth Vizag Andhra Pradesh	MT 0.70	1999/07	N.A.	N.A.	23.80	0.50 –	–
State : Assam								
Sector : Power								
	NEEPCO							
4.	Kopili HEP ST-II N.C. Hills Assam	MW 25	1999/07	2003/07	2003/07	76.09	25.00 –	6.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
State : Goa								
Sector : Surface Transport								
	PORTS							
5.	Const. Cargo 5A/6A M.Pose Murmugoa Goa		1999/08	2001/12	2001/12	250.00	– –	–
State : Gujarat								
Sector : Petroleum								
	GAIL							
6.	LPG Recovery Plant Bharuch Gujarat		1999/08	2002/01	2002/01	361.37	75.00 –	16.00
State : Himachal Pradesh								
Sector : Power								
	NHPC							
7.	Chamera H.E. Project Chamba Himachal Pradesh	MW 300	1999/05	2004/05	2004/05	1684.02	100.00 285.00	164.63
State : Karnataka								
Sector : Surface Transport								
	PORTS							
8.	MRPL Ref. Expn. Mangalore Karnataka	MTPA 6	1999/07	2002/01	2002/01	236.50	30.00 –	16.92
State : Madhya Pradesh								
Sector : Coal								
	ECL							
9.	Rani Atari UG, RPR Korba Madhya Pradesh	0.48 MTY	1999/07	2004/07	2004/07	48.54	– –	3.04
10.	Amadand & Bar Tarai Surguja Madhya Pradesh	0.465 MTY	1999/07	2004/07	2004/07	45.26	– –	0.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Bagdeva UG RPR Korba Madhya Pradesh	0.405 MTY	1999/07	2004/07	2004/07	38.46	– –	0.78
State : Maharashtra								
	WCL							
12.	Nirguda OC Yeotmal Maharashtra	0.75 MTY	1999/05	2004/03	2004/03	95.03	0.50 –	0.93
Sector : Fertilisers								
	RCF							
13.	NFSS for Ammonia-Plant Thal Maharashtra	NM3 89272 NM3 CO2 Per Hr.	1999/08	2001/01	N.A.	83.35	20.00 –	1.71
State : Manipur								
Sector : Power								
	NHPC							
14.	Loktak D/S HEP Manipur	MW 90	1999/12	2006/06	2006/06	578.62	– –	–
State : Punjab								
Sector : Fertilisers								
	NFL							
15.	Nangal Urea Expansion Nangal Punjab		1999/05	2001/05	2001/05	135.13	100.00 34.00	11.82
State : Tamil Nadu								
Sector : Railways								
	GC							
16.	GC-Chennai- Chengalpattu Chennai Tamil Nadu	60.00 KMS	1999/04	2004/04	N.A.	464.99	10.80 –	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
State : Uttar Pradesh								
	WS & PW							
17.	40000/3000HP Diesel Locos Varanasi Uttar Pradesh	1999/04	N.A.	2003/03	155.54	11.00 3.70	0.10
State : Multistate								
Sector : Civil Aviation								
	AAI							
18.	Procu. & Inst. of 13 No. ILS All India	1999/10	N.A.	N.A.	34.15	– –	–

LEGENDS

SCCL	:	Singareni Coalfields & Colliery Ltd.	RCF	:	Rastriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.
NEEPCO	:	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	NFL	:	National Fertilizers Ltd.
GAIL	:	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	GC	:	Gauge Conversion
NHPC	:	National Hydro-electric Power Corporation	AAI	:	Airport Authority of India
ECL	:	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	WS & PW	:	Work Shops & Permanent Ways
WCL	:	Western Coalfields & Fertilizers Ltd.			

Special Grants to Mumbai

5741. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Ministry of Planning and the Union Government to give a special grant of Rs. 1000 crore for solving the problems of Mumbai;

(b) whether more than 30 per cent of Excise, Custom duty, Corporate Tax and Income Tax is coming from Mumbai alone;

(c) whether it is also fact that Union Government have not given any special grants to Mumbai after 1987; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to give special grants to Mumbai in particular and the Maharashtra State in general to overcome their problems for providing basic amenities like water, sanitation, electricity in slums?

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.

(b) Mumbai is included under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Megacity. The scheme has been in operation since 1993-94. Under the scheme, upto 31.3.99 an amount of Rs. 102.48 crores has been released as grant from Central Government.

(c) In respect of Custom duty and Corporate Tax, the Percentage collection from Mumbai is more than 30%. However, in respect of Central Excise and Income Tax, the percentage collection is less than 30%.

(d) Planning Commission has been providing Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the State/UTs under National Slum Development Programme for improving

infrastructure facilities like provision of water, sanitation, street lighting, shelter upgradation etc. in urban slums since 1996-97 (the ACA is allocated to the States only. City/ town wise allocations within the States are made by the respective States/UTs). The year-wise allocations under the programme to the Government of Maharashtra are given below:

Year	Rs. Crore
1996-97	35.67
1997-98	45.73
1998-99	53.31
1999-2000	58.31

Under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme having population upto 20,000 as per 1991 census, total of Rs. 1173.65 lakhs has been released upto 1999-2000. Under Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers, total of Rs. 1163.17 lakh as loan and Rs. 1220.02 lakh as subsidy has been released upto 28.2.1999.

Revival of Sponge Iron India Limited

5742. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for revival of Sponge Iron India Limited;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The future course of action in regard to the Company will depend on a number of factors like the market scenario. recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and the ability of the Company to sustain itself in the competitive environment.

[Translation]

Malvika Steel Plant

5743. SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malvika, a Private sector Steel Plant at Ushapuram, Jagdeeshpur (U.P.) has been granted a licence to import coal from abroad;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal imported by the said steel plant and the quantum of steel produced as compared to the coal;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production in the said plant has been stopped for the last few months; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the imported coal was utilised during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) According to Export & Import Policy 1997-2002, coal can be imported by any person (including M/s Malvika Steel Limited) without any licence and without any restrictions. Hence, the question of grant of any import licence to M/s Malvika Steel Limited for the import of coal does not arise.

(b) As per information available, no coal has been imported by Malvika Steel Ltd.

(c) The construction of the integrated steel plant has not been completed as yet. Some units of the plant have been constructed. Some of these units, like the Blast Furnaces, have undergone trial operations. Presently, the trial operations are not going on. The steel plant will be commissioned on completion of erection work.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

[English]

Small Scale Industry

5744. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to eliminate the institutions like MRTC, BIFR, IDRA, de-reservation of items for SSIs and handloom sector and privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a separate body to look into the matter relating to these Organizations/Institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this body is likely to be set up?

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) In respect of MRTC, the Hon'ble Members are perhaps referring to the MRTP Commission (MRTPC). The Government has at present no proposal to 'eliminate' it. In respect of IDRA, the Hon'ble Members are perhaps referring to the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDR Act). There is presently no proposal to repeal it.

The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was created under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. A review is being made by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry as to whether the Act has been able to achieve the purpose for which it was enacted.

The issue of reservation/de-reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector is examined on a continual basis by the Advisory Committee on Reservation, which has been specifically constituted for this purpose under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. There is, however, no proposal to totally 'eliminate' reservation of products meant for exclusive production in the SSI and Handloom Sector.

The units in SSI and Handloom Sector are already in the private sector and hence the question of privatisation does not arise.

(c) to (e) A High Powered Committee already exists in respect of MRTPC to review the MRTP Act, 1969 and suggest a modern competition law. A review is also being made in respect of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 under which the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was created. As a mechanism already exists to look into the matters relating to these organisations, there is no proposal to set up a separate body for them.

[Translation]

Indo-Australia Ties

5745. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned under "Bharat se behtar rishtoan ka ichhuk hai Australia" appearing in the Navbharat Times dated March 24, 2000;

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

(c) the reactions of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer visited India on 21-24 March, 2000. Mr. Downer called on the President, Prime Minister External Affairs Minister and the Minister of Commerce and Industry. He also met Minister of State for External Affairs and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. A range of bilateral and multilateral issues were discussed.

(c) On March 23 the Australian Foreign Minister had extensive discussions with EAM. Both countries agreed that their bilateral relations should not be held hostage by the single issue of non-proliferation and in principle, to resume defence relations, which were broken off after the Pokhran tests in 1998. With Shri Murasoli Maran Mr. Downer discussed issues relevant to commerce & industry.

[English]

OECF Assistance to Sardar Sarovar Project

5746. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of OECF assistance, procurement of Turbo-Generating sets for River Bed Power House of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been delayed;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat and other beneficiary States of the Sardar Sarovar Project have been requesting for additional assistance in lieu of OECF funding for import of Turbo-Generating sets from Japan; and

(c) whether the additional assistance be sanctioned by the Government of India to ensure commissioning of the River Bed Power House of the Sardar Sarovar Project without further delay?

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

(c) The proposal for Additional Central Assistance for import of Turbo-Generating sets could not be considered in view of the fact that the Project is a joint venture of State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The purchase of Turbo Generating Sets is part of this Project and payment for the same have to be provided by the concerned State Governments out of their State Plan. The Central Assistance for State Plan is provided in the frame work of Gadgil Formula and is not relatable to any specific project. However, the Turbo Generating Sets are being procured through M/s. Sumitomo Corporation Ltd., Japan who have extended the Suppliers Credit.

[Translation]

Mini-Tool Room and Training Centres

5747. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being run by the Union Government to set up mini-tool room and training centres in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the places where these mini-tool room and training centres have been set up so far during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to set up mini-tool room and training centres in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to give its approval for setting up mini-tool room and training centres in Gwalior, Jabalpur, Raipur, Bhopal, keeping in view the vast area of Madhya Pradesh; 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) No, Sir. No such scheme has yet been finalised.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals for seting up of mini-tool rooms at Gwalior, Jabalpur, Raipur and Bhopal.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Funds for Small Scale Sector

5748. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce a Rs. 2500 crore fund to help the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering for foreign funding in this sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 (d) Setting up of a Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for the tiny sector is under active consideration of the Government.

Extracting of Uranium

5749. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had busted a racket in extracting of Uranium deposit in Meghalaya and other North-Eastern States;

(b) the number of cases for unlawful extraction and possession and smuggling detected during each of the last three years; and

(c) the controlling authority in the matter of extraction of Uranium in the region and the action taken against the unauthorised dealing of the above matter?

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) A case of unlawful possession of sodium di-uranate was detected by the Police of Meghalaya State in October 1994. After investigation, two charge sheets against the accused were filed by the Police in the relevant courts of Chief Judicial Magistrates.

(b) During the last three years (1997, 1998 and 1999), no such case in Meghalaya or other north-eastern States was brought to the notice of the Government (Department of Atomic Energy).

(c) Extraction of uranium requires licence under the provisions of section 14 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 which is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Currently, the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., a central public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the DAE, is the only entity engaged in the mining of uranium ores and production/extraction of natural uranium therefrom. At present, there is no mining/extraction of uranium in the north-eastern region.

Children Homes

5750. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of NGOs are running illegal children homes in Delhi and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the running of these illegal children homes by NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Decline in Fertility

5751. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of the scientific researches conducted for the fertility of land is going down day by day due to the use of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government to deal with the situation;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the use of traditional Indian compost in place of the chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the effective steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to promote the use of the compost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence to suggest that fertility of land has declined due to use of chemical fertilizers. For sustained crop productivity soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management using both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients is recommended.

(c) and (d) To achieve the targeted production levels conjunctive use of chemical fertilizers and organics is being advocated through front-line demonstration programmes.

[English]

Inhuman Treatment of Prisoners in Pak Jails

5752. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up with the UN Human Rights Commission the issue relating to inhuman treatment of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails; and

(b) if so, the reaction of UNHRC thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails have complained to Government of ill treatment and lack of basic amenities. Government have, through the High Commission of India

in Islamabad, at the time of consular access, taken up these complaints with the competent Pakistani authorities and have demanded that necessary corrective steps be taken to address these complaints. However, uptil now there does not seem to be any improvement in the situation of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. In keeping with our general policy regarding bilateral relations with Pakistan, Government have taken up this issue only through bilateral channels and not through any international agency.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Centre for Development of Advance Computerising

5753. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a software institute C-DAC has developed a new technique of teaching Hindi through computer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has developed this software;

(d) the number of languages this software would be able to teach;

(e) whether this software would be developed by the Government or by any private company; and

(f) the time by which the said software would be available in the market for the use of common men?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Information Technology has developed a software called Learn Indian Languages (LILA) through Artificial Intelligence for self learning of Indian languages using computer.

(b) The details of the software are given in enclosd statement.

(c) The aforesaid software was developed under the project sponsored by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

(d) Currently this package caters for Hindi language only.

(e) and (f) LILA-Hindi Prabodh software package has already been developed by C-DAC and was released on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Hindi Raj Bhasha in September, 1999. This software package is now being marketed. Work on advanced level learning packages (i.e. Praveen and Pragya) is in progress.

Statement

LILA-Learn Indian Languages through Artificial Intelligence

LILA is a multimedia based Intelligent self-tutoring software package for learning Indian languages. LILA Prabodh, the first stage of self learning Hindi works in Windows and DOS environment. It contains user friendly features like speech interface which enables the user to listen to standard pronunciation and intonation of Hindi text, sentence or words. Video clips for each narrative text are also provided for better comprehension. The user also has the facility to record his own voice and compare it with the standard voice recorded in the package. The package can be used at individual as well as collective levels at specified training centers.

The software package contains following different modules. These are :

(1) Alphabet	–	writing, reading and word formation
(2) Vocabulary	–	Commonly used words and names and designations in various Departments/Ministries
(3) Lesson	–	learning with narrative text alongwith grammar, new words exercises and self evaluation tests.
(4) On-line Dictionary	–	providing meaning and grammatical category of words.

The salient features of the software are:

- Controlled and Graded lessons
- Facility to read and write Devanagri Script
- Speech interface
- Speech Record and Compare facility
- Video clips integrated with the narratives

- Vocabulary for commonly used word
- On-line Hindi-English dictionary
- Grammatical notes for each lessons
- Exhaustive interactive Exercises
- Self-evaluation tests with markings
- Symbols and pictures relating to Indian customs, traditions, habits and places of significance

Enquiry Against IAS Officers

5754. KUNWAR SARV RAJ SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Administrative Service Organisation has submitted the list of corrupt officers of its cadre to the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action against such corrupt officers by conducting an enquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding level of enquiry to be conducted and the manner in which action to be 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) A group of IAS officers belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Uttar Pradesh cadre called the 'Action Group' had handed over to the State Government a list containing the names of three most corrupt IAS officers of the cadres as identified by them.

(b) and (c) Under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969 the Competent Authority to initiate action against the All India Services officers working in the State Governments for any act of misconduct committed while working with the State Government is that Government. Thus in the scheme of All India Services, the officers who are borne on the State cadres are accountable to the concerned State Government and it is for that Government to take necessary steps to investigate into the misconduct and take necessary action against them under the rules. The Central Government will come into the picture only in cases where the State Government proposes imposition of one of the three major penalties of compulsory retirement or dismissal or removal from service or seeks sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

[English]

Posting of Envoys

5755. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for the posting of envoys;

(b) whether any instances have come to notice regarding manipulation relating to posting in neighbouring countries especially the SAARC countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether rules have been amended with regard to posting in neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The appointments of Ambassadors/High Commissioners to foreign countries are decided on the basis of a number of criteria which include, *inter alia*, their seniority, career, relevant experience and an overall suitability for the tasks and the post.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

World Water Forum

5756. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the second World Water Forum meeting held in Netherlands recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the issues discussed at the meet;

(d) the stand of the Government on the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of oustees of big dams sites; and

(e) the outcome of the above meet?

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

(b) The World Water Council in collaboration with the Government of Netherlands hosted the Second World Water Forum meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, from 17-22nd March, 2000. A Ministerial Conference was also held on 21st and 22nd March, 2000.

The overall objective of the Second World Water Forum meeting was "To raise awareness among politicians, policy and public at large about next century issues and consequently promote policy measures and investment". The objective of the Ministerial Conference was "To translate the awareness and commitment of the forum in to concrete political commitment for implementing the vision and framework of action".

(c) The issues discussed at the forum were divided into the following heads.,

(I) **Regional Presentations:** The World Water Vision is built on regional water visions, which were presented at the forum.

(II) **Water use Presentations** : The Water use presentations were based upon the sectors of economic and social life that use water, such as

(i) Water for food and rural development,

(ii) Inter-basin water transfer,

(iii) Water for people,

(iv) Rain water harvesting,

(v) Water for nature,

(vi) Ground Water,

(vii) National Sovereignty and International water panel,

(viii) Water and Tourism,

(ix) Financing Water infrastructure.

(III) **Major Groups** : The space under the major groups was given to organisations other than the Government such NGOs, Gender and youth groups and Companies.

(IV) **Special subjects** : This category of presentations consisted of out of ordinary concerns, ideas related to water such as

(i) Water and space,

(ii) Water and Urban design,

(iii) Water and Energy,

(iv) Water use management,

(v) Water and International law,

(vi) Socio-political implications of water modelling,

(vii) Water and Economics,

(viii) Water and delta areas,

(ix) Water and History,

(x) Water and Mega cities,

(xi) Water and Globalisation,

(xii) Water and Large dam policy,

(xiii) Water and national law,

(xiv) Water and indigenous people, etc.

(d) Government of India took the stand that the oustees of big dam sites should be given proper re-settlement and rehabilitation package such that their living standards in the resettlement and rehabilitation sites are better than that in the submergence area.

(e) The outcome of the above meet was the "Ministerial declaration of The Hague on Water Security in 21st Century" which in brief contain that to achieve water security the following challenges will be met:-

(i) Meeting basic needs of water and sanitation through a participatory process of water management,

(ii) Securing the food supply particularly of the poor and vulnerable through the more efficient

mobilisation and use, and the more equitable allocation of water for food production,

(iii) Protecting eco systems through sustainable water resources management,

(iv) Sharing water resources,

(v) To provide security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water related hazards,

(vi) To manage water in a way that reflects its economic, social environmental and cultural values for all its users,

(vii) To ensure good governance, so that involvement of the public and the interest of all stakeholders are included in the management of the water resources,

(viii) To support the UN System to reassess periodically the state of fresh water resources and related eco-systems and to report in the bi-annual world water development report as part of the overall monitoring of the Agenda 21.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

5757. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards a news-item captioned "Farmers receive just half of fertilizer subsidy appearing in the Indian Express, dated April 10; 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The news-items refers to a study by an economist which has concluded that the gains from subsidy on urea are shared by the farmers and the industry equally. This conclusion is based on a number of assumptions which have either undergone change already or are not maintainable. The subsidy on urea is the difference between the Retention Price and the Maximum Retail Price which is statutorily notified by the Government. Therefore, the benefit of the subsidy goes to the farmers The only conceivable subsidy to the industry is to the extent of gold-plating of capacities by some of the urea manufacturing units. This has been got assessed through an Expert Committee specially constituted for the task. The purchase of indigenous urea from high cost producing units is being done out of the over-riding consideration of maximum self-sufficiency in nitrogen in the country.

Underground Water

5758. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Governments in regard to augmentation of the level of underground water in the State;

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

(c) whether any indepth study has been conducted by the CGWA during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings of the study;

(e) whether the Government have earmarked any fund to the State Government to undertake study in those areas which are severely affected by arsenic pollution; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Union Government has received proposals from some of the States as background material for formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist States in artificial recharge of ground water.

(b) The Scheme is still at consultation stage.

(c) and (d) The Central Ground Water Board have carried out studies on artificial recharge of ground water in some parts of the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh during last three years. The experiments

have shown rise of 0.5 to 10 meters in ground water level in Jalgaon and Amravati Districts of Maharashtra, 5 to 10 meters in Karnataka and 4 meters in Delhi. In Chandigarh 2427 cub. mts. of roof top rain water harvested.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) An amount of Rs. 38.78 lakh has been earmarked for artificial recharge studies in arsenic affected areas of Swarupnagar and Gaighata blocks of 24 Pargana Dist. of West Bengal.

Regional Rehabilitation Centres

5759. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up four Regional rehabilitation centres for spinal injuries and orthopedic disabilities;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith the name of the places where these Centres are to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to set up one such Centre in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The centres would provide facilities for basic management and follow up of the spinally injured with focus on rehabilitation services. The centres will be established as a centrally sponsored scheme with the centre: state ratio of 90:10. The centres will be run by an agency identified by the respective State Govts. The centres are proposed to be set up in the States of UP, MP, Punjab and Orissa. There is no proposal to set up such a centre in Maharashtra.

Industrial Sickness

5760. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are discussing in details all aspects of industrial sickness with Trade Union and other Ministries;

(b) the extent to which Government have examined sector-wise sickness;

(c) whether the Government have ignored the increasing trend of unemployment in the Beedi Sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to create more employment in Beedi Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government discussed various aspects of industrial sickness in the 36th Session of the Indian Labour conference held on 10th April, 2000. The different industries/Sectors affected by industrial sickness were also discussed during this session. The Reserve Bank of India has been compiling data and examining industrial sickness in the Small Scale Industries and Non Small Scale Industries Sector on an annual basis.

(c) As per the latest information available with the Government, employment in bidi sector has increased continuously since 1989-90.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) While formulating policy on excise exemptions/ concessions to beedi sector, foreign direct investment (FDI) to multinational in cigarette making, etc. the Government has been taking a balanced view to ensure that growth to employment in the beedi sector is maintained.

Minimum Wages to Beedi Workers

5761. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the study made by experts of the Labour Research Institutes regarding minimum wages to beedi workers;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend Minimum Wages Act; and

(c) if so, the time by which the legislation is likely to be brought in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Labour Bureau, an apex organisation, for providing data base and carrying out research studies and surveys on labour related matters has been conducting systematic evaluation studies of the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in various scheduled employments in different parts of the country. The studies in beedi industry have been conducted in Uttar Pradesh (1990), Maharashtra (1991), Andhra Pradesh (1995) and Karnataka. (1997). Based on the

findings of these studies the concerned State Governments have been taking appropriate steps to improve implementation of the Minimum Wages Act.

(b) and (c) The Government has been in the process of finalising certain amendment proposals to the Minimum Wages Act in consultation with Central Ministries/ Departments and State/UT Governments. These were recently discussed at a State Labour Secretaries meeting held on 13.4.2000. However, given the procedure/steps involved, it may not be possible at present to indicate a precise time frame for introduction of the amendment bill in Parliament.

Harassment of Female Employees

5762. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether harassment of female workers in the Japanese Consul General's Office in Mumbai has been reported;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

F.P. Training Centre in Tamil Nadu

5763. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Training Centres set up in the country at present, State-wise with locations particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of Training Centres given approved setting up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether all the Training Centres are functioning in rural areas; and

(d) the details of the utility of training centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Since the inception of the scheme of "Person Power Development in Rural Areas" in 1992-93, a total number of 325 Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTC) have been assisted by this Department till 1999-2000. Of these, 33 are in Tamil Nadu.

A state-wise break-up of these centres with locations is given in enclosed statement.

(c) No Reports to the contrary have been received from any State Agency or any other body.

(d) The scheme for FPTC provides a "Hands On" experience in operating and managing a small processing unit. The trainees participate in various activities such as book keeping, manufacturing, quality testing and marketing of products.

Statement

Statewise Details of Food Processing & Training Centres Assisted During The Period 1992-93 to 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FPTCs Assisted	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	Diglipur (North Andaman)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Hyderabad, Jadcherla (Dist. Maheboobnagar), Gandhinagar (Hyderabad), Karim Nagar, Nagarkhurnool (Distt. Maheboobnagar).
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	West Siang Distt.
4.	Assam	25	Ulbari (Dist. Guwahati), Nagaon, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Tinsukhia,

1	2	3	4
			Silchar, Kokrajhar, Mongoldoi, Bonda, Chandrapur Bagicha (Dist.Kamrup), Tejpur, Jagi Road, Nalbari, Rangiya, Dhubri Howli (Dist. Barpetta), Seuj Nagar of Beltola (Dist. Guwahati), Majgaon (Dist. Nagaon), Topatoli (Dist. Kamrup), Sonapur (Dist. Kamrup), Chamata (Dist. Nalbari), Morigaon, Mangoldoi (Dist. Darrang), Morigaon, Kharapara or Jalukbari.
5.	Bihar	27	Bariatu, Angara, Gumla, Gotra, Torpa, Dumka, Gumla, Sahibganj, Torpa, Lumbai (Dist. Bandgaon) Baradwari (Dist. Jamshedpur), Chandil (Dist. East Singhbhum), Bhandra (Dist. Lohardaga), Chakradharpur (Dist. West Singhbhum), Asansole (Dist. Dumka), Danapur Road (Dist. Patna), Ramgarh Cantt. Danapur, Deoghar, Sutihar-Nawada (Dist. Saran-Chhapra), Jaiprakash Nagar of Arrah (Dist. Bhojpur), Titauthur (Dist. Rohtas), Sridharnagar of Raghunathpur (Dist. Muzaffarpur), Bhaktiyarpur (Dist. Patna), Nayatola (Dist. Patna), Gulzarbagh (Dist. Patna), Behat.
6.	Delhi	7	Delhi Cantt, Burari (North Dist. of Delhi), Hastsal (West Delhi), Baprola (West Delhi), Patparganj (East Delhi), Khanjhawala (North Delhi), Ladpur (Dist. North Delhi.
7.	Gujarat	3	Gandevi, Junagarh, Bardoloi (Dist. Surat)
8.	Haryana	9	Karnal, Murthal (Dist. Sonepat), Tauru (Gurgaon), Ambala, Sirsa, Narnaul, Sonepat, Bhubaneshwari (Dist. Gurgaon), Farrukh Nagar (Dist. Gurgaon).
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	Shogi, Katrail (Dist. Kullu), Kalpa (Dist. Kinnaur), Fagu (Dist. Shimla), Subathu (Shimla Hills), Taradevi, Udaipur (Dist. Chamba)
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Kathua, Kupwara, Sri Nagar, Rajouri, Anantnag, Phulwama, Udheywala West (Jammu City), Shalimar Campus.
11.	Karnataka	11	Habbal, Hulkoti (Dist. Dharwar), Gulbarga, Bidar, Gonikoppal (Dist. Coorg), Mudigere (Dist. Chickmagalu), Arabhavi (Dist. Belgaon), Belgaon, University of Agri. Science of Bangalore, Hudli (Dist. Belgaon), Belgaon.
12.	Kerala	6	Vellayanai, Vellanikkara, Aluva (Dist. Cochin), Changacherry, Narikkuni (Dist. Kozhikode), Mattannur (Dist. Kannur).
13.	Maharashtra	17	Dhanu, Nasik, Wardha, Latur, Wardh, Indira Nagar (Latur), Chakan (Dist. Pune), Umri, Khadgaon Road (Dist. Latur) University of Mumbai (sub Centre, Ratnagiri Theeba Palace Road Ratnagiri), Budhoda (Dist. Latur), Gulewadi (Dist. Ahmednagar), Kandhar (Dist. Naned), Kasturbawadi (Pune), Ashtvinayak Nagar (Dist. Nanded), Aurangabad, Babhaleshwar (Ahmednagar), Nandurbad (Dist. Dhule).
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Satpura, Sagore, Jabalpur, Indore, Jabalpur.

1	2	3	4
15.	Manipur	3	Porompat (Dist. Imphal) Tausem, Tamei.
16.	Mizoram	6	Sairang, Lawngt-lai, Vairengta, Khawzawl, Chhingchhip, Lunglei.
17.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong (Happy Valley)
18.	Nagaland	2	Dimapur, Kohima.
19.	Orissa	62	Nayagarh, Bhubaneswar, Sundergarh, Puri, Kishore Nagar (Cuttack), Nayagarh, Potlampur (Ganjam), Paralakhemudi Gajapati, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Keonijhar, Baikala (Keonjhar), Narla Road (Kalahadi), Ashrayagada (Gajapati) Sabolong (Kendrapada), Delang (Puri), Dhenkanal, J.S. Pur, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Bhapur (Dist. Dhenkanal), Dhenkanal, Bhubaneswar, Tigiria (Cuttack) Deula Sahi (Cuttack), Sankumari (Dist. Balasore), Debidwar (Dist. Jajpur), Mahimagadi (Dist. Dhenkanal), Deogaon (Dist. Dhenkanal), Barikpur (Dist. Bhadrak), Sankumari (Distt. Balasore), Kishore Nagar (Cuttack), Balishahi (Dist. Jagdishpur), Jatni (Dist. Khurda), Odegaon (Dist. Nayagarh) Chandipur (Dist. Balasore, Rourkela, Bali Sahi of Nuapara (Dist. Cuttack), Gandhi Nagar (Dist. Koraput), Pardhanpalli (Dist. Rourkela), Hosanga (Dist. Cuttack), Virasat (Dist. Dhenkanal), Neelgiri (Dist. Balasore) Baidyaketeni (Dist. Dhenkanal), Ankoli Berhampur (Dist. Ganjam), Borida of Kabi Surya Nagar (Dist. Ganjam), New Jamposi of Sukinda (Dist. Jajpur), Aruhan of Chirulei (Dist. Dhenkanal), Belapadapatna (Dist. Nayagarh), Mancheswar of Rasulgarh (Dist. Khurda), Sarion (Dist. Dhenkanal), Raghunathpur of Baripada (Dist. Mayurbhanj), Chhatrapur (Dist. Ganjam) Dayavihar College of Kanas (Dist. Puri), Khalari (Dist. Angul), Balabhadrapur PO: Dhenkanal, Bantala (Dist. Angul), Balipatna (Dist. Khurda).
20.	Punjab	2	Chounikalan (Hoshiyarpur), Patiala.
21.	Rajasthan	3	Udaipur, Bharatpur, Udaipur.
22.	Tamil Nadu	33	Tiruppattur, Samathuvapuram Village (Distt. Pudukkottai), Palaniappa Nagar (Dist.Pudukkottai) Trichi, Gombum Valley (Dist. Madurai), Wellington (Dist. Nilgiris), Omachikulm (Dist. Madurai), Thirmullaivoil (Distt. Chengai MGR), Shivgangai (Dist. Muthuramalinga Thever), wadhwa Valli (Dist. Coimbatore), Valayathur (Dist. North Arcot Ambedkar), Jawaharpuram (Dist. Madurai), Vellutharedy (Dist. Villupuram) Shanmugapuram (Dist. Puzhal), T. Kalupati, Madurai, Tiruchangodu (Dist. Salem), Nilamanarkottai (Dist. Dindigul Anna), Tuticorin, Ponnuthu near Pannimadai Vill. (Dist. Coimbatore, Ramavaram (Dist. Chennai), Vikkiramangalam (Dist. Madurai), Okkuppati (Dist. Sivagangai), Campus of T.N. Agri, Univ. Kovilangulam (Dist. Virudhnagar), Kelambakkam (Dist. Kanchipuram), K.K. Nagar (Dist. Trichi), Karpagam (Dist. Coimbatore), Krishnagiri (Dist. Dharampuri), Coimbatore, Natarajapuram (Dist. Sivagangai), Thanxdiomubu (Dist. Dindigul), Rajapalayam.

1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	1	Agartala:
24.	Uttar Pradesh	67	Deoria, Allahabad, Ramgarh, Ramnagar, Amethi, Haldwani, Ghazipur, Hordoi, Allahabad, Lucknow, Merut, Lucknow, Saharanpur, Lucknow, Saharanpur, Faizabad Gorakhpur, Basti, Sitapur, Palia (Dist. Amethi), Sultanpur, Madhupur (Dist. Mirzapur), Illia (Dist. Varanasi), Chail (Dist. Allahabad), Autaurpur (Dist. Pratapgarh), Leansdown, Ranikhet, Barelli, Fatehgarh, Lucknow, Faizabad, Lucknow, Dahoelamau (Dist. Pratapgarh), Ashokpur (Dist. Gonda), Phaphamau (Dist. Allahabad), Bharabha (Dist. Sonbhadra), Lalgopalganj (Dist. Pratapgarh), Tankuhiraj (Dist. Padrauna), Kalakankar (Dist. Pratapgarh), Bari (Dist. Sitapur), Sirdo (Dist. Bhimtal), Lochanganj (Dist. Allahabad), Gauhania (Dist. Allahabad), Adarsh Nagar (Dist. Unnao), Kapsethi (Dist. Banaras), Kondhiara (Dist. Allahabad), Pratapgarh, Rae-Barelli, Mau (Dist. Shanoji), Ashram Vihar (Dist. Pratapgarh), Devkali (Dist. Faizabad), Jamalpur (Dist. Sultanpur), Dedaur (Dist. Rae-Barelli), Haldwani, Varanasi, Lucknow, Saora-Bharose (Dist. Lucknow), Rae-Barelli, Vikashpuram (Dist. Faizabad), Mohadpur of Malihabad (Dist. Lucknow), Sadarpur-Sadat (Dist. Gazipur), Lorhan (Dist. Varanasi), Bir-Qazi of Phulpur (Dist. Allahabad), Guleria of Amroha (Dist. Jyotiba Phule Nagar), Haldia (Dist. Allahabad), Lakawali (Dist. Agra), Bopara (Dist. Muzaffarnagar).
25.	West Bengal	13	Baruipur (Dist. South 24 Parganas), Malda, Howrah, Burdwan, Hattuba Gram (Dist. North 24 Parganas), Jhargram, Belpahari, South 24 Parganas, Ichapur, Kalyan of Vivekanand Nagar (Dist. Purulia), Kalagarchiya (Dist. South 24 Parganas), Sujapur (Dist. Malda), Krishnanagar (Dist. Sealdah).
	TOTAL:	325	

Strengthening Indian Missions in Gulf

5764. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workload of Indian Missions in Arabian Gulf has increased manifold;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen these Missions with sufficient staff and other facilities;

(c) whether the Government propose to open an additional consulate in Dammam considering the heavy workload in the Indian Embassy at Riyadh and consular office at Jeddah; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Workload on our missions in the Gulf has increased over the years commensurate with increase in the strength of the Indian community working there, enhancement of bilateral trade, services and a greater measure of political contacts.

Staff strength in all our Missions abroad remain under constant review; it is evaluated professionally.

(c) and (d) The Government of Saudi Arabia has not yet consented to the opening of our Consulate in Dammam. However, our Mission in Riyadh sends consular teams, every week, to Dammam to provide passport and other consular services to the Indian community in the area.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries

5765. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing units as on date in the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of Government Agencies/Voluntary Organisations to whom the financial assistance has been given to set up the food processing industries;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up food processing industry in any district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) The information regarding the State-wise number of food processing industries, which are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, is not maintained Centrally. However, as per Annual Survey of Industries (1997-98), there were 31,415 food processing units in the country in the factory sector. Out of these, 81 units are in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu & Kashmir, has been provided financial assistance for setting up two Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTCs) during the last three years. Financial assistance has also been provided for setting up of one fruit juice concentrate plant at Srinagar.

Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing industry in any State. However, the Department provides financial assistance for promotion, development and growth of food processing industries.

[English]

Performance of SIDBI

5766. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the role and performance of Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the past three years ending March 31, 2000 in terms of standard performance assessment norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(c) total number of SSI registered units in Maharashtra as on March 31, 2000, employment provided, investment made, estimated cost of production, exports, number of sick/closed units and capital locked up in the same; and

(d) the role of SIDBI in revival and promotion of SSI sector in Maharashtra, major achievements and plan of action for the current year and next five years?

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) In terms of Section 30(5) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989, the Annual Report and accounts of the SIDBI are laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament every year. Further, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Parliamentary Committee on papers laid on the Table of both the Houses (VI Lok Sabha) the 'Review' on the working of Small Industries Development Bank of India highlighting its objectives and achievements is also laid before both Houses of Parliament. The performance of SIDBI during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:-

(Rs. crores)

Items	1997-98	1998-99
Sanctions	7,484	8,830
Disbursements	5,241	6,235
Income	1,409	1,579
Profit	405	450
Networth	2,029	2,359
Portfolio Size	12,862	14,209
Standard Assets (%)	95.9	96.9

The details of the SIDBI assistance during last three years for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 State-wise including Maharashtra are given in the statement attached.

(c) Total number of permanent small scale registered units in Maharashtra as on 31st March, 2000 is 1,53,826 and that for the provisionally registered units is 1,39,655. Employment provided in the permanent registered units is 21,80,000. Investment made is Rs. 23,116 crores. As per information available from the Reserve Bank of India, the number of sick units upto March, 1999 is 13,373 involving loan of Rs. 510.40 crores. Data on cost of production an exports are not maintained State-wise.

(d) With a view to promoting SSI units, the SIDBI extends financial assistance to the small scale sector for setting up of new projects, modernisation and diversification of existing units, marketing of SSI products, rehabilitation of potentially viable sick SSI units, export promotion, etc. through direct and indirect finacing schemes. SIDBI sanctioned and disbursed a sum of Rs. 58.33 crores and Rs. 29.98 crores respectively to 1185 sick units by way of refinance rehabilitation to PLIs upto 31st March, 1999. Financial assistance provided in Maharashtra by the SIDBI is as under:-

(Rs. crores)

Year	Sanctions	Disbursements
1990-96	3469.34	2627.59
1996-97	1144.08	708.49
1997-98	1176.82	835.71
1998-99	849.77	827.82
1990-99 (Cumulative)	6640.01	4999.61

All the promotional and development activities currently under implementation would continue in the next five years subject to review based on performance and requirements from time to time.

Statement

State-wise Assistance Sanctioned & Disbursed by SIDBI During The Last Three Years

(Rs. crores)

State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursement	Sanction	Disbursemnet
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			(A) Eastern Region			
Bihar	92.93	78.38	105.69	97.69	95.86	78.72
Orissa	100.29	67.08	159.78	124.06	169.47	116.54
Sikkim	2.57	2.55	2.04	2.01	6.58	6.14
West Bengal	196.47	165.29	309.22	219.09	314.58	208.66
A & N Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.08	0.08
Sub-total (A)	392.26	313.30	576.73	442.85	586.57	410.14
			(B) North Eastern Region			
Arunachal Pradesh	0.83	0.91	1.48	1.67	1.49	1.47.
Assam	10.10	6.86	17.34	10.06	8.19	9.65
Manipur	2.12	2.09	2.53	2.42	3.69	0.68
Meghalaya	8.64	4.36	5.0	6.56	5.07	2.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	0.94	0.93	0.7	0.7	0.98	0.98
Nagaland	1.42	1.24	1.54	1.52	1.46	1.42
Tripura	4.82	4.78	4.07	3.83	3.99	3.80
Sub-total (B)	28.87	21.17	32.66	26.76	24.87	20.94
			(C) Northern Region			
Haryana	452.88	302.89	472.05	288.39	378.09	324.70
Himachal Pradesh	36.10	29.55	54.48	34.05	40.74	40.74
Jammu and Kashmir	10.88	9.92	16.83	12.90	20.20	16.84
Punjab	190.08	129.95	218.84	176.74	237.99	153.97
Rajasthan	190.15	146.58	315.62	225.49	192.03	161.59
Uttar Pradesh	445.41	319.75	525.43	375.18	293.19	292.12
Chandigarh	9.18	5.35	8.81	5.12	4.62	2.66
Delhi	395.27	253.23	526.37	289.86	186.53	190.37
Sub-total (C)	1729.95	1197.22	2138.43	1407.73	1353.39	1182.99
			(D) Western Region			
Goa	85.33	41.62	107.51	89.64	111.44	97.95
Gujarat	624.52	372.71	816.82	589.75	679.46	423.03
Madhya Pradesh	169.53	136.86	193.90	154.24	243.37	194.14
Maharashtra	1144.08	708.49	1176.82	835.71	849.77	827.82
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.43	2.03	28.73	20.82	15.74	16.13
Daman & Diu	6.33	1.69	4.04	3.80	0.24	0.73
Sub-total (D)	2036.22	1263.40	2327.82	1693.96	1900.02	1559.80
			(E) Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	316.81	228.97	362.70	252.63	174.80	160.68
Karnataka	673.26	552.82	567.11	388.03	468.38	376.82
Kerala	320.99	258.22	391.53	291.10	348.13	205.11
Tamil Nadu	894.35	689.09	935.81	657.70	535.45	364.00
Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pondicherry	12.0	6.12	8.13	7.33	7.08	4.39
Sub-total (E)	2217.41	1735.22	2265.28	1596.79	1533.84	1111.00
Total (A+B+C+D+E)	6404.71	4530.31	7340.92	5168.09	5398.69	4284.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Factoring	60.00	44.00	70.00	59.00	132.00	118.00
LOC to other Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	425.00
LOC for OTCEI operations	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NSIC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Venture Capital to Institutions	7.00	3.34	58.00	7.42	44.50	12.24
Contribution to VCF-NFSIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
Assistance under P&D	13.61	6.79	15.24	6.19	23.65	9.39
STL to Banks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2541.00	1435.67
LOC to RTDM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	6485.32	4584.69	7484.16	5240.70	8879.84	6285.17

Source: SIDBI

Sub-Accounts Offices

5767. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Accounts Offices for Employees Provident Funds and Pensions in India and their total collection in terms of EPF and PF;

(b) whether the Government have any plans to start more sub-accounts offices for EPF and PF in the country;

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

(d) the number of regional EPF and PF offices situated in Tamil Nadu indicating income generated through various Accounts Offices and Sub-Account's Offices of EPF and PF in the State and number of subscribers in each of these offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are at present 17 Regional, 66 Sub-Regional and 20 Sub-Accounts offices of the EPF Organisation functioning in the country. During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 7795.54 crore was received by the EPF Organisation as contributions payable under the E.P.F. & M.P. Act, 1952.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal to open a Sub-Regional Office of the EPFO at Gangtok in Sikkim.

(d) Details of EPF Offices and position of subscribers' strength, office-wise, in Tamil Nadu are as under:-

Name of office	Subscribers' strength
Regional Office, Chennai.	10,91,367
Sub Regional Office, Coimbatore	3,78,576
Sub Regional Office, Madurai	4,05,315
Sub Regional Office, Trichy	2,60,837
Sub Regional Office, Tirunelveli	5,25,044
Sub Regional Office, Salem	2,19,809
Sub Regional Office, Vellore	1,99,974
Sub Accounts Office, Ambattur	2,25,958
Sub Accounts Office, Tambaram	2,68,443

An amount of Rs. 36.24 crore was collected as income in the Administrative Revenue Account in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

Pest Management Centres

5768. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in each State;

(b) the activities of these Centres;

(c) whether the Government have any monitoring system in regard to the activities of these Centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of setting up more such Centres in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There are 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 21 States and one U.T. Statewise locations of CIPMCs is given in the statement attached.

(b) These Centres carry out pest monitoring and surveillance for forewarning, biological control of crop pests and promotion of integrated pest management through demonstrations and trainings of extension workers and farmers by organising Farmers' Field Schools.

(c) and (d) The Government has established a system to monitor the activities of these Centres. This includes Annual Action Plan with monthly physical and financial targets. Weekly, monthly and Annual Reports are received from all the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres and these reports are reviewed. During Zonal Conferences on Plant Protection and also National Conferences on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi campaigns, the IPM progress and constraints, etc. are also discussed/ reviewed.

(e) At present there is no proposal to set up more Integrated Pest Management Centres.

Statement

Locations of Central Integrated Pest Management Centres

S.No.	States/UT	Location
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad
		2. Vijayawada
2.	Assam	3. Guwahati
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	4. Port Blair
4.	Bihar	5. Patna
5.	Goa	6. Madgaon
6.	Gujarat	7. Baroda
7.	Haryana	8. Faridabad
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9. Solan
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10. Jammu
		11. Srinagar
10.	Karnataka	12. Bangalore
11.	Kerala	13. Ernakulam
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14. Indore
		15. Raipur
13.	Maharashtra	16. Nagpur
14.	Mizoram	17. Aizwal
15.	Nagaland	18. Dimapur
16.	Orissa	19. Bhubaneswar
17.	Punjab	20. Jalandhar
18.	Rajasthan	21. Sriganganagar
19.	Sikkim	22. Gangtok
20.	Tamil Nadu	23. Trichy
21.	Uttar Pradesh	24. Gorakhpur
		25. Lucknow
22.	West Bengal	26. Burdwan

Agreement in the Field of Information

5769. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have singed agreements with foreign countries for expanding bilateral co-operation in the field of information and provide investment in e-commerce and internet applications;

(b) if so, the details of MoUs signed/likely to be signed with each country as on date;

(c) the extent to which India would be benefited through these agreements;

(d) whether any foreign country has provided financial assistance for this purpose;

(e) whether the Government has any intention to further relax overseas acquisition norms for Information Technology companies;

(f) if so, the details with reasons therefor; and

(g) the likely achievements on bilateral trade during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INOFRMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Governments of Russia, Egypt, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Mauritius and Ireland for cooperation in various areas of Information Technology inter-alia e-commerce and internet applications.

(c) These MoUs are expected to boost bilateral cooperation as well as bilateral trade in the areas of interest.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government reviews this matter from time to time after taking into account all the relevant factors.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No specific targets have been visualized in this regard.

[Translation]

Production of Rabi Crops

5770. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of foodgrains from the current Rabi Crop alongwith the estimated total production of foodgrain during the current year;

(b) the State-wise estimated allocation to be made alongwith the State-wise demand thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to fulfil the demand of each of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The estimated production of foodgrains from the current rabi crops and the estimated production of foodgrains during 1999-2000 is given below:

(Million tonnes)

Crops	Rabi	Total 1999-2000
Rice	11.36	88.55
Wheat	70.10	70.10
Coarse Cereals	7.24	29.36
Pulses	8.60	13.55
Total Foodgrains	97.30	201.56

(b) and (c) With the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997, the allocation of foodgrains for various States/UTs for families below poverty line were fixed so as to provide 10 kg. foodgrains to below Poverty Line families under TPDS. This quantity has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month from 1st April, 2000. Under TPDS, transitory allocation of foodgrains is also made for the families Above Poverty Line (APL) equal to the difference between the average annual lifting of foodgrains over the last 10 years and the BPL quota of the States. The bifurcation of BPL and APL quotas of foodgrains into rice and wheat is left to the choice of the State.

From 1st April, 2000, additional allocations to States/UTs are made considering the demands of States/UTs subject to the availability of foodgrains in the central pool at economic cost. A statement showing state-wise allocation of foodgrains for the month of April, 2000 is enclosed.

Statement

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Rice					Wheat					Total Food-grains
		BPL	APL	Sub Total	Addl.	Total	BPL	APL	Sub Total	Addl.	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Prd.	75.56	163.92	229.48		229.48	0.00	8.00	8.00		8.00	237.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2.	Arunachal Prd.	1.40	5.86	7.26		7.26	0.14	0.53	0.67		0.67	7.93
3.	Assam	38.12	25.94	64.06		64.06	0.00	10.30	10.30		10.30	74.36
4.	Bihar	68.72	7.92	76.64		76.64	103.08	11.88	114.96		114.96	191.60
5.	Delhi	0.00	13.61	13.61		13.61	0.00	42.64	42.64		42.64	56.25
6.	Goa	0.52	3.57	4.09		4.09	0.24	1.69	1.93		1.93	6.02
7.	Gujarat	16.00	18.00	34.00		34.00	24.00	29.50	53.50		53.50	87.50
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	14.66	0.72	15.38		15.38	15.38
9.	Himachal Prd.	0.00	5.23	5.23		5.23	8.52	3.20	11.72		11.72	16.95
10.	J & K	9.40	12.51	21.91		21.91	2.96	7.36	10.32		10.32	32.23
11.	Karnataka	46.00	37.00	83.00		83.00	11.50	9.25	20.75		20.75	103.75
12.	Kerala	30.70	114.32	145.32		145.32	0.00	37.72	37.72		37.72	183.04
13.	Madhya Prd.	48.00	10.35	58.35		58.35	58.68	12.65	71.33		71.33	129.68
14.	Maharashtra	42.32	22.38	64.70		64.70	78.60	41.38	119.98		119.98	184.68
15.	Manipur	2.60	2.86	5.46		5.46	0.00	1.71	1.71		1.71	7.17
16.	Meghalaya	2.86	9.63	12.39	6.34*	18.73	0.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	19.73
17.	Mizoram	1.06	6.81	7.87		7.87	0.00	1.01	1.01		1.01	8.38
18.	Nagaland	1.54	8.63	10.17		10.17	0.38	1.54	1.92		1.92	12.09
19.	Orissa	63.64	3.72	67.36		67.36	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	67.36
20.	Punjab	1.36	0.28	1.64		1.64	7.24	1.51	8.75		8.75	10.39
21.	Rajasthan	0.50	0.78	1.28		1.28	42.90	32.68	75.58		75.58	76.86
22.	Sikkim	0.68	2.97	3.65	4.00*	7.65	0.00	0.10	0.10		0.10	7.75
23.	Tamil Nadu	91.58	38.44	130.02		130.02	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	130.02
24.	Tripura	4.62	9.12	13.74		13.74	0.00	1.28	1.28		1.28	15.02
25.	Uttar Pradesh	63.00	11.20	74.20		74.20	128.00	22.17	150.17		150.17	224.37
26.	West Bengal	44.14	10.73	54.87		54.87	47.30	64.70	112.00		112.00	166.87
27.	A & N Islands	0.30	2.35	2.65		2.65	0.14	0.68	0.82		0.82	3.47
28.	Chandigarh	0.04	0.17	0.21		0.21	0.32	0.97	1.29		1.29	1.50
29.	D & N Haveli	0.24	0.18	0.42		0.42	0.06	0.05	0.11		0.11	0.53
30.	Daman & Diu	0.04	0.11	0.15		0.15	0.02	0.04	0.06		0.06	0.21
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.55	0.55		0.55	0.00	0.04	0.04		0.04	0.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
32.	Pondicherry	1.30	0.29	1.59	1.00*	2.59	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.50	0.52	3.11
	Total	656.24	539.63	1195.87	11.34	1207.21	528.74	346.32	875.06	0.50	875.56	2082.76
	CRP/BSF/ITBP	–	1.69	1.69		1.69	–	2.85	2.86		2.86	4.54
	Defence	–	10.41	10.41		10.41	–	12.09	12.09		12.09	22.50
	Bhutan	–	1.85	1.85		1.85	–	1.70	1.70		1.70	3.55
	Grand Total (All-India)	656.24	553.58	1209.82	11.34	1221.16	528.74	362.95	391.69	0.50	892.19	2113.35

@Allocation for these two States are made annually.

–Allocation of Yearly quota to Defence services already made.

The allocations for April, 2000 are hereby revised. Addl. Allocations made for April 2000 withdrawn.

*Addl. allocations made to Meghalaya, Sikkim and Pondicherry at Economic cost.

[English]

Import of Hi-Tech Computers

5771. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has relaxed controls on import of hi-tech computers from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any plan to tap the US market particularly in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There are no restrictions on import of hi-tech computers by U.S. from India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In order to exploit markets/customers in US, Far East and Europe for promoting advanced computing solutions in areas such as Power, Telecom, Finance/Capital Market, Health and other Government sectors etc., Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have proposed to set up an overseas office in USA.

Agricultural Technology Project

5772. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and form of World Bank assistance for the National Agriculture Technology Project;

(b) the schedule for completion of the project and its present status;

(c) the reasons for the delay and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount earmarked for training of manpower and the procedure followed for selection of the consultants for the purpose including the prescription of qualification and experience for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The total cost of the World Bank Assisted Agricultural Technology Project is US $ 239.7 million. The World Bank will contribute 82% of the total cost (US $ 196.8 million) while the GOI's share will be 18% (US $ 42.9 million). The total bank assistance will comprise IDA credit of SDR 73.8 million (US $ 100.00 million Equivalent) and US $ 96.8 million as IBRD loan at the usual rate of interest.

(b) The project is approved for 5 years (w.e.f. November 19, 1998). Component-wise status (As on 31.3.2000) is given below.

(i) Agro-Ecosystem Research : Two hundred eleven research programmes under different modes with a budget provision of Rs. 359.00 crores are approved. Mode-wise status is: Team of Excellence (26 No. 33.26 crores); Mission Mode (26 No., 124.50 crores); Production System Research Mode (175 No., 183.00 crores); Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institute Village Linkage Programme (44 No., 6.07 crores) and Competitive Grant Programme (44 No., 12.50 crores).

(ii) Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD): Under the ICAR component of the ITD, 53 Zonal Research Stations (ZRS) remanded to function as KVKs have been identified and sanction issued. Forty Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) have also been established. In addition, 8 Directorate of Extension Education in SAUs and 29 zonal coordinating units are being strengthened. The DAC component of ITD is being implemented in six states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab. ATMAs have been established in each of the six states. The States Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIS) are being strengthened to train the farmers and extension workers. Strategic Research and Extension Plans (SREPs) for the selected districts have been finalized for planning interventions.

(iii) Organisation and Management (O & M) system: O & M System cover activities related to (i) Organization and Management (O & M) reforms in ICAR, (ii) Strengthening of ICAR Headquarters, National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC), Directorate of Information & Publication on Agriculture (DIPA) and PIU-NATP, (iii) Institutionalization of Priority Setting Mechanism, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) and (iv) Information System Development (ISD) covering Agricultural Research Information Service (ARIS) and Library Information and Networking.

(c) There was slight delay in implementation of the programmes at initial stage. Efforts are being made to expeditiously execute the approved training and procurement component which are behind the schedule.

(d) An amount of Rs. 68.58 crores is earmarked for training of manpower. The number of overseas consultants is kept restricted. Preference is given to scientists at Associate Professor level, instead of Heads of Departments/ Professors to keep the costs low. Consultants are normally identified from the same Institutions where the scientists are proceeding for Training.

[Translation]

Facilities to Unorganised Sector

5773. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated schemes to provide educational and medical facilities to the labourers serving in the unorganised sector in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be made available for the implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Government have formulated various schemes under the existing Labour Welfare Funds viz. (i) Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, (ii) Cine Workers Welfare Fund, (iii) Iron Ore Mines, Manganese ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Welfare Fund, (iv) Lime Stone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund and (v) Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund to provide educational and medical facilities to labourers working in respective areas/fields, many of whom are in the unorganised sector. The salient features of the schemes and budgetary estimates likely to be made available for the implementation of the schemes during 2000-2001 are enclosed as statement.

Besides, the Government have also enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 which provide for payment of financial assistance for education of children of the building and other construction workers and also for medical expenses for treatment of major ailment of themselves and their dependents. The welfare measures in this regard would be provided by the State Governments concerned being the appropriate Government under the Act.

Further, the Government is also implementing a workers' education scheme under which training programmes are organised by the Central Board for Workers' Education in the organised and unorganised

sectors. The programmes reflect the new orientation, direction and dimensions for meeting the wider educational needs of the workers.

Statement

Salient Features of the Welfare Schemes

Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

HEALTH:

1. Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Diseases.
6. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7. Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

EDUCATION :

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re.1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund, Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund

HEALTH:

1. Scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Mental diseases.
3. Scheme for treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Leprosy.
4. Scheme for Domiciallary treatment of Mine Workers suffering from T.B.
5. Maternity benefit scheme for female mine workers.
6. Re-imbursement of actual cost of treatment to mine workers suffering from Cancer.
7. Grant of financial assistance to mine workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Scheme for payment of extra Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to mine workers.
9. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.
11. Scheme for payment of Compensation in case of Fatal and Serious Accident to mine workers.
12. Scheme for providing artificial limbs to mine workers.
13. Grant-in-aid to Iron Ore, Manganese Ore & Chrome Ore Mines and Limestone & Dolomite Mines Managements for purchase of Ambulance Vans.

EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to School/College going children of mine workers.
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of mine workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books

3. Assistance to mine owners for running Central Library.

4. Assistance for purchase of School buses to the mine managements.

5. Assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of Libraries.

6. Grant-in-aid for recognised schools in the Iron Ore mining areas for purchase of furniture & equipment.

7. Mid-day meals scheme.

8. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.

9. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Rs. 1/- to female children of mine workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

Cine Workers Welfare Fund

A. HEALTH:

1. Scheme for re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Cine Workers suffering from Heart diseases.

2. Scheme for re-imbursement for actual treatment charges to Cine Workers suffering from Cancer.

3. Group Insurance Scheme.

B. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to the children of Cine Workers.

2. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.

3. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Rs.1/- to female children of Cine Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

Budget Estimates-2000-2001 Under the Welfare Funds Under Health and Education

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the fund	Health	Education
1	2	3
Beedi Workers Welfare Fund	2153	1278
Limestone & Dolomite Labour Welfare Fund	366	46
Iron, Manganese & Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund	660	135
Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund	72	72
Cine Workers Welfare Fund	23	13

[English]

Upper Krishna Project

5774. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of World Bank loan utilized for Upper Krishna Project in Karnataka during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) whether any misappropriation of World Bank loan has come to the notice of the Union Government during the period; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The World Bank aided Upper Krishna Irrigation Project Phase-II in Karnataka closed on 30.06.1997. During 1997-98 an amount of US $ 5.9 million was received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects

5775. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently asked the Karnataka Government to furnish details of expenditure on different irrigation projects which require funds, to complete them within Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has furnished those details;

(c) the amount estimated to be required to complete the incomplete irrigation projects in Karnataka; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide funds to Karnataka to complete these irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, Irrigation Projects are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Ministry of Water Resources has requested the Government of Karnataka to draw an action plan for completion of certain approved Ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects which have been spilling over from plan to plan and are at present in advanced stages of construction and can be completed during the IX Plan itself. A statement as furnished by the Government of Karnataka giving therein details of projects proposed for completion during IX Plan period alongwith balance amount required to complete these incomplete irrigation projects during IX Five Year Plan and source of funding is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. In Crores) (Potential In Thousand Hectares)

Sl. No.	Project	Estimated Cost		Expdr. upto Dec.,99	Balance amount required for completion	Ultimate Potential	Potential created upto Dec. 99	Balance to be created	Probable date of completion	Remarks
		Original	Latest							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Major Project										
1.	Bhadra	31.93	155.23	140.25	14.98	105.57	105.57	0.00	2000	Proposed for completion during the financial year 99-2000
2.	TB LBC	33.41	319 09	255.28	63.81	244.38	244.20	0.18	2000	
3.	TB RB HLC	2.57	79.48	49.81	29.67	80.91	70.44	10.47	2000	
4.	Malaprabha	19.91	703.71	545.77	157.94	218.19	174.56	43.63	2002	AIBP assisted project
5.	U.K.P. Stage-I	58.20	5435.90	4976.30	459.60	425.00	290.92	134.08	2002	AIBP assisted project
6.	Karanja	98.00	340.00	242.73	97.27	35.62	14.98	20.64	2002	AIBP assisted project
7.	Bennithora	73.25	153.00	149.40	3.60	20.24	1.05	19.19	2001	NABARD assisted project
Medium Project										
1.	Manchanabele	0.77	62.40	61.76	0.64	3.84	1.23	2.61	2000	Proposed for completion during the financial year 99-2000
2.	Votehole	2.05	47.50	38.94	8.56	7.49	7.49	0.00	2000	
3.	Amarja	5.70	82.00	84.49	–	8.90	5.94	2.96	2001	NABARD assisted project
4.	Lower Mullamari	8.37	100.00	94.63	5.37	9.70	0.00	9.70	2001	NABARD assisted project
5.	Maskinala	3.11	29.95	28.02	1.93	2.83	0.00	2.83	2001	
6.	Chulkinala	3.80	53.50	56.24	–	4.05	3.84	0.21	2000	NABARD assisted project
7.	Arkavathy	0.65	106.50	55.07	51.43	6.23	0.00	6.23	2002	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Hirehalla	6.35	120.81	106.31	14.50	8.01	0.00	8.01	2001	AIBP assisted project.
9.	Gandhorinala	7.21	153.00	26.16	126.84	8.09	0.00	8.09	2002	

*AIBP – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

*NABARD – National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development.

[Translation]

Special Schemes in Bihar

5776. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the special schemes, which are already being operated in Bihar and other States to make the country self-reliant in the area of foodgrains production; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to make available the high quality seeds and fertilizers at cheaper rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) A list of major Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to make the country self-reliant in the area of foodgrains production including in Bihar is as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme–Rice
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme–Wheat
3.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme–Coarse Cereals.
4.	National Pulses Development Project.
5.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.

(b) Assistance is being provided under various schemes to make available good quality of seeds and fertilizers at reasonable prices.

[English]

Lifting of Sanctions

5777. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Sign CTBT, curbs will go: US" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 24, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The US imposed certain restrictive economic measures on India following our nuclear tests, on the basis of US domestic law. In our bilateral discussions, we have conveyed that such unilateral, coercive measures are unjustified and counterproductive. Although some of these measures have already been lifted, we continue to maintain that all such measures should be removed in order to create a positive environment. Government's position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. Government's position on the CTBT continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interest alone.

Change in Licencing Policy

5778. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding change in policy of licencing and inspecting Agro-Centres which sells and keep stocks of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Certain representations have been received for allowing stock/sale of household insecticides without licence. However, under provisions of Insecticides Act

1968, dealership licence has to be obtained for stocking/ sale of insecticides/pesticides. Similarly, for stocking/sale of fertilizers also, dealership registration certificate is required to be obtained under provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1986. State Governments are empowered to exempt the small dealers from the requirement of obtaining dealership registration certificates in inaccessible and low consuming areas. Some States have accordingly exempted the dealers holding the stocks up to 10 tonnes from such requirements.

Development of Backward Districts

5779. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn/formulated any programme for development of most backward, desert area of Rajasthan especially Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government for development of Thar desert; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to commence?

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 GRIEVANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Each State Government draws up its own Five Year and Annual Plan and makes spatial and sectoral allocations. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments, including the Government of Rajasthan, for meeting the special problems of certain areas through Area Development Programmes. The Desert Development Programme (DDP) is in operation in 85 blocks of 16 districts (including Barmer and Jaisalmer) of Rajasthan. Further, the Border Area Development Programme is in operation in 13 blocks of the State including two blocks of Jaisalmer district 4 blocks of Barmer district. In addition the Drought Prone Area Programme covers 32 blocks of 10 districts of the State.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No separate Action Plan has been formulated for the development of the Thar Desert. However, 10 desert districts of Rajasthan, which are presently covered under DDP, have been permitted to take up special development projects for the purpose of sand-dune stabilization and shelter belt plantation works which do not usually fit into a watershed project. Up to 50% of the allocations made under DDP to these 10 desert districts can be utilized for these special projects. During 1999-2000, 614 such special projects have been sanctioned to these 10 districts in Rajasthan under which 3.07 lakh hectares would be treated. The total cost of these projects works out to Rs. 153.50 crores and the first instalment of Rs. 17.27 crores has also been released in 1999-2000.

Pak Official Peddling Fake Indian Notes

5780. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak official held for pedding fake Indian notes" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 4, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; 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) Government are aware that a staff member of the Pakistan Embassy in Nepal was caught red-handed in Kathmandu, in January 2000, while passing off counterfeit Indian currency to an undercover officer of the Nepal police. Government of Nepal had asked the Pakistani staff member to leave the country within 72 hours, on account of his involvement in an activity incompatible with his status.

Government are also aware of investigations being carried out by Delhi Police relating to a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi allegedly using a counterfeit Indian currency note. There are other reports, too, of the involvement of Pakistani nationals in fake Indian currency rackets.

(c) Government remains vigilant about these activities.

[Translation]

National Commission for SC/ST

5781. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to accord full autonomy to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether any representation have been received from social organisations and Hon'ble M.Ps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken/being taken by the Union Government to grant full autonomy to the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) According to Article 338(4) of the Constitution of India, the National Commission for SCs and STs shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The Commission, however, made a recommendation in its Fourth Report for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (Volume I) to amend article 338 to empower the Commission to issue directions for corrective action implementation of its findings.

The Commission also received a copy of the representation from All India Confederation of SC/ST Organizations (Regd.) dated 9.6.1999, addressed to the Prime Minister, requesting to give adequate financial, administrative and judicial powers to the Commission.

The Fourth Report of the National Commission for SCs and STs alongwith Action Taken Memorandum have been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament. In the Action Taken Memorandum, it has been explained that the Commission, being an advisory body, is not meant to function as a parallel executive organization or to issue directions to the Government. The Government is nevertheless committed to earnestly considering the recommendations of the Commission made in terms of Article 338 of the Constitution.

[English]

Irrigated Land

5782. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of irrigated land in several States particularly in Orissa is very low as compared to the national level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the irrigation capacity is lyng unutilised due to untapping of river water;

(d) whether more than eighty percent of agriculture land is still lying unirrigated in Orissa; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the percentage of irrigated land in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) National level and State level percentage of irrigated land is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The assessed Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP), Potential created by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97) and the irrigation potential lying untapped in the State of Orissa as well as in the country as a whole is given below :-

(In million hectares)

	Ultimate Irrigation Potential	Irrigation potential created by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan	Irrigation potential lying untapped by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan
Orissa	8.80	2.92	5.88
All India	139.89	89.56	50.33

(d) As per the Statement enclosed, the percentage of net irrigated land with respect to net sown area in the State of Orissa is 35.02.

(c) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/ proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision to National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a timebound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In keeping with the strategy, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by the Government of India in 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected on-going projects is continued in

the Ninth Plan. The revised funding pattern under AIBP with effect from 1999-2000 is in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) on 2:1 (Centre:State) basis for general category States and in 3:1 ratio for special category States of North-Eastern Region, Hilly States of J&K Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim as well as for drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa. Minor irrigation schemes of special category States are also being given CLA on 3:1 (Centre:State) basis with effect from 1999-2000. For Orissa, CLA amounting to Rs. 286.30 crore has been released to 8 major & medium projects. Moreover, CLA amounting to Rs. 8.90 crore has been released during the year 1999-2000 for 16 minor irrigation schemes of KBK districts of Orissa.

Statement

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

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrigated Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10834	4395	40.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	185	36	19.46
3.	Assam	2744	572	20.85
4.	Bihar	7337	3624	49.39
5.	Goa	139	23	16.55
6.	Gujarat	9600	3042	31.69
7.	Haryana	3615	2755	76.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	558	105	18.82
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	733	313	42.70
10.	Karnataka	10610	2325	21.91
11.	Kerala	2269	357	15.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19794	6399	32.33
13.	Maharashtra	17876	2567	14.36
14.	Manipur	140	65	46.43
15.	Meghalaya	216	45	20.83
16.	Mizoram	109	7	6.42
17.	Nagaland	225	62	27.56
18.	Orissa	5968	2090	35.02
19.	Punjab	4139	3847	92.95
20.	Rajasthan	16790	5588	33.28
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	5486	2892	52.72
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17475	11999	68.66
25.	West Bengal	5463	1911	34.98
	Total States	142677	55070	38.60
	Total UTs	142	73	51.41
	Grand Total	142819	55143	38.61

Note: Figures are as per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1996-97 (latest) and are Provisional.

Upper Krishna Project

5783. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the Central allocation made to Karnataka State for the implementation of Upper Krishna Irrigation Project Stage I, Phase II, Malaprabha Hirehalla, Ghataprabha-III and Koranza project under Accelerted Irrigation Benefit Programme during the last three years, as on date, year-wise; and

(b) the progress of these projects, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of Central Loan Assistance released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of Government of Karnataka during the last three years for these irrigation projects alongwith their progress is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Rs. in Crores/Potential in Thousand Hectares

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Latest Est. Cost	Exp. Upto 3/97	CLA released during 97-98	Exp. during 97-98	CLA released during 98-99	Exp. during 1998-99			Potential created during		
1.	Upper Krishna Stage-I	3579.00	2545.240	50.00	105.150	50.00	88.140	100.00	89.38	150.0u	0.770	0.825	8.612
2.	Malaprabha	563.55	414.507	12.00	17.710	10.00	28.510	13.500	8.87	52.44	2.548	0.400	3.892
3.	Hirehalla	101.90	67.590	6.00	17.120	6.00	12.070	8.00	9.60	8.01	–	–	–
4.	Ghataprabha Stage-III	800.00	274.110	15.00	21.650	12.50	32.290	20.00	12.30	152.52	–	0.910	4.723
5.	Karanja	258.17	160.200	7.50	15.680	16.00	29.950	15.640	20.97	22.52	–	0.970	0.855

Setting up of Research Policy Cell

5784. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a proper Research Policy Cell within the Ministry of External Affairs; and

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

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

(b) The proposal is under active consideration in the Ministry of External Affairs for which a Committee has been set up to look into all aspects of the proposal including the financial implications and posts to be created in this connection.

EPF Pensions

5785. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of EPF getting the benefit of pension scheme from the year of implementation of the pension scheme year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the mumber of subscribers not benefited from the said scheme due to technical reasons;

(c) whether due to wrong entries of date of birth or lack of records for a year or two, at earlier stages i.e. two or three decades ago, thousands of workers, who are otherwise eligible, are denied of their pension benefits in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) A statement showing number of beneficiaries of the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Under the EPS, 1995, the pension claims are processed and settled in terms of returns in Form 2 and Form 9 given by the employers. According to the EPF authorities, no employee who was eligible for pension on the basis of the said forms has been denied pensionary benefits. Therefore, the question of taking steps to rectify complaints in this regard does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Region	Number of Pensioners under Employees Pension Scheme, 95				
		As on 31.3.96	As on 31.3.97	As on 31.3.98	As on 31.3.99	As on 31.3.2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	AP	4339	15269	28924	44387	63101
2.	BR	1201	2990	7271	13363	26249
3.	DL	3552	5788	7386	9715	12351
4.	GJ	5132	8389	13106	21252	31196
5.	HP	Not opened as on date	Not opened as on date	Not opened as on date	1969	2863
6.	HR	1628	3273	6159	9335	12298
7.	KN	6169	12459	25580	38595	53886
8.	KR	1239	4853	18756	35490	49871
9.	MP	2208	6331	11207	18339	74325
10.	MH	6336	14740	28498	50422	26398

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	NE	493	1407	2063	4348	6284
12.	OR	1357	3471	6252	9750	12316
13.	PB	1219	2923	6943	9373	13455
14.	RJ	1275	3203	5381	11895	14260
15.	TN	8172	21070	44800	67395	95231
16.	UP	3177	8221	12824	22012	35316
17.	WB	2131	6090	11043	22241	35902

As on 31.3.2000, there were 172696 beneficiaries of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971 also receiving pension under the EPS 1995.

Contract Labour (Regulation) Act

5786. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation) Act, with view to remove lacunae in the Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The matter of amendment/new legislation for contract labour is under consideration of the Government. The details of the above are not finalised yet.

Calamity Relief Fund

5787. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of assistance received in cash or kind from the public at home and from abroad in respect of each natural/national calamity during the last three years and allocation to affected States, Calamity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Assistance in cash from the public at home and abroad is received under various relief funds while assistance in kind is coordinated through the Resident Commissioners of the State Governments. Sometimes, it is also received through the Indian Red Cross Society of directly by the State Government concerned. No details of such assistance are maintained in this Department.

[Translation]

Employment Exchanges

5788. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of computerised Employment Exchanges out of them, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to make computerisation scheme a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for bringing improvement in overall functioning of Employment Exchanges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The day-to-day administration of Employment Exchanges is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, whereas policies, standards and procedures for the National Employment Service are laid down by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. A Working Group on National Employment Service comprising representatives of Central and State

Governments facilitates this consultative process. Besides this, the evaluation of Employment Exchanges is also periodically carried out with a view to bringing about improvements in functioning of Employment Exchanges.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	No. of Employment Exchanges as on 31.3.2000	No. of Employment Exchanges computerised under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during 1986-92
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	–
3.	Assam	53	2
4.	Bihar	68	4
5.	Delhi	14	5
6.	Goa	1	1
7.	Gujarat	41	13
8.	Haryana	95	–
9	Himachal Pradesh	15	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	–
11.	Karnataka	40	3
12.	Kerala	81	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	73	9
14.	Maharashtra	42	6
15.	Manipur	11	1
16.	Meghalaya	10	–
17.	Mizoram	3	–
18.	Nagaland	7	–
19.	Orissa	39	3
20.	Punjab	43	2
21.	Rajasthan	38	1
22.	Sikkim	–	–
23.	Tamil Nadu	37	10
24.	Tripura	5	–
25.	Uttar Pradesh	103	24
26.	West Bengal	75	3
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1
28.	Chandigarh	2	1
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	–
30.	Daman & Diu	2	–
31.	Lakshadweep	1	–
32.	Pondicherry	1	1
	Total	955	117

[English]

Pilot Scheme for Seed

5789. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar has not been included in the pilot scheme for Seed Crop Insurance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to include Bihar in the Scheme;

(c) the other State that have not been included in the pilot schemes for Seed Crop Insurance; and

(d) the funds that have been released to the General Insurance Corporation in the States and in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) In the first year the Seed Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented on pilot basis in the selected states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. In subsequent years, the coverage of scheme would be extended to other States.

(d) An amount of Rs. 86.5 lakh was released to the General Insurance Corporation of India and the State Governments during 1999-2000 for publicity, training and administrative expenses. Since Bihar has not initially been

covered under the scheme, no funds were released to the State.

Compensation to Farmers

5790. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULUTRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Chemical Laboratory has evolved prototypes for developing insect-resistant cotton, chickpea, pigeonpea and black pepper through gene transfer technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results achieved at the field trials;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints of damage of cotton crop due to inferior quality pesticides from various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The National Chemical Laboratory has evolved protocols for in vitro regeneration of various explants of cotton such as apical meristem, shoot tip and cotyledonary node from in vitro grown seedlings of various indian cotton cultivars. Regeneration of cotton explants fulfils the major pre-requisite for transformation studies, which in turn after further refinement may be utilized for incorporation of insect resistance genes. In chickpea and pigeon pea, transformation protocols has been standrdized. In black pepper tissue culture protocols for regeneration for various explants of cultivated and wild varieties has been standardized. However, in all the above cases work is still at the laboratory stage only. No field trials have been carried out.

(c) Major cotton growing States have informed that there is no damage of cotton crop due to inferior quality of pesticides during 1998-2000 crop season.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Question does not arise.

Setting up of a Task Force

5791. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a Task Force to identify the drought and flood prone districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the districts have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any comprehensive programme is likely to be launched by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to seek the assistance of China and South African countries to tackle floods and drought; and

(h) if so, the outcome 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) to (h) There is no proposal to set up a Task Force to identify the drought and flood prone districts in the country. However, a High Level Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Professor C.H. Hanumantha Rao was constituted in 1993 to review the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). Concurrently, a sub-group of the Technical Committee headed by Prof. Hanumantha Rao identified 155 drought prone districts in 13 States in the country for coverage under the DPAP. With the recent bifurcation of some of these districts, the number of districts covered under DPAP has now increased to 163. Flood prone districts have not been identified so far. However, the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in its report submitted in the year 1980 had identified 40 million hectares in 22 States and UTs as flood prone areas.

DPAP is a continuing programme with the objective of drought proofing the drought prone areas through integrated watershed approach. Under this approach, a comprehensive treatment of the selected watershed for regenerating the natural resource base will be taken. As such there is no proposal to launch any other comprehensive programme by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

There is no proposal to seek the assistance of China and South African countries to tackle floods and drought.

Release of Funds

5792. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government of India are aware that the Ministry of Water Resources have been communicating sanction of funds towards the fag end of the financial year thereby creating immense problem in utilizing the same;

(b) whether Government propose to release 75 percent of the budget provision during 1st and 2nd quarters of a financial year and rest 25 percent after adjustment during 3rd and 4th quarters so that schemes can be implemented with proper planning and supervision; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Government of India have been releasing Central assistance to the State Governments under different schemes separately as per the prevailing financial patterns keeping in view the requirement on the basis of the physical and financial performance of last year and progress and programme during the current year. Under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme "Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics" hundred per cent Central assistance is provided to the States for expenditure on Statistical Cell, conducting Minor Irrigation Census, Sample Survey etc. For expenditure on Statistical Cell hundred percent Central assistance is released on the basis of proposals received from State Governments/Union Territories in one instalment after receiving the utilisation certificate of funds released during last year and estimated expenditure to be incurred during the current Year. For conducting Minor Irrigation Census, first instalment consisting of forty per cent funds is released for initiating census work. The second instalment is also releaed to the extent of forty percent of funds' requirement after completion of field work and remaining twenty percent funds are released after receipt of validated data floppies from State Governments/Union Territories. For conducting of Sample Survey, fifty per cent of funds are released in advance for initiating sample survey work and remaining fifty percent are released after receipt of validated sample survey data floppies. In case of "Flood Proofing Schemes" the Central assistance is reimbursed to the State Governments as per the performance substantiated by the submission of utilisation certificates. Under the "Command Area Development Programme" first instalment from April to June is provided on ad hoc basis, based on the previous year's achievements, budget provision and physical programme of the current year. Regular release of central assistance is made to State Governments subsequently on the basis of physical land financial performance. Under the "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme" Central Loan Assistance is provided to the State Governments for expeditious completion of their on-going major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction. The funds under the programme are released by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of Ministry of Water Resources on year to year basis in two equal instalments. The second instalment is released only when the State Governments have utilized the first instalment alongwith their share.

Dam Across the River Ganges

5793. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct a dam across the river Ganges in Bihar for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of Security Council

5794. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to restructure the Security Council of the United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US has initiated any move in this regard;

(d) if so, whether India has been sounded to this effect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Moves to restructure the Security Council officially began in 1992 when the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council. In 1997, the UN General Assembly set up an Open Ended Working Group to discuss the issue. There is no consensus so far on candidates, or criteria, for expansion.

(c) to (e) U.S. recently announced its readiness to consider expansion of the Security Council beyond the figure of 21 and also on the need for nore representation of developing countries in the Security Council. India remains in touch with all Member States on the issue.

Border Area Development Programme

5795. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated/projects undertaken and achievement made under the Border Area Development Programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated alongwith the project completed/to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan under the said programme, State-wise;

(c) whether the funds allocated during the Ninth Plan to States under the BADP is inadequate;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the funds for the purpose; and

(e) 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 state-wise, year-wise details of funds allocated under the Border Area Development Programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan are given in enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively. The projects taken up under the Programme are decided by the State Level Screening Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of each of the beneficiary States. The projects vary from year to year and from state to state and include schemes in sectors such as education, health, roads etc.

(c) to (e) The funds under the Border Area Development Programme are additive in nature and are to be used to supplement State Plan funds to meet the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible areas situated near the border particularly to bridge critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. The increase in the allocation for the programme depends on the annual availability of resources for the plan as a whole.

Statement-I

Allocations made under BADP during the Eighth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Assam	3.91	4.38	4.12	4.12
2.	Gujarat	6.98	7.94	8.58	8.58
3.	J & K	14.00	17.50	20.68	20.68
4.	Meghalaya	3.89	4.23	3.95	3.95
5.	Mizoram	2.84	3.25	2.73	2.73
6.	Punjab	6.45	7.88	8.54	8.54
7.	Rajasthan	71.06	80.44	85.63	85.63
8.	Tripura	8.04	9.81	10.96	10.96
9.	West Bengal	21.83	24.57	30.81	30.81

Statement-II

Allocations made under BADP during the Ninth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	412	4.27	7.20	7.20
2.	Gujarat	8.58	8.88	9.87	9.87
3.	J & K	20.68	31.38	33.52	33.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Meghalaya	3.95	4.11	4.52	4.52
5.	Mizoram	6.73	6.82	8.00	8.00
6.	Punjab	8.54	8.82	9.70	9.70
7.	Rajasthan	85.63	56.52	37.17	29.17
8.	Tripura	10.96	11.34	12.47	12.47
9.	West Bengal	30.81	31.86	38.05	38.05
10.	Arunachal Pr.	4.00	11.00	13.00	13.00
11.	Manipur	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
12.	Nagaland	–	4.00	4.00	4.00
13.	Himachal Pr.	–	4.00	4.00	4.00
14.	Sikkim	–	4.00	5.50	5.50
15.	Uttar Pradesh	–	4.00	12.00	12.00
16.	Bihar	–	–	7.00	7.00

Note: BADP was extended to blocks on the Myanmar border in 1997-98, to the China border in 1998-99 and to the Bhutan and Nepal borders in 1999-2000.

Sea Erosion

5796. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the continuing phenomenon of erosion by the sea on the coast of West Bengal and the miserable condition of the sea dykes;

(b) is so, whether the State Government is not paying any attention to the maintenance and strengthening of the sea dykes for the last two decades; and

(c) whether there are proposals under consideration for strengthening these dykes in consultation with the State Government and the construction of cyclone shelters so as to mitigate possible adverse effect during the coming monsoon months?

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

(b) Government of West Bengal has been paying attention for coastal protection works as well as their maintenance. Coastal protection works have been carried out by the State in Digha, district Midnapur and in Sunderbans covering districts of South 24-Parganas North 24-Parganas.

(c) Union Government in consultation with the coastal States has proposed a National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) for protection of vulnerable coastal reaches which includes the proposal of the Government of West Bengal. Revised proposal submitted by Government of West Bengal in April, 2000 for inclusion in NCPP envisages construction/strengthening of 32 km. of bank protection works in the tidal reaches of rivers in South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas, 7.70 km. of beach protection works in the district of South 24-Parganas and 1.646 km. of Digha beach protection works in the district of Midnapur.

Government of West Bengal have already constructed 118 cyclone/flood shelters spread over in 12 vulnerable districts to mitigate probable adverse effects in the monsoon months. In addition to this 28 shelters are presently under construction by the State Government.

Hike in Pension

5797. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE:
SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hike in pension rates on cards" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 13, 2000;

(b) if so, the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is any proposal with the Government to hike in over time allowance and Honorarium allowance to Central Government employees; 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. There

is no veracity in the news-item reported in the Hindustan Times and in fact, the report is misleading.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Telecasting of Films

5798. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private channels are prepared to telecast the films based of social welfare projects of the society;

(b) if so, the types of the films likely to be telecast alongwith the subjects;

(c) the manner in which the public welfare programmes are likely to be selected;

(d) the private channels on which these films are proposed to be telecast; and

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry for the welfare and development of various disadvantaged, marginalised and weaker sections of society and for the welfare of animals. This Ministry therefore plays a proactive role in sensitizing the opinion leaders, change agents and the public about the plight of these sections, the irrational prejudices that work against them and in bringing about attitudinal changes for eliciting social support, encouraging initiatives at community, non-government and local level in ameliorating the lot of these sections.

With a view to meeting this objective the Ministry has produced several short documentary films on the themes of development and welfare of SCs, STs OBCs, Minorities, disabled, the elderly, neglected and street children, welfare of animals as well as on alcohol and drug abuse prevention etc. The Ministry had approached Doordarshan and some private channels for telecasting these films. Doordarshan has commenced the telecasts but the private channels have not yet responded.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Water Management

5799. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "U.S. proposes global alliance on water security" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 15, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to remove water scarcity in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the report published in Hindustan Times on 15th April, 2000 "The US has proposed a global alliance for water security as inter-state competition for water intensifies in the 21st century, with the pressures of population growth and economic development, giving rise to unpredictable and potentially unmanageable regional conflicts. The proposal for the alliance was made when US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke in Washington on April 10 in advance of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day 2000 on April 22".

(c) and (d) India receives a rainfall of about 4000 billion cu.m. every year. Out of this about 1869 billion cu. m. appears as runoff in the various rivers of the country including replenishable Ground Water of around 432 billion cu.m. The requirement of the country, upto 2025 AD can be met through optimal utilisation of these renewable water resources.

The per capita water availablility is reducing progressively due to increasing population. It is estimated that the average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 cu.m. at present to 1350 cu.m. by 2025 A.D. at the National level. According to international criteria any situation of yearly water availability or less than 1000 cu.m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity in some parts of the country.

Government of India is also promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-top Rainwater Harvesting 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 Governments

and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

Indo-Pak Talks

5800. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistan accuses India of showing belligerence" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 2, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Government have seen the report appearing in the Hindustan Times of 2nd April, 2000. Pakistani spokesmen often resort to propagandist statements, including frequent calls for a renewal of dialogue to deflect the increasing concern being expressed by the international community about Pakistan's continued role in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

Government are of the view that it is for Pakistan to create a proper environment for a meaningful dialogue to be resumed. For, post-Kargil and after the military take over in that country, Pakistan has enhanced its sponsorship and support of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, and elsewhere in India. It has continued to indulge in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and the International Border. Its call for Jehad and other hostile propaganda against India has also continued unabated. Recently, General Musharraf was also reported to have said that he did not believe in either the Simla Agreement or the Lahore Declaration.

Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral discussions as envisaged in the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

[Translation]

Jobs in Rural Areas

5801. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide jobs to the people in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh through Khadi and Gramudhyog Commission;

(b) if so, the villages where the people have been provided jobs during the last three years;

(c) whether the jobs are provided in the villages of hilly areas; 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 STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, about 40,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh have been covered under Khadi and Village Industries Programme. The employment provided for the last three years in Uttar Pradesh is given as under:-

Year	Cumulative Employment (in lakh persons)
1997-98	10.21
1998-99	10.51
1999-2000 (Estimated)	10.87

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The employment generated in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh under KVI programme as on 31.3.1999 is 39392 in 2447 villages.

[English]

Setting up of Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund

5802. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons benefited by this fund (i) workers who returned to India due to disability and (ii) families of workers who died during the employment abroad;

(d) the details thereof particularly in respect of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the total amount paid so far to such workers/ families in respect of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Fodder Bank

5803. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of fodder in each State during the last three years;

(b) the schemes sponsored by the Union Government to produce fodder and feed;

(c) whether the Government propose to create fodder banks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a scheme to convert paddy straw and cane bagasse into nutrious livestock feed and despatch to needy States; and

(f) the States which are in urgent need of fodder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Details of production of fodder is being collected from the States.

(b) Central Government have a scheme on Assistance to States for feed and fodder development. The expenditure under the scheme is shared by Central/State Government. The components of the scheme and their cost sharing pattern are:-

i. Strengthening of State Farms for Production of fodder seeds (75:25);

ii. Establishment of fodder banks (75:25);

iii. Fodder Seed Production through registered growers (25:75);

iv. Enrichment of straw/cullulosic waste (100:00);

v. Establishment of silvipasture system for increasing Bio-mass production (100:00);

vi. Development of grasslands including grass reserves (100:00);

vii. Sample Survey for area, production and requirement of fodder crops (100:00).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Central Government is providing assistance to the State Governments for Establishment of fodder banks mostly for creation of infrastructure. During 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 145.56 lakhs was provided to the States viz. J&K (Rs. 50.56 lakhs), Gujarat (Rs. 79.00 lakhs), Nagaland (Rs. 16.00 lakhs) for estalishment of six fodder banks.

(e) Yes, Sir.

There is a component under the scheme on Assistance to States of feed and fodder development on 'enrichment of straw/cullulosic waste' under which dry fodder viz. wheat bhusa, paddy straw and cane bagasse are being treated with urea and molasses. This department is providing 100% Central assistance to the State Governments. However, there is no provision to despatch such enriched fodder to States.

(f) Gujarat and Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Production of Onion

5804. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to use modern technologies and improved pesticides to boost the production of onion in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the farmers to use the modern agro technologies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Government of India have already proposed the use of improved package of practices including use of pesticides to increase production and productivity of onion in the country including Bihar. The programmes include demonstrations on production and post harvest technology, set production, protected growing of onion seedlings etc. to encourage farmers for its adoption in non-traditional areas in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

Basic Minimum Services

5805. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to the States under the Basic Minimum Service during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the amount released and utilised during the said 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) The details of State-wise allocation by the Union Government under the Basic Minimum Service during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount allocated was released and fully utilised in each of three years.

Statement

Allocation of Additional Central Assistance for the Basic Minimum Services Programme to the States/UT's for the Year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	ACA 1997-98	ACA 1998-99	ACA 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
A.	NON SPECIAL CATEGORY			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	170.59	179.61	196.34
2.	Bihar	364.07	383.32	419.04
3.	Goa	1.55	3.63	3.63
4.	Gujarat	72.58	76.42	113.54
5.	Haryana	19.08	40.09	26.96
6.	Karnataka	99.42	104.68	114.43
7.	Kerala	78.69	102.85	110.57
8.	Madhya Pradesh	210.00	236.10	265.34
9.	Maharashtra	132.23	159.22	152.19
10.	Orissa	147.45	164.25	190.31
11.	Punjab	35.59	36.94	40.37
12.	Rajasthan	132.98	140.01	153.05
13.	Tamil Nadu	119.80	141.13	137.88
14.	Uttar Pradesh	456.84	500.99	575.81
15.	West Bengal	203.57	214.33	234.30
B.	SPECIAL CATEGORY			
1	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18	90.47	71.57
2	Assam	163.80	172.46	188.53
3.	Himachal Pradesh	64.41	113.45	109.14
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	156.52	164.80	180.15
5.	Manipur	44.30	64.30	72.64
6.	Meghalaya	37.03	38.99	63.62
7.	Mizoram	36.87	49.96	51.43
8.	Nagaland	37.53	49.51	67.19
9.	Sikkim	25.65	47.25	49.76
10.	Tripura	46.37	55.37	59.92
C	UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	NCT of Delhi	14.20	14.95	16.34
2.	Pondicherry	6.13	7.45	7.06
3.	A & N Island	13.19	17.17	15.19
4.	Chandigarh	5.87	6.18	6.76
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.71	1.80	1.97
6.	Lakshadweep	2.27	2.39	2.62
7.	Daman & Diu	1.36	1.43	1.57
	Grand Total	2963.83	3381.50	3699.22

Note: Amount released and utilised are equi equal to allocation.

[English]

Agriculture Development Schemes

5806. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Agricultural Development Schemes during the 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of financial assistance in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal for setting up of any monitoring cell/group to check misutilisation of allocated funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under various Central/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of agriculture during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 were as follows:

Year	(Rs. Lakhs) Amount
1997-98	10306.87
1998-99	12205.96

(c) and (d) A complaint regarding misuse of funds in the scheme on Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping system Areas (ICDP-Rice) has been received on 25th April, 2000 which is under examination.

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

Child Labour in Bidi Industry

5807. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the large number of child labourers involved in bidi industry in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) As per reports received from State Governments, 37,141 child labourers have been identified in beedi making in the country during the last three years and prosecutions have been filed in 1948 cases. Out of these prosecutions, 1912 cases have been filed under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, and 36 cases under the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

[Translation]

Substandard Seeds and Fertilizers

5808. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered against the seed and fertilizers companies for supplying substandard seeds and fertilizers in the country, State-wise particularly in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the action taken against these companies; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide good quality of seeds and fertilizers to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The State Governments are adequately empowered to take necessary action under Seeds Act, Seed and Fertilizer Control Order against dealers who violate these legal instruments. The action taken on account of non-standard fertilizer samples and seed samples drawn by the Inspectors during the last three years by the Government of U.P. and Delhi are as follows:

Fertilizers:

Year	Uttar Pardesh			Delhi
	No. of Sample analyzed	Found sub-stadard	FIR/Prosecution launched	
1997-98	12419	1766	237	Not reported
1998-99	10200	1481	248	Not reported
1999-2000	3761	485	62	Not reported

Seeds

Year	Uttar Pradesh		
	No. of cases Filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by the Court of Law in which fine and (or) Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in the Court of Law
1997-98	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
1998-99	8	-	8
1999-2000	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

Year	DELHI		
	No. of cases Filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by the Court of Law in which fine and (or) Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending in the Court of Law
1997-98	Nil	-	4 (previous year cases)
1998-99	1	-	8 (including previous year cases)
1999-2000	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

(c) Funds have been provided under various Centrally Sponsored and Central sector crop development programs and Quality Control Scheme for making available good quality seeds and fertilizer to the farmers.

[English]

Production of Papaya

5809. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Papaya produced in India has great demand in other countries especially in USA;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase areas under cultivation of Papaya in the country;

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production with a view to meet the domestic need as well as to increase the export to earn foreign exchange; and

(d) 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. Papaya produced in India has great demand in other countries including USA.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Fruits under which assistance is provided for development of fruits including Papaya. The activities include production and distribution of quality planting material through nurseries, area expansion, productivity improvement programme and training of farmers. During the year 2000-01 new activities like horticulture mechanization, on farm handling of fruits, Disease Forecasting Units and Tissue/ Leaf Analysis Laboratories have been included. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as the Horticulture Department of State Agricultural Universities is conducting research on fruits including Papaya for developing improved and high yielding varieties and production technology. The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority is having programmes for facilitating export of fruits including Papaya.

Labour in Special Economic Zones

5810. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no protection for the right of labour in Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, whether in view of the Government's decision to create more such Special Economic Zones under the new Export-Import Policy for 2000-2001; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary measures to see that the rights of the labour are protected in these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In the Export and Import Policy (1997-2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31/3/2000, the Government has announced the Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country with a view to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for exports with minimum procedural requirement. The units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will have to be net foreign exchange earner but they shall not be subject to any pre-determined value addition or minimum export performance.

As far as labour matter is concerned, Special Economic Zones will be governed by the laws and rules of the country.

[Translation]

Role of Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices

5811. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices for the fixation of new price of the coming new crop of wheat likely to arrive in the market during April, 2000;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the said Commission for the fixation of prices; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) In its report on price policy for rabi crops of 1999-2000 season, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat as Rs. 550 per quintal.

(c) The Government has fixed the MSP of wheat as Rs. 580 per quintal for the 1999-2000 crop to be marketed in 2000-01 marketing year.

[English]

New Policy by SIDBI

5812. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister to SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industrial Development Bank of India has evolved a new policy to extend a five percent interest subsidy on loans given to the Small Scale Sector for the purpose of modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new SSI units have been deprived of adequate and cheap credit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner by which the Government propose to meet this requirement of the SSI sector?

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 Scheme for technology upgradation for the small sector is being formulated by the Government.

(c) to (e) Based on the viability of the project, all SSI units including new units are provided credit by the commercial banks as per prevailing norms to the extent possible. However, in order to improve the flow of credit further, the Government has taken various measures which, inter-alia, includes earmarking 60% of SSI credit under priority sector lending for tiny sector units opening of specialized bank branches, enhancing the limit of composite loans under single window scheme from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and formulation of Credit Guarantee Scheme to provide loans without collaterals upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

OECF Assistance to Sardar Sarovar Project

5813. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of OECF assistance, River Bed Power House of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been delayed;

(b) whether beneficiary States of the Sardar Sarovar Project have been requesting for Additional Central Assistance in lieu of OECF funding for import of Turbo-Generating sets from Japan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat had requested for Additional Central Assistance for import of Turbo Generator Sets. However, the proposal for Additional Central Assistance could not be considered as Sardar Sarover project is funded jointly by States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The purchase of Turbo Generating Sets is part of this project and payment for the same have to be provided by concerned State Government out of the State Plan. The Central Assistance for State Plan is provided in the framework of Gadgil Formula and is not relatable to any specific Project. However, the Turbo Generating Sets are being procured through M/s. Sumitomo Corporation Ltd., Japan who have extended the Suppliers Credit.

Damage to Foodgrains

5814. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains worth more than Rs. 40,000 crore is damaged due to moisture, birds, micro-organisms, rodents etc. every year;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of foodgrains damaged during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to reduce/check damage to the foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Exact quantum of foodgrains damaged due to moisture, birds, micro-organisms, rodents etc. every year is not known. However, a Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse in its report submitted in 1968 estimated annual losses in the foodgrains by various factors including moisture, birds, micro-organisms, rodents at 9.33%. A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection during 1973-74 estimated about 5% post-harvest losses in foodgrains out of which the storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A survey conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 estimated total foodgrains losses at about 4.12% by various factors at various post-harvest stages.

(c) To reduce/check damage to foodgrains during the post harvest period, the Government of India launched Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this Organisation are training, demonstration and publicity programmes in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at farm level. Improvement of traditional grain storage structures and popularisation of modern scientific storage structures like Metal Bins, Pucca Khoties and RCC Bins are other activities which are carried out by Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

[Translation]

MPLADS

5815. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some local officers intentionally delay the implementation of projects under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the additional cost incurred on these projects due to the delay in implementation of the projects; and

(d) the action taken against those guilty persons responsible for the delay?

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), (b) and (d) Some complaints of delay in the execution of works under MPLADS have been received from the Members of Parliament. In such cases matter is taken up with the concerned authorities of the State Government and they are advised to take suitable action against the concerned officials.

(c) The works under MPLADS, including the cases of cost escalation are to be executed as per the established procedure of the concerned State Government.

[English]

Match Fixing Scandal

5816. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whetther the South African Government has raised serious objections in the matter of alleged match-fixing episode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the South African High Commissioner was called by his ministry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the International Cricket Control Board;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

(g) whether this issue has affected India-South Africa ties;

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(i) whether the Government propose to take up this issue further with other cricketing countries alleged to be involved in match fixing; and

(j) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The South African High Commissioner in New Delhi met a senior official in the Ministry of External Affairs on 10th April 2000, at her request.

(d) During the said meeting, the matter regarding involvement of South African cricket players in the match fixing scandal was also discussed among other issues. Both the sides agreed that this is a case of criminal conspiracy, fraud and cheating and as such law would take its own course.

(e) and (f) The matter is presently under investigation by concerned authorities. Further action, as appropriate, will be taken accordingly.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. The two governments have reiterated that this episode would not affect the close and cordial relations between the two countries based on a Strategic Partnership.

(i) and (j) The matter is presently under investigation by concerned authorities. Further action, as appropriate, will be taken accordingly.

Closure of VSP

5817. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Core Committee of Secretaries has asked the Government to disinvest its majority equity in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in order to save the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project from closure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Distribution of Land

5818. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated action to distribute vacant Government Lands to the landless families of SCs/STs during 1991-92 as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee;

(b) if so, furnish the total amount of funds demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Eighth Five Year Plan for procurement and distribution of Land for the

families belonging to the SCs/STs and the funds allocated by the Planning Commission for this purpose and percentage thereof as compared to the total allocations to the Ministry;

(c) the funds allocated, released and utilised for the above purpose in the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Annual Plans of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97); and

(d) the reasons for not implementing the above recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Agriculture is primarily responsible for sustainable agriculture production. Through implementation of various schemes, the Ministry promotes agricultural development, supports soil and water conservation schemes towards agricultural expansion and consolidation, promotes expansion and strengthening of agricultural infrastructure. These activities benefit farmers of all categories including SC/ST.

Land and its management is the responsibility of the respective State Governments vide Entry No. 18 List-II – (State List) of VIIth Schedule to the Constitution. The Central Government's role is coordinating and advisory only. Ministry of Rural Development monitors the distribution of ceiling surplus land, Bhoodan Land and Government Wastelands. The distribution of vacant Government lands is not monitored by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The distribution of above does not involve any financial commitments on the part of Central Government. The Planning Commission has not allotted any fund for procurement and distribution of land for the families belonging to SCs/STs.

Handicapped

5819. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the population of disabled persons in the country in 1991, at present and expected to be after 5 and 10 years;

(b) whether there is any National Policy on the subject;

(c) if so, the outlines thereof;

(d) the details of Physical, Social, Economic and Legal actions being taken by the Government to uplift the disabled; and

(e) the number of projects for disabled persons being planned, developed at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Based on sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, it is estimated that approximately 5% of the population is suffering form some kind of disability or other.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A statement is attached.

Statement

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Oppotunities, 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.

II. 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 assumed 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) Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(7) 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.

(8) A 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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) 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.

(12) 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 Secretataries 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.

(13) An Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act.

(14) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(15) 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 multi-dimensional 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.

(16) 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, tricycle, artificial limbs, crutches and many other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons.

(17) 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.

(18) Under the Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped financial assistance is given to States for running special employment

exchanges and normal employment exchanges, for perso ıs with disabilities.

(19) 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.

(20) 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 being manned by persons with disabilities, should furnish a certificate to the 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

(21) 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.

III. Further, the Government have, recently, formulated several schemes specifically for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These include:-

(a) Six Composite Regional Resource Centres (CRCs) are being set up 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.

(b) Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities are being set up as a Central Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis to strengthen the services.

(c) Four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) are being set up to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances.

(d) A new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been recently approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastucture 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.

(e) In addition, over 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.

Performance of NAFED

5820. SHRI S.S. PLANIMANICKAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the overall business performance of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federations of India Limited (NAFED) has been continuously declining for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the measures taken/being taken to improve its business performance?

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

(a) No, Sir. Though the business performance of National Agricultural Cooperatives Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) had declined during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, yet during the year 1999-2000 NAFED has achieved a business turnover of approximately Rs. 625 crores in comparison to Rs. 462.94 crores in 1998-99.

(b) NAFED has taken the following various measures to improve its business performance:-

(i) to increase institutional supplies of food products and agricultural commodities;

(ii) to increase the activities of consumer marketing of food and agricultural products;

(iii) to expedite completion of income generating products such as bio-fertiliser unit, cold storage and other storage godowns;

(iv) to increase business activities in jute and jute products;

(v) to undertake activities under Government account such as handling of imported pulses and buffer stocking of onion; and

(vi) to make special efforts to get back the lost business viz. associate shipper status for export of Niger seed.

Poultry Research Centre

5821. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Poultry Research Centre at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu in view of large scale production of eggs in this area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no proposal at present to set up a Poultry Research Centre at Namakkal in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Abuse of Child Labour

5822. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of cases reported in each State/UT relating to sexual abuse, maltreatment and exploitation of child labour during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): The effort of the Government is to implement the child labour and other related labour laws in a manner so as to prevent the exploitation of children. The Child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act. As per the available information, the State-wise position of the violations detected and prosecutions launched under the Act, for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Violations Detected	Prosecutions Launched	Violations Detected	Prosecutions Launched	Violations Detected	Prosecutions Launched
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	41	22	551	270	493	553
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	77	0	178	3	0	0
Bihar	1172	31	987	81	279	97
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Delhi	109	109	12	12	10	16
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	2	3	0	13	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kerala	5	1	–	–	0	2
Karnataka	–	–	–	–	153	2
Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	97	2	605	389	1913	17
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	186	2	353	9	127	128
Punjab	15	12	22	24	8	5
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	–	–
Rajasthan	0	16	0	891	0	601
Tamilnadu	18	34	5	69	242	241
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	264	249	–	–	–	–

[English]

Indo-German Ties

5823. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Germany held dialogue on bilateral and multilateral issues recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMR PANJA) : (a) Yes Sir. Mr. Wolfgang Ischinger, the German State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, visited India on 12 April, 2000 for annual Foreign Office Consultations and to initiate a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

(b) and (c) The discussions between Mr. Ischinger and Foreign Secretary in the Foreign Office Consultations allowed for a review of bilateral political, economic, defence and cultural relations. They have also contributed to the preparations for the visit of the German Foreign Minister which is scheduled for mid-May 2000.

The discussions held in the Strategic Dialogue covered issues relating to global and regional security and stability, disarmament and non-proliferation, international terrorism, world economy and trade and the reform of the United Nations. The discussions have contributed to a closer understanding on these issues of mutual concern to the countries. The German side have also indicated that it is self-evident that India is a primary candidate for UNSC

permanent membership. It was agreed that the Strategic Dialogue will take place bi-annually, alternately in the two countries.

Coirboard and SSI Office in Tamilnadu

5824. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an office of Coir Board and Small Scale Industry at Pudukottai in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINITSRY 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.

(c) At present, besides two showrooms the Coir Board has the following three institutions in Tamil Nadu for the development of the Coir Industry in that State.

(i) Regional Office at Pollachi

(ii) Regional Coir Training and Development Centre at Thanjavur

(iii) Research-cum-Extension Centre at Tenkasi.

The Regional Officer, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu is entrusted with the co-ordination of overall developmental activities of coir industry in the State. The Regional Coir Training & Development Centre, Thanjavur and the Research-cum-Extension Centre at Tenkasi provide the necessary technical and extension support to the coir industry in Tamil Nadu.

In so far as setting up of an SSI Office is concerned, no such proposal is under the consideration of this Ministry.

Action Plan for Unemployment

5825. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new employment policy to tackle the problem of unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unemployed youths in major metropolitan cities at present in the category of graduates, post graduates and under graduates; and

(d) the target fixed for curbing unemployed in these cities during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government is fully aware of the unemployment problem and employment has been an important objective of development planning over the last 40 years or so. The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and underemployment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of the labour and adopted a Nationwide Employment Assurance Scheme. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has also been set-up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (ten million jobs in each year).

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) For generation of employment for educated unemployed youth in major metropolitan cities, special employment programmes like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are being implemented. Fixing of targets have been left to concerned State Governments.

Statement

Number of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Major Metropolitan Cities as on 30.06.1998 Classified by Educational Levels

Sl. No.	Major Metro-politan Cities	Number on Live Register, in thousands, as on 30.06.1998			
		Under Graduates (10th class and 10+2 passed)	Gra-duates	Post Gra-duates	Total (Educated applicants 10th Class & above)
1.	Ahmedabad	83.0	18.3	2.9	104.2
2.	Bangalore	246.3	94.2	14.1	354.6
3.	Mumbai	412.9	40.2	5.5	458.6
4.	Calcutta	151.0	34.6	0.7	186.3
5.	Delhi	596.1	238.8	34.0	869.0
6.	Hyderabad	63.2	58.3	23.3	144.8
7.	Kanpur	73.8	20.7	4.6	99.1
8.	Chennai	217.1	167.8	73.9	458.8
9.	Nagpur	150.5	21.4	7.0	179.0
10.	Pune	162.8	29.1	10.3	202.2

Note: More thn one employment exchange is functioning in each major metropolitan city. Data includes information in respect of all the Employment Exchanges functioning in a city.

Harassment of Indians

5826. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's hi-tech manpower is in great demand in America and other European countries and the Indians are going abroad for better service career prospects;

(b) if so, the number of such Indians who have migrated abroad in each of the last three years, category-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether the complaints have been received by the Indian Government on harassment meted out to such Indians in the foreign countries;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the interests of our Indian people abroad; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to retain the hi-tech brain manpower within the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) While some highly skilled professionals do emigrate to other countries for employment, no record of such persons is kept as in their case emigration clearance is not required.

(c) and (d) There was the case of Indian computer professionals who were arrested in Texas in January 2000 by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service of USA, for alleged violation of their employment terms under the H1-B visa, by working for a company other than one listed on their labour certificates. They were released the next day after the company that hired them viz. M/s Frontier Consulting Inc. executed bonds for their release. On that occasion, the Ambassador of India in Washington lodged a strong protest with the State Department as well as with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service over the arrest of the Indian nationals. The Assistant Secretary of the State Department expressed deep regret over this incident on behalf of the US Government. All charges against the Indian professionals were subsequently dropped.

(e) With higher levels of direct foreign investment as also increasing investment by investors in India, particularly in the areas of information and technology, the emoluments for highly skilled professionals are expected to increase significantly. The transnational companies are already realising that it is worthwhile to set up research as well as research development centres in India rather than to deploy Indian manpower in other countries to set up such facilities there. With this, brain drain from the country is expected to reverse. There are already signs to this effect.

Resumption of IA Flights

5827. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government held diplomatic discussions with Nepal over the question of resumption of IA flights;

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

(c) whether any assurance has been given by the Nepal Government to provide safety and security to planes and passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) A 6-member Civil Aviation Expert Team that visited Nepal from January 19-25, 2000 discussed with the Nepalese authorities the strengthening of security and immigration controls at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Indian Airlines has also identified certain additional measures which they would need to take for ensuring the safety of their Aircraft, passengers and crew in the wake of the hijacking, consistent with ICAO norms and international civil aviation procedures and practice. One round of bilateral discussions has been held in Kathmandu from March 28 - April 01, 2000 to firm up these arrangements. Progress has been made but some procedures need to be further refined and finalised. The flights will resume as soon as these operational details are tied up. On their part, the Nepalese Government have also assured us that they are taking the necessary measures to enhance security at the Tribhuvan International Airport on a priority basis.

Derogatory Language Against Hinduism

5828. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Southern Baptist convention of Washington has recently brought out a prayer book in which aggressive and insensitive as well as derogatory language has been used against Hindus and Hinduism; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The International Missions Board of the Southern Baptists published three prayer guides for Muslims, Hindus and Jews. The "Prayer for Hindus" was issued in October 1999. The pamphlet asks Southern Baptists to pray "for several unreached Hindu people groups".

(b) Government of India conveyed to United States authorities the concern felt by Indian organisations over the offensive tone to the "prayer books". The Indian Embassy in Washington was also in close touch with leaders of Indian American organisations, advising them in their efforts to take up the matter with the US government.

The Indian Constitution Guarantees absolute religious freedom to the citizens of the country, reflecting the well-known social traditions of tolerance and respect for all religions. Government views all manifestations of religious intolerance in that light.

Waste Disposal

5829. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the present arrangement for scientific disposal of uranium/ nuclear waste without endangering human life;

(b) if so, furnish details thereof alongwith proposals received in this regard and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to constitute a multidisciplinary team comprising of medical personnel, radiologists, ecologists, sociologists, chemists to study existing arrangement regarding disposal of nuclear waste; and

(d) if so, furnish action plan for the current 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) and (b) Management of radio-active wastes including their disposal in a safe manner has been in practice in India for over 3 decades. Our practices are in keeping with the highest standards of safety in respect of the environment in general and members of public in particular. Waste management is carried out in conformity with the guidelines prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), which is the Indian Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority. These guidelines are based on internationally accepted principles, as endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(c) The Department of Atomic Energy has a team of competent experts covering all the relevant disciplines and hence the question of constituting a multi-disciplinary team does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Agreements with European Countries

5830. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the agreements signed by

the Government with various European countries to improve and strengthen relations during the year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : A statement giving details of agreements signed by the Government with various European countries during the year 1999-2000 is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Country	Details of Agreements	Date and Place
1.	Ukraine	Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation.	7.4.1999 Kyiv
2.	Russia	Agreement For Cooperation in Veterinary Field.	16.4.1999 New Delhi
3.	Russia	Agreement on Mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.	10.6.1999 New Delhi
4.	Austria	Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.	8.11.1999 Vienna
5.	Austria	Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	8.11.1999
6.	Croatia	Agreement between the Foreign Service Instutute of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Diplomatic Academy.	5.1.2000 New Delhi
7.	Switzerland	Protocol amending the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income.	16.2.2000 New Delhi
8.	Portugal	Agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation.	31.3.2000 Lisbon

Externally Aided Educational Projects

5831. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the various externally aided Educational Projects, currently accessible to the Indian scholars of various disciplines;

(b) the names of extornally aided scholarships for various disciplines and the respective awardees during the last two years;

(c) whether the Indian Embassies abroad also invite applications from foreign nationals for the research/ study programmes in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the research activities carried out in the field of archaeology, art and history by Indian scholars during the last three years through these externally aided scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Indian Coundil for Cultural Relations invites applications through Indian Missions abroad from foreign nationals for research/special programmes in India and administers several scholarship schemes under which foreign scholars are accommodated. The ICCR offers 1000 scholarships every year under its various schemes. International students from over 70 countries study in different universities and educational institutions in India and pursue a variety of courses from under-graduate studies to doctoral degrees in various subjects. The scholarships are available for scholars in humanities, pure sciences, performing arts, agriculture, education, environment studies, languages, literature, mass-communication, engineering, applied economics, biochemistry, business administration, social work, public administration, law & religious studies, international studies, anthropology, etc., and also for learning Indian classical music and dance, painting, sculpture, etc.

While terms and conditions of various scholarship schemes may vary marginally in terms of whether the scholarship is inclusive of air fare or not, for most part they are uniform and consist of tuition fee, stipend for living expenses, house rent allowance, annual contingency grant and medical coverings. Beside this, study tour, students' camps and welfare activities, such as celebration of International Students Festivals are also undertaken.

Government of India offers various scholarship programmes for Bhutanese nationals. The details are as follows :-

(i) 50 scholarships under Aid to Bhutan.

(ii) 50 scholarships under TCS of the Colombo Plan.

(iii) 20 slots for training facilities under ITEC Programme for short term training courses.

(iv) Chair/Fellowship/Scholarship under SAARC Scheme :-

Scholarship		2
Fellowship	:	1
Chair (to be rotated among SAARC countries)		1

The following scholarships are being offered to Nepalese scholars in 2000-2001:-

(i) 50 scholarships for BE/BTech courses under Nepal Aid Fund.

(ii) 25 scholarship for Postgraduate courses under Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme.

(iii) 3 scholarships for courses in music/fine arts under General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GSCC).

(iv) 2 scholarships of PhD under SAARC Scheme.

(v) 5 scholarships each for M.Sc. (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Agriculture) and BVSc under Nepal Aid Fund.

(vi) 3 scholarships for Diploma in Engineering under GSCC.

(vii) 50 scholarships for employees of His Majesty's Government of Nepal under TCS of Colombo Plan.

(viii) 30 scholarships for employees of His Majesty's Government of Nepal under ITEC Scheme.

(ix) 50 scholarships by Indira Gandhi National Open University for SAARC countries for Open University courses.

(e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Fishes in Thana Lake

5832. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fish have died in the Thana lake recently;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) The lake with an area of about 6.06 hectares is under the jurisdiction of Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra. The loss of fish is significant, and is primarily due to pollution of the lake by urban waste. The State Government can apply for financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture".

[Translation]

Special Police Stations for SCs/STs

5833. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special police stations operating all over the country to check oppression and exploitation of weaker sections, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases registered during the last five years, State-wise;

(c) the total number of cases registered in offices of National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi and in different States during the last five years, State-wise;

(d) the number of pending cases; and

(e) the cases which are pending for more than five years in different offices of the said Commission and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from States/UTs.

(c) to (e) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes do not register cases pertaining to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Per Capita Income

5834. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income of India as compare to that of other neighbouring countries;

(b) the rank of India in the world as per as the per capita income is concerned; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to raise per capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE NINISTRY 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) Comparable figures of per capita income (Gross National Product) for India and other countries are furnished in enclosed Statement. India ranks at 177 in the 209 countries in the world as per World Bank Atlas, 1999.

(c) To raise per capita income in the country, accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices and containing the growth rate of population are essential. Some of the steps to achieve these are detailed in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Rank	GNP per capita, 1997 World Bank Atlas method	US $
1	2	3
1	Liechtenstein	50,000
2	Luxembourg	45,000
3	Switzerland	43,060
4	Japan	38,160
5	Norway	36,100
6	Bermuda	35,,000
7	Denmark	34,890
8	Singapore	32,810
9	Cayman Islands	32,000
10	United States	29,080
11	Germany	28,280
12	Austna	27,920
13	Iceland	27,000
14	Belgaum	26,730
15	France	26,300
16	Sweden	26,210
17	Monaco	26,000
18	Netherlands	25,830
19	Hongkong China	25,200
20	Finland	24,790
22	United Kingdom	20,870
23	Australia	20,650
24	Italy	20,170
25	Canada	19,640
28	Ireland	17,790
32	Israel	16,180
35	New Zealand	15,830
38	Spain	14,490

1	2	3
49	Greece	11,640
52	Portugal	11,010
53	Korea, Rep.	10,550
54	Slovenia	9,840
56	Malta	9,330
57	Argentina	8,950
62	Antigua & Barbuda	7,380
64	Saudi Arabia	7,150
67	Seychelles	6,910
68	St. Kitts and Nevis	6,260
69	Uruguay	6,130
70	Czech Republic	5,240
72	Chile	4,820
73	Brazil	4,790
74	Malaysia	4,530
75	Hungary	4,510
76	Trinidad and Tobago	4,250
77	Gabon	4,120
78	Croatia	4,060
80	Mauritius	3,870
81	Mexico	3,700
82	Slovak Republic	3,680
83	Poland	3,590
84	St. Lucia	3,510
85	Venezuela	3,480
86	Estonia	3,360
87	Lebanon	3,350
88	Botswana	3,310
89	South Africa	3,210
90	Grenada	3,140
91	Turkey	3,130
92	Panama	3,080
93	Dominica	3,040
94	Thailand	2,740
95	Costa Rica	2,680
95	Russian Federation	2,680
97	Belize	2,670
98	Peru	2,610
99	Fiji	2,460
101	Latvia	2,430
102	St. Vincent/Grenadines	2,420
103	Lithuania	2,260
104	Colombia	2,180
105	Belarus	2,150
106	Namibia	2,110
106	Tunisia	2,110
108	Paraguay	2,000
109	Micronesis Fed. Sts.	1,920
110	El Salvador	1,810
110	Tonga	1,810
112	Iran, Islamic Rep.	1,780
113	Dominican Republic	1,750
114	Marshall Islands	1,610
116	Guatemala	1,580
117	Ecuador	1,570
119	Jamaica	1,550
120	Jordan	1,520
120	Swaziland	1,520
122	Algeria	1,500
124	Romania	1,410

1	2	3
125	Kazhakstan	1,350
126	Vanuatu	1,340
127	Suriname	1,320
128	Moracco	1,260
129	Egypt, Arab Rep.	1,200
129	Philippines	1,200
131	Maldives	1,180
132	Bulgaria	1,170
133	Samoa	1,140
134	Syrian Arab Republic	1,120
135	Indonesia	1,110
136	Macedonia, FYR	1,100
137	Cape Verde	1,090
138	Equatorial Guinea	1,060
139	Ukraine	1,040
140	Uzbekistan	1,020
141	Bolivia	970
142	Papua New Guinea	930
143	Kirbati	910
144	Solomon Islands	870
145	China	860
145	Georgia	860
148	Guyana	800
148	Sri Lanka	800
151	Albania	760
152	Honduras	740
153	Zimbabwe	720
154	Cote d'ivoire	710
155	Lesotho	680
156	Congo. Rep.	670
157	Turkmenistan	640
158	Cameroon	620
159	Armenia	560
160	Guinea	550
161	Senegal	540
163	Azerbaijan	510
164	Pakistan	500
166	Kyrgyz Republic	480
167	Moldova	460
168	Mauritania	440
169	Bhutan	430
170	Nicaragua	410
171	Comoros	400
171	Lao PDR	400
173	Ghana	390
173	Mongolia	390
175	Benin	380
175	Haiti	380
177	India	370
177	Zambia	370
179	Bangladesh	360
180	Gambia, The	340
180	Kenya	340
180	Togo	340
183	Tajikistan	330
183	Uganda	330
185	Centra African Republic	320
186	Vietnam	310
187	Cambodia	300
189	Sao Tome and Principe	290
189	Sudan	290
191	Nigeria	280
192	Yemen, Rep.	270

1	2	3
193	Angola	260
193	Mali	260
196	Burkina Faso	250
196	Madagaskar	250
198	Chad	230
198	Eritrea	230
198	Guinea-Bissau	230
201	Nepal	220
202	Malawi	210
202	Rwanda	210
202	Tanzania	210
205	Niger	200
206	Sierra Leone	160
207	Burundi	140
207	Mozambique	140
209	Congo. Dem. Rep.	110
209	Ethiopia	110

Source : 1999 World Bank Atlas.

[English]

IT Policy

5835. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have submitted their information technology policy for the new millennium to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment the use of Indian languages and empowering women;

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

(c) the likely cost of each scheme and the manner in which it is likely to benefit common man; and

(d) the Central aid sought, sanctioned and released therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) According to information received from various State Governments, the following States have so far formulated a policy on Information Technology:-

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The IT policy broadly lays down the vision and objectives of the particular State Government.

(c) and (d) The Central Government on its part would consider specific proposals as and when received from the State Government subject to technical/financial viability.

Price of Palm Oil

5836. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals form the State Governments particularly Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh to fix the support price of palm oil; and

(b) if so, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) There is no Minimum Support price for palm oil or oil palm. However, proposals for the procurement of oil palm under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) were received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The proposal of Andhra Pradesh has already been approved and the scheme is in operation. The proposal of Karnataka is under consideration. No such proposals have been received either from Maharashtra or Kerala.

Japanese Aid to India

5837. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan which was a leading aid donor to India had stopped bilateral assistance following nuclear tests;

(b) if so, whether the Japanese have now decided to provide the same;

(c) if so, the extent to which Japanese have resumed development aid to India;

(d) whether the Japanese appraisal team from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund visited Delhi in January, 2000 for talks on the second phase of the Delhi metro rail project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any agreements in this regard have been reached; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) After the Pokharan tests, "economic measures" were announced by Japan against India in May 1998. It was decided by Government of Japan that while fresh Yen loan would be frozen, ongoing projects would not be affected. It was also stated that subsequent tranches of ongoing time-slice projects would be considered on a 'case to case basis'. While the second tranche for Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project has been sanctioned at the last moment, decision on second/subsequent tranches of many other Japanese time-slice projects are due.

(c) Consequent upon the nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1998, Government of Japan imposed economic sanctions. After the economic sanctions, only one project, I.e., Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit 3 Extension (II) of West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. have been signed on 24.3.1999 for an amount of Yen 15,537 million (US $ 107 million approx.).

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Japanese appraisal mission visited India from Tokyo from 24th January – 11th February, 2000 and conducted site survey for the items to be covered in the second tranche loan for the Delhi MRTS project of DMRC. Minutes of discussions were signed between DMRC and Japan Bank of International Cooperation on 11th February 2000. However, no commitment/pledge has so far been made by the Japanese.

[Translation]

Voluntary Organisation

5838. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes implemented by the voluntary organisations in Food Processing Sector;

(b) the amount allocated to these voluntary organisations during the last two years;

(c) the targets fixed and achievements made in this regard; and

(d) the number of schemes likely to be withdrawn/ introduced during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) The Plan Schemes operated by the Department of Food Processing Industries are project oriented and not organization specific and therefore no organization-wise allocation of funds is made.

Under these Plan Schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions for the development of Processed Food Sector.

[English]

Missile Tested by USA

5839. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has conducted tests of the "Kill Vehicle" made under the "star wars" nuclear programme and the proposed missile could have many parts of Asia within its range;

(b) if so, whether this is in violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; 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) and (b) Yes Sir. In October 1999, the US successfully tested an interceptor that destroyed a dummy in-coming ballistic missile using "hit-to-kill" technology. A subsequent test in January 2000 failed and further tests are planned. These tests are part of the US programme to develop defence

systems against different kinds of missiles. Russia has stated that the testing and plans for deployment of such systems will be inconsistent with the bilateral 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty that prohibits deployment of nation-wide ballistic missile defence systems or the creation of the basis for such a defence.

(c) India has consistently opposed weaponisation of outer space and maintains that arms control treaties need to be implemented fully and in good faith to maintain stability. Unilateral actions perceived to be inconsistent with existing treaties may reduce the prospects for further nuclear disarmament, weaken non-proliferation constraints and encourage other nuclear weapon states to reconsider their strategic force modernisation plans.

Capture of Indian Student

5840. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "indian student escapes from Chechnya but stuck in Russia" apearing in the Indian Express dated April 2, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The report in the Indian Express and other similar reports in the Indian media were based on Russian Television reports. The Russian media had reported the capture by the Russian Federal troops of an Indian national among some rebels in th Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation. It had been further reported that the Indian national. Shri Satyanarayan Raghunath Mishra, a student, had been detained for interrogation by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation at Makhachkala, capital of the Republic of Dagestan of the Russian Federation.

(c) As soon as Government became aware of reports of Shri Mishra's detention, it immediately sought details from the Russian authorities. As a result of continuous interaction with the Russian authorities, Government has now been officially informed that the interrogation of Shri Mishra has been completed and that no evidence was found to suggest that he was involved in the fighting alongside rebels in the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation against the Russian Federal troops. Shri Mishra is currently under the protective custody of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

Government is in touch with the Russian authorities regarding Shri Mishra's repatriation to India.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Scheme

5841. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Garibi Hatao Ke Sau Karvakaramon Par Das Hajar Karor. Par Hal Vahi" appearing in 'Jansatta' New Delhi edition dated January 18, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Removal of Poverty and creation of an environment which whould enable people to give full expression to their abilities is one of the prime concerns of the Government. To achieve the above objectives, the Government has adopted a strategy for reduction of poverty which seeks to accelerate economic growth with a focus on employment intensive sectors, ensure human and social development through basic minimum services and anti-poverty programmes comprising of long term income generating schemes and Employment Assurance Scheme to obviate transient poverty. These Schemes have been in operation for a considerable time. The Schemes are continuously monitored and evaluated. Modifications in Schemes have been carried out periodically to improve their efficacy.

The efforts of the Government both the Central and State Governments have led to a decline in the poverty proportion in the country. The percentage of population

below poverty line which was 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 has come down to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. Rural poverty during this period has declined from 56.4 per cent ot 37.3 per cent. However, due to the rise in popuiation in the intervening years, the number of people below poverty line has remained at 320 million on an all-India basis. While Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are some of the States which have achieved considerable reduction in poverty, the poverty ratio in Bihar has declined much less and remains fairly high. As against the all-India average of 35.97 per cent of the people below poverty line, 54.96 per cent people in Bihar were below the poverty line in 1993-94. However, greater efforts need to be made in the coming years to launch a frontal assault on poverty.

Assistance for Seeds

5842. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend assistance to the State of Madhya Pradesh for production of seeds on Government agricultural land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which this Assistance is likely to be provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 200/- per quintal and Rs. 400 per quintal under Oilseeds Production Programme and National Pulses Development Project respectively, being operated by this Department, is being provided to the State Government for the production of foundation seed in their farms. The first instalment of funds for the implementation of these schemes in the States is generally released during the month of June every year.

[English]

Eradication of Child Labour

5843. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government to create awareness among the masses about eradication of child labour during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the achievements made by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) During the year 1995-96 over Rs. 650 lakhs were released to 133 child labour endemic districts for generating awareness against child labour.

As a part of the Media Campaign against child labour, funds have been released to the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), Song and Drama Division and Directorate of Field Publicity as per details given below.

		1998-99	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakhs)
(i)	DAVP	74.35	29.74
(ii)	Song & Drama	20.00	91.00
(iii)	Dir. of Field Publicity	20.34	38.00
	Total	114.69	158.74

Periodical reports on expenditure made and physical progress is submitted by the Agencies.

Under the scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Project Societies are also taking up awareness generation activities at the District level.

Indo-Nepal JWG Meeting

5844. SHRI ABDUL HAMID :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) held its meeting in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether both the countries have agreed to jointly promote use of Sanskrit and make the Ayurvedic System of medicine popular ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) No meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) was recently held in New Delhi. However, the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management was held from February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. During the meeting, the two sides reiterated

their determination not to permit the use of their respective territories for activities directed against the other. They reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the JWG and had a useful exchange of views on modalities for more effective management and regulation of the India-Nepal border. They agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the border. It was reiterated that the privilege of unimpeded access across the open border enjoyed by the nationals of the two countries should not be allowed to be misused by anyone, including third country nationals. The need for intensified and coordinated patrolling at sensitive border points, including the deployment of Central and State Police Forces on our side, was discussed with the objective of enhancing security and preventing misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.

(d) and (e) India and Nepal have a long tradition of cooperation to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Such cooperation has, with Government's support and facilitation, strangthened over the years. However, there is no formal agreement between India and Nepal specifically to promote the use of Sanskrit and popularise the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

[Translation]

Monitoring Team on Jammu & Kashmir

5845. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union Parliament has appointed a monitoring team to keep a vigil on Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) whether this step by European Union Parliament would internationalise Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to counter this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. The European Parliament has not appointed a monitoring team on Jammu & Kashmir. There is, however, a fringe group of a few Members of the European Parliament which meets privately to discuss issues relating to Jammu & Kashmir. It has no official status in the European Parliament.

(b) Government of India will continue to follow these and related developments in the European Parliament.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Fishery Survey of India

5846. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fishery Survey of India propose to set up more offices in the country to promote fisheries;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Fishery Survey of India with its Headquarters at Mumbai has seven operational bases viz. Porbander, Mumbai, Mormugao, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Port Blair. It also has a fleet of 12 large survey vessels which can meet the objective of surveying the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

[Translation]

Discrimination Against Indians

5847. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether discrimination in practised in some of the Gulf countries against persons of Indian origin in the matter of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No report of discrimination on any Gulf country against persons of Indian origin in the matter of employment has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Expansion of Atomic Policy

5848. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Department is considering to expand its activities at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total cost estimated and the programme 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be premature at this stage to indicate the precise cost estimate and the programmes as a clear picture in this regard would emerge only at the time of formulation of the 10th Five Year Plan the spade work for which will be started usually a year ahead of the start of the said Five Year Plan.

Visit of British Foreign Secretary

5849. SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain Foreign Secretary visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with him; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Robin Cook, the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, visited India from 15-18 April, 2000.

(b) and (c) The discussions contributed to an enhanced understanding on bilateral issues as well as on developments in India's neighbourhood, non-proliferation and disarmament, international terroism, the forthcoming meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group and the India-EU Summit. Both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and commerce to achieve a target of 5 billion over the next two years. It was agreed to initiate in the year 2001, a formal, structured bilateral dialogue between senior officials on issues pertaining to non-proliferation and disarmament. Mr. Cook publicly stated that the U.K. sees India 'as a natural contender for permanent membership of the United Nation Security Council'. During the visit, India and the U.K. inaugurated the high-level, non-governmental India-U.K. Round Table, which has been constituted recently to advise the Governments of India and the U.K. on ways of enhancing and enriching the bilateral relationship.

Cleaning of Koovam Canal Adiayaru

5850. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. President during his visit to India has offered to extend technical know-how to clean the Koovam Canal, Adiayaru and Bughimham canal in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details of the offer;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to help the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has not received any scheme in this regard. However the State Government of Tamilnadu has sent a project proposal regarding an integrated Project encompassing the cleaning of Waterways of Chennai City, rehabilitation of slum dwelers and plugging of sewage infall pipes in City. Waterways at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,700 crore to Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Urban Development of Government of India in February, 2000 for funding.

Failure of Crops

5851. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce during the last three years due to soil erosion, State-wise;

(b) the remedial measures taken by Government so far to save the loss of crop due to soil erosion particularly in the rainfed areas and to the extent to which these measures have been able to save the agriculture produce;

(c) the deficiencies in the existing method of soil conservation; and

(d) the alternative methods are proposed to be adopted by Government for enhancing the yields in the rainfed areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No scientific survey has been undertaken to estimate percentage of annual loss of agriculture produce due to to soil erosion.

(b) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various schemes namely:

(i) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas;

(ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers;

(iii) Watershed Development project in Shifting Cultivation Areas to minimise Soil erosion in the Rainfed Areas.

The measures adopted include contour bunding, vegetative Hedges, Agro Forestry, Horticulture Development, Afforestation, Pasture Development, Drainage Line Treatment, Water Harvesting structure, Percolation tanks etc. which have been found to be very effective in controlling soil erosion and recharging ground water and increasing crop productivity. Impact evaluation have indicated (i) rise in groundwater recharge and (ii) reduction in sediment yield.

(c) and (d) During 9th Plan, the thrust have been on sustainable development of agriculture through community participation in watershed management. Studies have indicated that watershed based programmes have led to increased cropping intensity as well as enhanced yields.

Technology Mission on Black Pepper

5852. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a project namely "Technology Mission on Black Pepper" from Kerala Government; and

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

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) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala has launched Technology Mission for Black pepper for implementation as a State activity with a total project cost of Rs. 221.62 crore over a period of 7 years. The total project cost is to be borne by various participating departments/agencies of Union and State Government. Final decision has not been taken with regard to financial implications of various participating departments/agencies, as it involves inter-governmental and inter-ministerial coordination.

[Translation]

De-addiction

5853. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from some voluntary organizations working in Bihar and Gujarat for complete de-addiction in the society;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of such organizations, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) Proposals from the undermentioned Non-Governmental organizations recommended by the State Governments for setting up De-addiction Centres in Bihar and Gujarat have been received during 99-2000;

BIHAR:

1. Jagaran, Patna
2. Environmental Consultancy Centre, Patna
3. Rural Youth Coordination Centre, Chhapra
4. Vishwayatan, Nalanda

GUJARAT:

1. Indian Council of Social Welfare, Ahmedabad
2. Patani Sheri Sewa Sangh, Ahmedabad
3. Balkanji Bari Centre, Ahmedabad

Of the above mentioned organizations, the cases of Jagaran, Patna, Environmental Cousultancy Centre, Patna, and Rural Youth coordination Centre, Patna have been sanctioned. The proposals of the remaining NGOs are under examination. As per the existing policy, the Government considers such proposals in terms of the provisions of the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance(Drugs) Abuse, and taking into account the need for setting up of such a centre in the area applied for.

[English]

National SC/ST Development Authority

5854. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Parliamentary Forum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' vide representation dated December 16, 1996 submitted to the Government have demanded creation of a permanent Nodal Agency called "National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Authority" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for formulation of policy matters, planning, co-ordination, monitoring and effective implementation of all the schemes meant for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of our country and reiterated the same again vide similar representations dated September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998;

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

(c) if not reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter was referred to the Planning Commission which did not find favour the proposal on the ground that the setting up of National SC/ST Development Authority would delink them from the mainstream of development administration and that this would seriously constrain their effectiveness besides involving heavy administrative expenditure to make the new arrangement work.

[Translation]

Cost of Production

5855. SHRI SUKDEO PAWSAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the cost of production undertaken in the research centres and by the farmers in the fields;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether any national level scheme has been formulated to educate the farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The cost of production on experimental farm is marginally higher due to conducting the experiments following statistical design. There is also variation of cost in different components due to production technology adopted in research centres and in the farmer's fields. The comparative study of cost of cultivation for paddy is given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) for taking up the activities including frontline demonstrations for establishing the production potentials on farmer's fields, on farm testing for identifying the location specificity of technologies; and its dissemination through training of farmers and in-service personnel. During the last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) an amount of Rs. 138.77 crores was allotted for the purpose.

Statement

Comparative Study–Cost of Cultivation

Farm Operation	Farmers' Field (Rs./ha)	Experimental Farm* (Rs./ha)
Puddling	1215	750
Nursery raising/transplanating	3690	6125
Inputs (fertilizer and water)	2000	2150
Plant Protection	280	350
Weeding	2100	2000
Harvesting	2088	3750
Threshing	1800	562.5
Total	13173	15687.5

*Data based on existing average labour wages at Directorate of Rice Research farm @Rs. 150/man day.

[English]

India's Candidature for Security Council

5856. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "U.S. Congress urge Bill to back India" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 19, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Government of india is aware of the news item captioned 'U.S. Congressmen urge Bill to back India' which appeared in the Indian Express of March 19, 2000.

(b) and (c) The news item concerns a combined letter written by 65 Congressmen to the US President on March 17, 2000 just prior to his visit to India. The letter draws attention to the commonalities that exist between India and the US as the two largest democracies and draws attention to reasons for strengthening US relations with India. In the letter, the Congressmen also express their belief that to pave the way for a qualitatively new and closer relationship between the world's two largest democracies, the best way would be for the US to publicly acknowledge the strength of India's claim to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Setting Up of KVK

5857. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved setting up of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Holenarasipura in Hassan District Karnataka;

(b) if so, when it was sanctioned and the reasons for not being made functional;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka is now ready to provide all facilities for starting of the proposed Krishi Vigyan Kendra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) approved for the establishment of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Holenarasipura in Hassan district of Karnataka.

(b) The KVK was sanctioned during April, 1991. The land allotted by the State Government was undulating, barren, inaccessible and encroached by local people and lacked civic amenities. With the consent of the Govt. of Karnataka, the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore shifted the KVK of Kandli in the same district.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal from the Government of Karnataka. Moreover, in view of substantial investment made for establishment of the KVK at Kandli, the ICAR is not in a position to re-establish the KVK at Holenarasipura.

[Translation]

Efficacy of Extradition Treaties

5858. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a question mark has been put on the efficacy of extradition treaties signed between India and other countries; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to make these treaties effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. The Extradition Treaties provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive criminals and contain an undertaking by the Contracting States to extradite fugitive offenders. The Treaties also specify cirumstances and conditions, which govern the process of extradition. The objective behind signing Extradition Treaties is to combat all crimes including organized crime such as terrorism, drug-trafficking and economic crime by making fugitive criminals available for trial.

After submission of extradition request by Indian Government, it is examined by the concerned administrative and legal authorities of the Requested State in terms of their domestic, bilateral and international laws. This process often takes time as the person whose extradition has been sought has all the legal remedies available and may use them to delay or stall the extradition.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Working of ESI

5859. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the working of ESIC for the last three years ending as on March 31, 2000 in terms of standard monitoring norms, targets set and achieved, MoU signed etc.; and

(b) if so, details thereof year-wise with agenda for action plan for the current year and during Ninth Five Year Plan period for extension and strengthening of health cover facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The ESI Scheme is a self-financing Social Security Scheme. Extension/ implementation of the ESI Scheme is need-based and is not linked to five year plans. The ESI Scheme is being extended area-wise in a phased manner. As per the phased programme for 2000-2001 formulated in consultation with the State Governments, the Corporation has decided to extend the ESI Scheme in 71 new areas covering about 1.66 lakh employees. Review of working of the ESI Scheme is an on-going process. However, in July, 1998, the Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sathyam to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Committee submitted its report on 14.1.1999. The recommendations of the Committee regarding enhancement of the ceilling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum, issue of photo-identity cards to IPs and family members, creation of medical posts as per the prescribed norms, enhancement of in-house capabilities of ESI hospitals, introduction of Health Record Booklet for each beneficiary, non-reservation in favour of small scale industries for supply of medicines, multi-level quality control checks, deterrent penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, purchase of medicines in strip packs, adequate delegation of powers to facilitate local purchase of medicines, uniformity in OPD timings etc. have been accepted so as to streamline working of medical facilities under the ESI Scheme. In order to improve working of ESI hospitals/dispensaries the Corporation has also formulated Annual Action Plan which includes inter-alia provision of modern equipment system in hospitals, availability of basic equipments in dispensaries, establishment of regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer treatment centres, development of indigenous system of medicines etc. For this purpose, the Corporation sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1634.76 lakh during 1998-99. Keeping in view the resource position of the Employmees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Cash Benefits have been revised from time to time. The Extended Sickness Benefit which was earlier payable for a maximum of 309 days has been extended upto two years. The rate of extended sickness benefit has been enhanced from 62.5% to 70% of the pay. The amount of funeral benefit has been enhanced from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/-. The Contributory conditions for entitlement to sickness benefit has been reduced from 91 days to 78 days and for maternity benefit from 80 days to 70 days. It has been decided to exempt the employees in receipt of wages upto Rs. 40/- per day from payment of their share of contribution under the ESI Scheme.

Development of KVIC

5860. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes being implemented by the present Government for the development of Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) whether the position of Khadi and Village Industries has been deteriorating day by day due to withdrawal of grants provided for Khadi and lakhs of people have been rendered unemployed due to this new policy;

(c) if so, whether the Government would reconsider its new policy; and

(d) if not, the extent of unemployment likely to increase as a result therefrom?

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 Government is implementing various programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries. It provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan to the KVIC for the development of Khadi and Village Industries Programmes. Under the Khadi Programme, financial assistance is being provided to the implementing agencies in the form of 'Rebate' and interest subsidy. For the development of village industries "Margin Money Scheme" is being implemented.

The Government has also launched a National Programme for Rural Industrialisation under which rural clusters are being developed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

MPLADS

5861. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints from the Members of Parliament regarding non-issuance of utilization certificates in time and not starting the work in time by the district officials despite the recommendations made by the M.P. under the MP Local Area Development Scheme in the country especially in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(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 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) Some complaints in undertaking MPLADS works on the basis of recommendatrions made by MPs have been received. In such cases, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned authority of the State Government for taking remedial action.

Discussion on India's N-Doctrine

5862. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that Chinese and Russian Presidents may discuss India's nuclear doctrine;

(b) if so, whether India has been asked to explain the nuclear doctrine;

(c) whether both Russia and China have urged India and Pakistan to comprehensively implement the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1172 urging both the countries to roll back their nuclear weapons programme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Government is not aware of such reports.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) UN Security Council Resolution 1172 has been rejected by India as prescriptive and sovereignty violative. India's views on that resolution have been conveyed to our interlocutors. India's bilateral dialogue with key interlocutors is based on the premise that India is a state possessing nuclear weapons and will maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent in accordance with its own assessment of its national security requirements.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Provident Fund

5863. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pertaining to payment of provident Fund lying pending as on date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The requisite information as on 31.3.2000 is as under:

Name of the region	No. of PF Claims Pending
Andhra Pradesh	27
Bihar	697
Delhi	127
Gujarat	8454
Himachal Pradesh	303
Haryana	2561
Karnataka	5308
Kerala	163
Maharashtra	22585
Madhya Pradesh	110
N.E. Region	68
Orissa	498
Punjab	4186
Rajasthan	1150
Tamil Nadu	8056
Uttar Pradesh	1738
West Bengal	1733

(b) The EPF claim complete in all respects is require to be settled within 30 days from the date of its receipt in the EPF office. However sometimes settlement of PF claim is delayed for reasons like submission of imcomplete application forms, non-submission of returns by the employer, difference in signature, etc.

(c) In order to provide prompt service to the subscribers a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central Action Plan has also been formulated for regular monitoring of settlement of PF claims. The grievance redressal machinery in the EPF organisation has been strengthened and activated so as to ensure early settlement of PF claims.

[English]

Clinton's Pak Visit

5864. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US justifies decision of Clinton's visit to Pakistan" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 9, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item referred to in the Question.

(b) The news item is based on comments attributed to an unnamed US Administration official on the reason for President Clinton's brief stopover in Islamabad. The US has stated that the purpose of President Clinton's stopover in Islamabad was to seek, among other things, an early return to democracy, a crackdown on terrorist groups and a real effort to create the conditions for dialogue with India.

(c) It was Government's consistent position that it is the prerogative of visiting heads of state to choose their itinerary as also decide his/their programme. This is in accord with all established diplomatic norms and international practise. Accordingly, when President Clinton personally called PM to inform him of US reasons for going to Pakistan this was reiterated. PM did, however, let it be known that whatever the US reasons, the military regime in Pakistan would portray the action as a signal of US support and endorsement. That is why, thereafter, the US publicly stated, on a number of occasions, that the stop over in no way legitimises or endorses the military take over in Pakistan.

Software in Indian Languages

5865. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any definite policy to encourage and assist the development of software in Indian languages;

(b) if so, the languages identified and the schemes worked out in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the suitability of giving impetus to Telugu language in software development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme was initiated in 1990 to promote the development of software in Indian languages.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Resource Centre for Telugu language solutions has been set up at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

[Translation]

Support Price of Linseed

5866. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Madhya Pradesh Government regarding fixation of support price of the linseed crop;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to declare the support price of the linseed crop;

(c) whether the support price of linseed crop for the next rabi crop is also likely to be declared; and

(d) 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) Yes Sir, a request from Madhya Pradesh Government regarding fixation of Support Price of the linseed crop was received. The proposal of State Government was examined and it was decided not to agree to the proposal. This was mainly for the reason that the production of linseed is of localised in nature and Minimum Support Price is fixed for commodities having all India importance in terms of area and Production.

Support Price of Agriculture Products

5867. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure and norms followed for fixing the support price of agricultural products like wheat and paddy at present;

(b) whether the cost of labour involved in the agriculture work is also taken into account while fixing the support price;

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities like wheat and paddy after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the government are important for fixation of support prices. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers several important factors viz., cost of production; changes in input prices; input/output price parity; trends in market prices; demand and supply situation; inter-crop price parity; effect on industrial cost structure; effect on general price level; effect on cost of living; international market price situation and parity between price paid and prices received by farmers (terms of trade).

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. The cost of cultivation/production includes expenses incurred on account of hired human labour as well as imputed value of family labour. The evaluation of labour is done at Statutory Minimum Wage Rate or actual wage rate whichever is higher.

Central Assistance to Rajasthan

5868. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the situation in Rajasthan that the sheep migrate to the adjoining States for grazing due to drought prevailing situation and sometime this migration is also of local nature;

(b) if so, the assistance being provided by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government to make arrangements of the grazing fields for sheeps to avoid decline in the health of sheep, sheep products and their deaths;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Two quarterly instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01 Rs. 112.12 crore have been released to the Government of Rajasthan for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has informed that no specific assistance was provided in connection with migration of sheep to other areas.

(c) to (e) The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying had received a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for Central assistance for purchase of vaccines and medicines, feed subsidy and transport facilities. As the proposal was not in conformity with the guidelines and pattern of assistance provided in the Central Government scheme, it has not been agreed to by them.

[English]

Depleting Water Level

5869. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Depleting water level may leave Delhi dry" appearing in the Statesman dated April 11, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen the news-item captioned "Depleting water level may leave Delhi dry" appearing in a section of press. The news-item refers to the depletion of ground water levels and its contamination as a result of seepage of industrial and domestic wastes inside the ground.

(b) and (c) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown that ground water levels have declined by 4 to 10 metres in Mehrauli Block, 4 to 8 metres in City Block, 4 to 7 metres in Najafgarh Block and 4 to 5 metres in Kanjhawala and Alipur Blocks of NCT of Delhi during the last ten years.

(d) Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and recycling of waste water is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union government to check the declining trend in ground water includes:-

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodical meetings to, inter-alia, advise the State Governments to take suitable measures to check over-exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water and to assist the Authority in discharging its functions. It has initiated the process of registration of ground water extraction structures in Delhi to make an assessment of withdrawals vis-a-vis availability of ground water. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness or the subject.

(ii) The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a report titled "Development and Augmentation of Ground Water Resources in National Capital Territory of Delhi". A copy of this report has been made available to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for taking follow-up action.

(iii) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' areas of various States including NCT of Delhi in the country. In Delhi, the recharge studies were carried out in Jawaharlal Nehru University and I.I.T., Delhi.

(iv) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the State/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(v) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to

enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development."

Steps taken by the Government to control ground water pollution in NCT of Delhi include–monitoring of ground water quality, use of mobile chemical laboratory for analysis of ground water samples, notification of Nazafgarh and Mehrauli blocks in NCT of Delhi to regulate extraction of ground water, registration of ground water extraction structures, taking up rain water harvesting pilot projects and organising mass awareness programmes.

[Translation]

Defaulting Organisations of EPF and ESI

5870. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding amount likely to be recovered from the defaulting institutions on account of Employees State Insurance and Employees Provident Fund as on February 28, 2000;

(b) the total amount outstanding from the defaulting institutions registered with the Board of Industrial Financial and Reconstruction on the above said account; and

(c) the action being taken by the authorities of Employees States Insurance and Employees Provident Fund to recover above said outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to available information, there was an amount of Rs. 1050.16 crore on account of EPF dues and Rs. 491.48 crores on account of ESI dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

(b) Rs. 374.59 crore.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the ESI Act, 1948 and EPF & MP Act, 1952 and where necessary also under section 406/409 of the IPC are being taken to recover the EPF and ESI dues from the defaulting establishments. In the case of delay in payment of contributions interest and damages are also being levied on mandatory basis at the rates prescribed in the respective schemes.

[English]

Soil Testing Laboratories

5871. SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soil testing laboratories and mobile testing vans in each State;

(b) the reasons for not setting up static or mobile soil testing laboratories in Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep in South Zone;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up such laboratories in these UTs during the current Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) A Statement indicating the number of static as well as mobile soil testing laboratories in States/Union Territories is enclosed.

(b) to (d) The soil laboratories are basically set up by States/Union Territories under their own Plans. The Union Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme of "Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers" which also provides support for strengthening/setting up of soil testing laboratories. No proposals have been received from the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep to set up such laboratories under the scheme so far.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Soil Testing Laboratories		
		Static	Mobile	Total
1	2	3	4	5
A.	LABORATORIES WITH STATES			
I.	SOUTH ZONE	23	4	27
	1. Andhra Pradesh	19	3	22
	2. Karnataka	13	7	20
	3. Kerala	19	16	35
	4. Tamil Nadu	2	–	2
	5. Pondicherry	1	–	1
	6. A&N Islands	–	–	–
	7. Daman & Diu	–	–	–
	8. Lakshadweep	–	–	–
	TOTAL	77	30	107

1	2	3	4	5
II.	WEST ZONE			
	9. Gujarat	16	5	21
	10. Madhya Pradesh	19	5	24
	11. Maharashtra	29	–	29
	12. Rajasthan	8	12	20
	13. Goa	1	1	2
	14. D & N Haveli	1	–	1
	TOTAL	74	23	97
III.	NORTH ZONE			
	15. Haryana	25	–	25
	16. Punjab	48	13	61
	17. Himachal Pradesh	11	–	11
	18. Uttar Pradesh	56	15	71
	19. Jammu & Kashmir	3	3	6
	20. Delhi	1	–	1
	21. Chandigarh	–	–	–
	TOTAL	144	31	175
IV.	EAST ZONE			
	22. Bihar	29	2	31
	23. Orissa	11	–	11
	24. West Bengal	8	4	12
	TOTAL	48	6	54
V.	NORTH-EAST ZONE			
	25. Assam	7	4	11
	26. Tripura	2	1	3
	27. Manipur	1	1	2
	28. Nagaland	3	–	3
	29. Arunachal Pradesh	1	–	1
	30. Meghalaya	1	1	2
	31. Sikkim	1	1	2
	32. Mizoram	1	–	1
	TOTAL	17	8	25
	GRAND TOTAL	360	98	458
B.	LABORATORIES WITH FERTILIZER INDUSTRIES	36	20	56
	TOTAL ALL INDIA (A+B)	396	118	514

Mites in Coconut Plants

5872. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned financial assistance to Kerala Government to undertake plant protection measures for effective control of mites;

(b) whether the amount sanctioned has been released;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, be reasons for its delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The Government of India has sanctioned and released Rs. 713.025 lakhs to the Government of Kerala during 1999-2000 for Coconut Development Board's Programme of 'Integrated Farming in Coconut Holdings for Productivity Improvement'. Out of this an amount of Rs. 488.025 lakhs has been utilised for carrying out plant protection measures for the control of Coconut mite. In addition, the Government has also revalidated unspent balance of Rs. 96 lakhs released during 1998-99 as additional assistance for mite control during 1999-2000.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the World Bank aided Project namely National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) santioned Rs. 30.32 lakhs to Kerala for a Research Scheme entitled 'Development of IPM Package for eriophyid mite of Coconut'. An amount of Rs. 22.08 lakhs has been released for the first half of year 2000 for the Research Centres of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka States.

India's Nuclear Doctrine

5873. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. President during his recent visit to South Asia stressed that in the opinion of U.S. a nuclear future was dangerous for India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the context thereof;

(c) whether he urged New Delhi and Islamabad to roll-back their nuclear programmes; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. In his speech to the Joint Session of Parliament on March 22, 2000, President Clinton said that only India can determine its own interests and that India can pursue its defense policies in keeping with its commitment not to seek a nuclear or missile arms race. He also called for turning the Indo-US dialogue into a genuine partnership against proliferation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise

[Translation]

Denying Indians from Performing Ritual

5874. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign countries do not allow Indians to consign the dead bodies of the near ones to flames; and

(b) if so, the names of such countries and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) According to information available with the Government, the following 24 countries do not permit cremation of mortal remains:

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait, Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea Bissau, Tunisia, Turkey, Greece, Israel, Libya, Burkina Faso, Malta, Maldives, Ivory Coast, Niger, Guinea, Micronesia, Paraguay and Turkmenistan.

Cremation is not permitted in these countries for reasons such as the religious or traditional ethos of the country.

Karneji Melan

5875. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any contract in the field of information technology worth Rupees 1000 crore with Karneji Melan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it would help in the expansion of information techonology; and

(d) the amount allocated so far for the development of information technology, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has approved a proposal to form Sankhya Vahini (India) Ltd. (SVIL)–a joint venture company by Department of Telecom Services, IU-Net, Ministry of Information Technology and Educational Institutions in India, with authorized share capital of Rs. 1000 crores and initial subscribed capital of Rs. 300 crores. The equity participation will be 51% Indian and 49%–IU-Net. Indian participation includes – Department of Telecom Services (45%), Educational Institutions (4%) and Ministry of Information Technology (2%).

(c) The availability of high speed network will help in proliferation of Information Technology, penetration of personal computer, Internet and Telephone across the country.

(d) In so far as the schemes/programmes of Ministry of Information Technology sectors are concerned, these are not allocated State-wise. The total allocation available for Inforamtion Technology sector for the year 2000-2001 in the Budget of Ministry of Information Technology is approximately Rs. 260 crores.

[English]

India-Morocco Ties

5876. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Morcco have decided to improve bilateral relations;

(b) if so, whether any agreements in this regard were reached and signed during the Morocco's Prime Minister visit to India recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the agreements are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Prime Minister of Morocco Abderrahmane E1 Youssoufi paid a State visit to India from 21-25 February. A number of Agreements were signed during his visit. These include the Agreement on Merchant Shipping and Related Maritime Matters; the Mamorandum of Understanding in the field of Geology and Mining and the Agreement between Prasar Bharti, Doordarshan and the Radiodiffusion Television Marocaine (RTM). In addition, an agreement was initialled between the Confederation of Indian Industry and its Moroccan counterpart organisation to form a Joint Business Council. Steps are being taken to implement the above mentioned agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

Clinton's Pak Visit

5877. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the statement of General Musharraf that Clinton stop over in Pakistan justifies latter's stand on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Government is aware of the attempts by the military regime in Pakistan to portray President Clinton's stopover in Islamabad as a justification of its stand on Kashmir.

(b) It is not for Government to comment on how the military regime in Pakistan interprets international diplomatic contacts, including that with the US. The US has stated that the purpose of President Clinton's stopover in Islamabad was to seek, among other things, an early return to democracy, a crackdown on terrorist groups and a real effort to create the conditions for dialogue with India. During his visit to India, President Clinton stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir.

Employees Stock Option Plans

5878. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to corporatise all the public sector undertakings in the Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs dealing with Information Technology;

(c) whether Employees Stock Option Plans (ESOP) are being modified in this sector; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps being taken by the Government to make Information Technology Sector attractive to employees?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Livestock Development

5879. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to augment the livestock, improve breed and develop dairy Industry in Rajasthan;

(b) the names and locations of the Breed – Improvement – Research Centres alongwith the extent to which these centres helped in improving the breeds of Tharparkar, Gir, Nagouri with their research work in Rajasthan;

(c) the manner in which the funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being received in Rahasthan to protect the valuable livestock from various infectious diseases alongwith the names of these schemes; and

(d) the funds which are yet to be sanctioned by the Union Government for various ambitious projects related to livestock in Rajasthan alongwhith the time by which these funds could be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The Government have sponsored several schemes to supplement the efforts of the State government of Rajasthan to augment the livestock, improve breed and develop dairy Industry in the State. The major schemes include Extension Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme, National Bull Production Programme and a Central Herd Registration Unit at Ajmer.

(b) Indian Council of Agriculture Research has undertaken the following research activities:

(i) Genetic improvement through selective breeding and progeny testing for Tharparkar cattles in Rajasthan at Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner.

(ii) Genetic improvement in Gir breed at Gujarat Agricultural University, Junagarh, Gujarat.

(iii) A pilot survey of Nagouri breed of cattles has been undertaken at National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal in it's breeding tract in Rajasthan.

(c) The following schemes are being implemented to protect the valuable livestock from infectious diseases in Rajasthan :-

(i) Systematic Control of Livestock Diseases of National Importance

(ii) Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme

(iii) Animal Disease Surveillance

(iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication

The funds under these scheme are provided to the State Government of Rajasthan on the basis of viable proposals, availability of matching share in the state budget and provision of utilization certificates of previous releases.

(d) No proposals from Government of Rajasthan are pending for sanction with the Union Government.

[English]

Drought

5880. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of States are reeling under the grip of recent drought on account of dry spell/shortage of water;

(b) if so, the States which are worst affected;

(c) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the manner in which the Government propose to mitigate the problems of persons, live stock etc. of the affected States, particularly of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh anmd Maharashtra?

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

(b) Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Governments, 17 districts in Gujarat and 26 districts in Rajasthan have been affected by the drought.

(e) to (g) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. During 1999-2000, entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) was released to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and for Maharashtra, 3 quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF were released. In addition, assistance to Rs. 54.58 crore to Gujarat, Rs. 102.93 crore to Rajasthan and Rs. 38.86 crore to Madhya Pradesh (for floods and drought) from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) was released in the wake of drought. Two quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for 2000-01 to Gujarat and Rajasthan and one quarterly instalment to Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have also been released. Some of the other measures taken by the Central Government to mitigate the situation in the wake of drought in Gujarat and Rajasthan include requesting the Chief Minister of neighbouring States to assist them in arranging supply of fodder on priority basis, issue of instructions by Railways for priority for transportation of fodder and drinking water, free of cost, handing over by the Central Ground Water Board a number of wells, issue of orders to release 20 kg. of foodgrains per month to each family including Above Poverty Line families at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates in the affected areas, sanction of 2 kg. per man day at BPL rates under Food for Work Programme and allocation of foodgrains to run free community kitchens in the drought affected areas, release of funds under employment - generation schemes and drinking water supply scheme and assistance by the Navy. For Andhra Pradesh, one lakh MTs rice at BPL rates has been allotted for distribution to all families in the drought affected areas for the duration of drought or for three months. Further necessary action is required to be taken

by the concerned State Governments. No report on drought has been recevied from the Government of Orissa and Maharashtra.

Invitation to NGOs by US President

5881. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US President has extended any invitation to Indian NGOs to participate in a conference slated to be held in America;

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

(c) the way these NGOs are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The US Government invites from time to time individual citizens and Non Government Organisations to participate in conferences relating to their areas of specialisation and expertise. These invitations are extended directly to the concerned individuals and organisations. Government, therefore, is not in a position to keep record of all Non Governmental Organisations and individuals invited to participate in conferences and other events abroad, including in the United States.

(c) Participation by individuals and NGOs in international conferences can contribute to enhancement of their knowledge and skills, which could benefit them in their work consistent with national laws and development goals.

Appointment of Special Co-ordinator on Kashmir

5882. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US to appoint Kashmir co-ordinator" appearing in the Asian Age dated March 14, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item referred to in the Question.

(b) After the Kargil intrusion and the adverse comments in the US circles on the armed intrusion, there was an attempt to seek the support of the members of the US Congress for the appointment of a Special US Envoy for Kashmir. The news item, written before President Clinton's visit, Quotes unnamed "diplomatic observers" in Delhi as suggesting that the US may appoint a Special Co-ordinator for Kashmir after President Clinton's visit.

(c) Governmnent does not react to comments attributed to unnamed non-official sources. Government has noted that the US Administration had rejected the proposal to appoint a Special Envoy for Kashmir. During his visit to India, President Clinton had stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir.

Regional Engineering Colleges

5883. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to tap the Regional Engineering Colleges for manpower and expertise to build and operate the computer Kiosks in the villages;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been formally drawn up with the Regional Engineering Colleges;

(c) whether the Government have also sought the collaboration of State Governments in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the status of agreements between Central and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Basmati Rice

5884. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have requested the Union Government to set up technology mission for increasing the production of Basmati Rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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.

National Livestock Policy

5885. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared the National Livestock Policy;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Evolving of National Livestock Policy is a time consuming porcess. It is, therefore, not possible to lay down any specific time limit by which the National Livestock Policy would be declared.

[English]

Financial Assistance for Welfare of Fishermen

5886. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance as part of central share for implementation of Centrally sponsored scheme "National Welfare of Fishermen" in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The following proposals seeking release of Central assistance were received from the Government of Kerala during the financial year 1999-2000 under various components of the Centrally sponsored Scheme "National Welfare of Fishermen" :-

(i) Two proposals under Saving-cum-Relief component of the Scheme seeking a release of Rs. 3,94,87,326/- as the Centre's share.

(ii) A proposal under the component of Group Accident Insurance of the Scheme seeking release of Rs. 8,92,000/- as the Central share.

(iii) A proposal under Development of Model Fishermen Villages component of the Scheme seeking a release of Rs. 3,00,000/- as the Centre's share.

A sum of Rs. 3,58,87,326/- was released by this Ministry as Central share of assistance against proposals mentioned at S.No. (i) above. The State Government was requested to furnish certain additional information to enable the Government of India to examine release of Central assistance against proposal mentioned at S.No. (ii) above. The reply of the State Government is still awaited. In respect of proposal mentioned at S.No. (iii) above, a decision was taken to undertake a field inspection of the houses constructed by the State Government of Kerala before releasing further Central assistance under this component.

NAM Foreign Ministers' Conference

5887. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent NAM Foreign Ministers' Conference at Colombia adopted declaration for complete elimination of nuclear weapons terrorism, removal of military regimes from the Membership of NAM among other things;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role played by India in shaping and finalising the Declaration;

(d) whether any recommendation was made for future negotiations on international trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Final Document issued after the NAM Foreign Ministers' Conference in Cartagena, Colombia states as follows on the under mentioned issues:-

Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: The Final Document of the XIIth NAM Ministerial Meeting reiterates NAM's long standing principled position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing and stresses the significance of achieving

universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) including by all the Nuclear Weapons States. The statement further reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty are to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all State signatories, especially the Nuclear Weapons States to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

Terrorism: The Final Document of the XIIth NAM Ministerial Meeting condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them. The statement also calls upon all states to support the initiative for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Removal of Military Regime Countries from Membership of NAM: The Final Document of the XIIth NAM Ministerial Meeting contains a paragraph which calls for restoration, before the next OAU Summit, of constitutional legality in states whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means and also recommends that this issue may be considered by NAM at its next Summit.

(c) India had played a key role in formulation of the paragraphs on the above subject and they basically reflect India's positions on the subjects.

(d) and (e) **Recommendations made for future negotiations on international trade:** The NAM Ministerial Meeting welcomed the adoption of the UNCTAD Plan of Action during its 10th Session in February 2000. UNCTAD was also invited to continue its substantive work on issues of importance to developing countries. The NAM statement also urges implementation of Uruguay Round Agreement especially in areas of export interest to developing countries and reaffirms that non-trade issues such as social and environmental issues should not be introduced in the agenda of the WTO.

Production of Pulses

5888. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been laying greater emphasis on the production of pulses;

(b) if so, the target fixed and the achievement made in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the target fixed thereon for Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target in pulses production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pluses Development Project (NPDP) in 27 States/U.T. for increasing Production of Pluses.

(b) and (c) The targets fixed and the achievements made during Eighth Five Year Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan are given below :-

(Figure in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Targets Fixed	Achievements
1992-93	145.00	128.2
1993-94	155.00	133.00
1994-95	155.00	140.40
1995-96	155.00	132.10
1996-97	150.00	142.44
1997-98	155.00	129.8
1998-99	155.00	148.10
1999-2000	155.00	135.52(P)
2000-2001	150.00	-
2001-2002	165.00	-

(d) Steps being taken to achieve the target in Pulses Production includes:

(i) use of improved seeds of high yielding varieties;

(ii) balanced use of nutrients;

(iii) application of sulphur;

(iv) integrated pest management;

(v) use of sprinkler irrigation; and

(vi) increasing area through intercropping and sequence cropping.

C.T.B.T.

5889. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RSS Don't sign CTBT" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 27, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Government's position of the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desire to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of the CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.

Production of Foodgrains

5890. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for production of foodgrains of 234 metric tonnes for the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether recent cut in fertilizers subsidy, the targetted production of foodgrains is not be achieved;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to import more foodgrains to bridge the gap; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have fixed a target of 234 million tonnes for foodgrains production for the year 2001-2002.

(b) The recent increase in the fertilizers prices/ decrease in subsidy can have impact on the targeted agricultural production only if it will result in a fall in the consumption levels. According to estimates made by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices the impact of price rise on cost of cultivation will not be very significant.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to achieve the above target, a regionally differentiated strategy based on agro climatic zonal planning is being implemented.

Production of Cotton Crop

5891. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton crop for the new season is likely to be similar to that of the precious season;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether sowing operation in most of the major cotton growing States have been delayed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the cotton purchases have declined drastically;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) The cotton sowing generally starts with the onset of the monsoon in the country, as almost 66% of cotton area is rain-fed. However in the irrigated areas in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, sowing starts from the first week of May except some areas where desi cotton is sown from mid-April onwards. Therefore, it is too early to say about the prospects of cotton sowing in the coming season. So far the cotton sowing has not been delayed.

(e) to (g) The cotton (Kapas) is sold by farmers in market yards, and the same is procured by traders, State Marketing Federations, Cotton Corporation of India and Textiles Mills. No problems are reportedly being faced by the farmenrs in the sale of cotton. In fact, the purchases by the Cotton Corporation of India have been higher this year compare to the previous year.

Ongoing Irrigation Projects

5892. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing major and medium irrigation project in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance provided by the Union Government to each State Government during the last three years for the expeditious completion of these projects;

(c) the total funds earrmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan and released to each State during the current financial year, and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The State-wise number of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Porjects is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise details of Central Loan Assistance provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the last three years in given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Statewise details of outlay during Ninth Plan is given in the enclosed Statement-III. No funds have been released so far during the current financial year.

(d) The completion of any project depends upon various factors such as its size, availability of land clearance, geographical conditions and equally important are the funds allocated by the State Governments to individual project as per the State priority.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Ongoing Projects	
		Major	Medium
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–
3.	Assam	4	9
4.	Bihar	14	29
5.	Goa	1	1
6.	Gujarat	3	3
7.	Haryana	5	–
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	9
10.	Karnataka	14	15
11.	Kerala	7	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	32
13.	Maharashtra	36	66
14.	Meghalaya	–	1
15.	Manipur	2	2
16.	Mizoram	–	–
17.	Nagaland	1	–
18.	Orissa	5	10
19.	Punjab	–	1
20.	Rajasthan	6	6
21.	Sikkim	–	–
22.	Tamil Nadu	–	2
23.	Tripura	–	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17	2
25.	West Bengal	3	17
	Total	155	234

Note : 7 major projects (6 in Gujarat and 1 in Uttar Pradesh) & 6 medium projects in Gujarat have been completed during IX plan period.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of State	Central Loan Assistance Released during		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pd.	074.000	0079.670	0065.015
2.	Assam	012.400	0013.950	0013.020
3.	Bihar	014.040	0047.825	0144.040
4.	Goa	005.250	0000.000	0003.500
5.	Gujarat	196.900	0423.820	0272.700

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	012.000	0000.000	0000.000
7.	Himachal Pd.	006.500	0005.000	0014.455
8.	J & K	000.000	0000.000	0004.680
9.	Karnataka	090.500	0094.500	0157.140
10.	Kerala	015.000	0000.000	0000.000
11.	Madhya Pd.	114.500	0090.750	0105.845
12.	Maharashtra	055.000	0050.860	0048.375
13.	Manipur	026.000	0010.780	0020.310
14.	Orissa	085.000	0071.500	0081.350
15.	Punjab	100.000	0000.000	0042.000
16.	Rajasthan	042.000	0140.050	0106.665
17.	Tamil Nadu	000.000	0000.000	0000.000
18.	Tripura	005.100	0003.975	0006.300
19.	Uttar Pradesh	078.000	0076.000	0286.000
20.	West Bengal	020.000	0010.000	0025.000
	Total	952.190	1119.180	1397.895

Statement-III

Sl. No.	State	Outlay for Major/medium Irrigation Projects during IX Plan
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5027.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.30
3.	Assam	135.12
4.	Bihar	1450.00
5.	Goa	237.02
6.	Gujarat	7358.00
7.	Haryana	1372.43
8.	Himachal Pradesh	35.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	183.00
10.	Karnataka	5500.00
11.	Kerala	650.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1915.76
13.	Maharashtra	8969.08
14.	Manipur	222.00
15.	Meghalaya	15.00
16.	Mizoram	0.40
17.	Nagaland	9.85
18.	Orissa	3084.76
19.	Punjab	238.25
20.	Rajasthan	1855.54
21.	Sikkim	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00
23.	Tripura	60.55
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2600.12
25.	West Bengal	710.93
	Total States	42632.27
	Total UTs	6.10
	Grand Total	42638.37

[Translation]

Items Reserved for Small Scale Industries

5893. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

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

(a) whether Government propose to allow big industries to produce those commodities which are reserved for the Small Scale Industries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the Small Scale Industries?

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) No, Sir. According to the present policy on reservation for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector, no medium/large scale undertakings are permitted to manufacture reserved items except under 50% export obligation.

(c) Provisions pertaining to 50% export obligation and permitting not more than 24% equity participation in the SSI sector by other industrial undertakings both domestic and foreign are meant to protect the interests of the small scale sector.

Foreign Investment

5894. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals received to set up the agro-based industries in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the projects approved and implemented so far, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up such industries in the tribal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALLL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTEMNT 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 Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries has not received any foreign investment proposal for setting up agro based industries in the country during the last three years. However, the details of proposals approved including proposals received by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to set up agro based industries during the last three years i.e., 1.1.1997 to 31.12.1999 is enclosed as Statement Implementation details are not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) The choice of location depends on the commercial judgement of the investor.

Statement

Sector-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Colloboration approved during the Post-Policy Period (From 1.1.1997 to 31.12.1999)

(Amount in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	No. of approval			Amount of FDI approved	% to total amount approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Papper and Pulp including paper products	57	9	48	1477.58	1.30
2.	Sugar	3	0	3	934.00	0.82
3.	Fermentation Industries	13	6	7	256.40	0.22
4.	Food Processing Industries					
	Food products	183	18	165	2689.49	2.36
	Marine products	6	0	6	9.28	0.01
	Miscellaneous (food products)	2	0	2	2.12	0.00
5.	Vegetable oils and Vanaspati	13	0	13	194.44	0.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet preparations	19	8	11	206.83	0.18
7.	Glue and Gelatin	2	0	2	1.20	0.00
8.	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	32	4	28	105.02	0.09
	Agriculture	47	11	36	99.81	0.09
	Floriculture	20	9	11	11.68	0.01
	Tea/Coffee	3	3	0	0.00	0.00
	Coir	6	1	5	2.43	0.00

[English]

National Programme for Rural Industrialisation

5895. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report published in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the April 6, 2000 under the caption "KVIC flays more to appoint Arthur Anderson as consultant";

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to implement the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation?

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) In the news item published in the Hindustan Times, the following main points have been reported:-

(i) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission Officials are agitating at the Government's move to appoint Arthur Anderson as Consultant for restructuring its activities and organizational structure.

(ii) Rs. 15 crores proposal to revive the Jamna Lal Bajaj Central Research Institute has been put in cold storage.

(iii) National Programme for Rural Industrialisation is not being implemented.

(iv) MOU is being signed by the Government with the USA based "Small Business Administration" which will be used by foreign entrepreneurs to undermine domestic SMEs.

The Government reaction on the above issue is as follows:-

(i) In view of the new economic situation, a restructuring study is being conducted by M/s. Arthur Anderson India Pvt. Ltd. to suggest measures to make the KVI sector vibrant and viable.

(ii) A proper and cost effective structure to revive Jamna Lal Bajaj Research Institute Wardha (JBCRI) is being worked out consultation with the KVIC.

(iii) The KVIC is developing rural industrial clusters every year.

(iv) The proposed MOU with the Small Business Administration will allow both countries to benefit with exchange of latest information on

new technology, new marketing oppurtunities and financial instruments.

(c) The Government has launched a National Programme for Rural Industrialisation under which 100 rural clusters are to be established every year. The KVIC has identified 50 rural clusters. Similarly, such clusters are also being identified and assisted by SIDO, SIDBI & NABARD. The cluster approach is aimed at helping cottage industries emerge stronger and more competitive in facing the emerging challenges.

Below Poverty Line

5896. SHRI CHNADRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has revealed that poverty situation in the country remains a matter of concern even after the liberalization;

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

(c) whether the number of persons living below the poverty line has increased after the liberalization policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the target fixed/achieved after implementation of this policy; and

(f) the concrete steps taken by the Government to make the policy to reduce the poverty in the country?

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 World Bank Report No. 19471-IN entitled: India-Policies to Reduce Poverty and Accelerate Sustainable Development, published on January 31, 2000, on Page-5 Para 1.13 states: "In the mid-1990s, the decline in poverty slowed sharply, particularly in the rural areas, according to recently available National Sample Survey (NSS) data for the periods July 1994 to June 1995, July 1995 to June 1996 and January to December 1997. An estimated 34% of the population was still below the poverty line in 1997 compared to 35% in 1993-94."

(b) The estimates of poverty for the periods, July 1994 to June 1995, July 1995 to June 1996 and January to December 1997, mentioned in the World Bank report and from which the conclusion on poverty has been drawn, are based on NSS "thin" sample data on consumer expenditure. The Planning Commission, on the other hand, estimates poverty from large sample survey data on consumer expenditure of the NSS, which are available once in approximately five years. The latest estimate of poverty made by the Planning Commission are available for the year 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round).

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on conusumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next, large survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during the period, July 1999 to June, 2000. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line since the beginning of the process of economic reforms and liberalisation in 1991, is available only for the year 1993-94. Hence, it is not possible to ascertain the change in poverty during the period of economic reforms. However, comparing two latest estimates, 1987-88 and 1993-94, it is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line declined by 2.9 percentage point.

(e) No targets of poverty ratios are fixed. However, the poverty ratio for the country as a whole is projected to go down to 17.98 per cent in the terminal year (2001-2002) of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(f) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (a) acceleration of economic growth, (b) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Amount Sanctioned for PMRY

5897. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH:

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

(a) amount allocated/sanctioned for Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana for the current year 2000-2001;

(b) the number of applications received by the Government for sanctioning loan under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, Statewise particularly from SCs/STs; and

(c) the number of persons to whom loan has been sanctioned during the each of the last three years particularly for SCs/STs?

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) Government has allocated an amount of Rs. 201 crores under PMRY, for the year 2000-2001.

(b) The information is given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) The information is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

The no. of Application received by the Govt. for sanctioning loan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly from SCs/STs

(As reported by State/UT Governments)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Year 1997-98 No. of Cases Received		Year 1998-99 No. of Cases Received		Year 1999-2000 (upto Dec.'99) No. of Cases Received	
		Total (No.)	SC/STs (No.)	Total (No.)	SC/STs (No.)	Total (No.)	SC/STs (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97523	14144	108096	14222	69064	8544
2.	Assam	58011	12664	67358	7718	NR	NR
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	541	350	1215	1215	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	70991	2280	8514	395	NR	NR
5.	Delhi	7751	399	4836	655	3077	467
6.	Goa	423	7	494	2	NR	NR
7.	Gujarat	22341	5920	21385	4800	20508	4153
8.	Haryana	15387	1484	17541	1635	10607	983
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4829	774	4700	819	2749	563
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
11.	Karnataka	64604	6662	71327	12165	66013	7500
12.	Kerala	63214	5090	70034	5474	63266	4051
13.	Madhya Pradesh	71963	9414	75405	9998	NR	NR
14.	Maharashtra	78971	8792	70231	10422	52035	7826
15.	Manipur	15504	4539	20297	7439	NR	NR
16.	Meghalaya	1793	1756	1771	1727	NR	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Mizoram	2615	2615	3470	3740	3960	3960
18.	Nagaland	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
19.	Orissa	38632	5240	35503	5043	52090	7305
20.	Punjab	21152	3375	21529	3592	19594	3567
21.	Rajasthan	33964	9512	35763	6595	33471	5669
22.	Tamil Nadu	44976	5302	45756	5197	37693	5641
23.	Tripura	3020	366	3908	459	NR	NR
24.	Uttar Pradesh	111276	13012	119266	11953	101759	10668
25.	West Bengal	20467	1186	16212	1633	12232	1289
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	212	2	406	16	156	2
27.	Chandigarh	512	50	382	32	175	13
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	109	56	89	51	71	27
29.	Daman & Diu	174	12	108	29	56	21
30.	Lakshadweep	NR	NR	71	68	28	28
31.	Pondicherry	1438	142	1483	167	961	149
32.	Sikkim	167	24	149	33	70	16
	Total	852560	115169	827299	117024	549635	72442

NR = Not Reported.

Statement-II

Number of persons to whom loan has been sanctioned during each of the last Three Years particularly for SCs/STs

Sl. No.	Particulars	Year 1997-98	Year 1998-99	Year 1999-2000 (upto Dec. 2000)
1.	Total No. of cases sanctioned	288316	279872	103073
2.	Cases sanctioned to SC/ST Candidates	33276	32671	10896

(As Reported by States/UTs)

[Translation]

Rules for Recognition of Employees Unions

5898. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government recently amended the Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the earlier recognised Unions have also to apply for recognition afresh as per the new rules; and

(d) if so, the facts 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All such Associations have to apply and obtain recognition afresh under the said Rules of 1993. However, the Service Associations recognised by the Government before the commencement of these Rules and in respect of which the recognition was subsisting at such commencement were allowed to continue to be so recognised only for a period of one year which was later extended by six months upto 4.5.1995.

[English]

Postings of SC/ST in UNO

5889. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI BUTA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST MPs in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 have demanded posting of adequate number of SCs/STs officers in the posts/assignments under UNO and its affiliated organizations in India and abroad;

(b) if so, action taken thereon and number of officers working in the above posts as on January 1, 1996 in the grade of Class I, II, III and IV and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(c) the number of Officers posted to the above posts during 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 and persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the posts filled in during the said period, year-wise?

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 (c) The memoranda urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for post of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Mmebers of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of UPSC, PESB, etc.

Selection of an expert for assignment to the UN and its allied agencies is made on the requisition of the organisation and nominations are made by the Government of India from a panel of eligible experts. The data-base maintained by the Department of Personnel and Training is based on experience profile of the experts only. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs among those nominated is neither available nor maintained in the DOP&T.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1781/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India–Union Government (Commercial) (No. 8 of 1999)–(Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited) for the year ended March, 1998, under article 15(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1782/2000]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1783/2000]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MECON Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1784/2000]

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) : I beg to lay on the Table–

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1785/2000]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Daman, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Daman, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1786/2000]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1787/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1998.

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of Commission's Advice.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1788/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : On behalf of Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao, I beg to lay on the Table–

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1789/2000]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1790/2000]

(c) (i) Review of the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1991-92.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1791/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, 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 Federation of Urban Co-operatives Banks and Credit Socities Limited, 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 1792/2000]

12.02 hours.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

First and Second Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : I beg to present the First and Second (Action Taken) Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (1999-2000) and lay Minutes relating thereto.

12.03 hours

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Anil Kumar Singh and others of Dobhi (U.P.) regarding conversion of Aurihar-Jaunpur meter gauge line into broad gauge.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Samik Lahiri.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not like this. I will allow you one by one. I have received 28 notices. Please cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this is not the way to raise matters in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have visited my constituency. 8 persons have been killed in three separate incidents. Four Dalits and three persons belonging to minority community have been killed. I myself had gone to the site of incidents . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my leg. Please understand and take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : This atrocity has been committed by the police . . .*(Interruptions)*. A cap of policemen has been found near the body from there. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first. Today, I have received 28 notices regarding important matters which the Members want to raise. I will call all the names one by one but not like this. Please understand it. I have called Shri Samik Lahiri.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I seek your protection. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you go on behaving like this, it would be difficult to continue with the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you are interested in raising matters in the 'Zero Hour', I will call you later but not now. I have called Shri Samik Lahiri to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House, through you, a recent incident which has taken place in JNU campus . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Bulests were fired at innocent people, due to which one person was killed. . . *(Interruptions)*. A case should be registered against the police and CBI should investigate this matter. Besides, compensation should be given to the family members of the Dalits and minority people killed in this incident. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given the first notice on the incident of Tundla . . .*(Interruptions)* Dalits and minority people have been killed there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it your intention to disturb the House? Please tell me. What is this? Nothing should go on record except what Shri Samik Lahiri says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the recent incident which took place in the JNU Campus. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I will call you to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. Please take your seats. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Samik Lahiri's version.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Recently, many outsiders entered the JNU Campus and created trouble there . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, are you interested in raising your matters or are you interested in disturbing the proceedings of the House? If you want to disturb the proceedings of the House, then it is very difficult for me to conduct the business in the House. It will also be difficult for the other Members to raise important matters.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on except Shri Samik Lahiri's version.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Recently, certain incidents have taken place within the JNU Campus. Last week, on the night of 29th, three outsiders entered the JNU Campus when the Indo-Pak mushaira was going on.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I will call everyone.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Lahiri to speak. I will call you one by one. Please take your seats.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, as I mentioned earlier, on the 29th of April, when the Into-Pak mushaira was going on in the JNU Campus, three outsiders entered the Campus and created some trouble inside the Campus. One of the Pakistani Poets had been invited there. They objected to it and they created some trouble inthe smooth functioning of the Indo-Pak mushaira. So, the students got agitated and they protested the way in which those outsiders tried to disturb the entire programme. When the students protested, the outsiders took out their pistol.

You know, Sir, in the last one month, many incidents have taken place within the Campus. A chain-snatching incident has taken place, some molestation has taken place and some other incidents have also taken place. So, the students chased those outsiders. At that time, those outsiders took out their pistol and threatened the students. In the meantime, there was some scuffle. But the very fortunate thing is that the hon. Defence Minister has come out with a statement. He has ordered an inquiry into that incident. It has been told and it came out in the newspapers taht in the entire Campus of the JNU, all the students are in a fear psychosis.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there should not be any fear psychosis in the minds of the students within the Campus. Rather, those outsiders, who entered the Campus, should be punished for what they have done. They should be dealt with properly. Sir, through you, I want to make this demand. Thank you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and the entire House a very important matter. Though the matter has already been raised, yet it has not been answered.

Today, in the newspapers, we all read a news item. In the presence of the hon. Prime Minister, the BJP took their Members into confidence in regard to the Sankhya Vahini project. Of course, it is the right of their Party to do that. We have no questions about that. But I want to point out the manner in which the arrangement has been made to a private company through a Joint Venture Project violating all the established norms and practices of the Government in the past. A sum of Rs. 94.26 crore has been budgeted for this project this year about which the Standing Committee on Communications has made a very strong recommendation. I quote:

> ". . .The Committee strongly recommends that the matter should be looked into in-depth and fullest disclosure should be made as to why a particular technology has been selected without following the usual procedure and why DTS was kept out of the process of evaluation. The Committee strongly recommends a full review of the matter before the Joint Venture Agreement is fully entered into."

The question of the country's security as also the apprehension of espionage has been raised widely in the media. Almost all the parties in the country, cutting across party lines, have been raising this for the last two months. The envisaged project cost is Rs. 1300 crore for which a provision has now been made. 49 per cent equity has been offered to the IU Net, 45 per cent to the DoT and 4 per cent to the individual institutions of India. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri, Dasmunsi, during the discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Communications, many hon. Members raised this matter and the Minister also replied to that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What I am trying to say is that during the discussion on the Demands for Grants, this issue was taken up but it was not addressed.

How can a joint venture deal be signed without inviting tenders? That is why it favours the agents of the United States. . . . *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, we demand that the Government should come out with full disclosure. We demand a discussion and a probe by a Parliamentary Committee. This is a matter of security of the country. We, from Congress Party, demand a Parliamentary probe and a full disclosure in the House. How can a Government enter into an agreement without identifying the equipment? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, the Minister is going to reply now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. I only submit that the Government should honour the recommendation of the Standing Committee. There should be a full Parliamentary probe and full disclosure of this Bill, which is causing concern for the security of the country and possible espionage. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kurup, do you want to raise the same issue?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Yes, Sir. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the incident of killing of dalits is a very sensitive issue.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : There should be a thorough inquiry into this deal. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has given notice on the same issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Standing Committee has already expressed its apprehension about this project and none other than Shri Madan Lal Khurana has come out in the open criticising this MoU. Now, he is keeping quiet. Probably he has been offered a ministerial berth! This is not a matter to be settled between Shri Khurana and the Prime Minister. The country has to know about the facts. Circumventing the established route of inviting global tenders, an MoU is signed between the Government of India and the IUNET, a U.S.-based company. They are not investing anything and mysteriously they own 49 per cent of the shares. . . . *(Interruptions)* The Telecom Commission was informed two months after the MoU is signed. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kurup, please understand. During the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry also, the Ministry has replied to the matter raised by some of the hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is a very serious question. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you raise the matter again and again.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Prime Minister himself has responded defending this commercial deal. The country wants to know as to what is the shady deal. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister is replying. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You will be called later.

[English]

Shri Acharia, please understand. The Minister is replying.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We demand a thorough probe into this deal. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Ministry reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Mr Speaker, Sir dalits have been killed. This is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Some of the Member of the Standing Committee are present here. The entire Committee, cutting across party lines, made this recommendation. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was a unanimous recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members have raised the matter but they are not listening to the reply of the Minister. It is a peculiar situation. Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

SHRI. P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : We would like to hear from the hon. Prime Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not the proper way to raise the matter. You have raised the matter

and the Minister has replied during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry. What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Prime Minister defended the deal in the BJP meeting. The House wants to know . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Other Members have also given notices in regard to a very important matter. Please understand. Please do not obstruct other Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, Khurana Saheb should get protection.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members have raised the matter. Now, allow the Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

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

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members are not cooperating.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We want to hear the Prime Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kurup, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We want to hear the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister should come before the House with facts. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Kurup, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr, Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister will reply if Shrimati Sonia Gandhi raises something. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just as the Prime Minister took his party into confidence, let him take Parliament into confidence. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you behave like this, it will be very difficult for me to conduct the House. You have raised an important issue and the Government wants to reply to that. But you are not allowing the Minister to reply. What is your intention? This is not correct. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want the Prime Minister to reply to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot compel the Prime Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are others also who have given notices. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr, Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to make it clear that there is nothing mysterious about the Sankhya Vahini project. When the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications were discussed in this House, the Sankhya Vahini project was discussed in detail and after the discussion the House had passed the Demands for Grants unanimously when they were not present here.

Sir, the other House is going to discuss this matter tomorrow under Calling Attention Motion. If the Opposition wants to discuss this matter further in this House, the Government has no hesitation because we have nothing to hide about this project. We are ready for a discussion. At the same time, let me inform the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, that even though he is opposing this project here and asking for a parliamentary probe, which is totally absurd and unnecessary, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who belongs to his party, has written that the Sankhya Vahini project should be implemented and the headquarter should go to Mumbai. This is the demand

*Not recorded.

made by his own party's Chief Minister. So, there is nothing to hide and it is a clear project in the national interest. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Sir, four labourers have been killed in a village Basai near Tundla . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dalits have been killed in Tundla . . . *(Interruptions)*

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I called your name. Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be called, but first you all please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the anxiety of other Members also. You are simply obstructing the proceedings of the House.

(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down, please.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a senior Member of the House, Kumari Uma Bharti has been assaulted. She is in their hit list . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You will be called after him.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has answered a question. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot, please understand the anxiety of other Members also who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the Minister has not answered the main question. When the Standing Committee on Communications has unanimously recommended for a probe, why does the Government hesitate to accept it? The Standing Committee is a part of Parliament. Why should they hesitate to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied that they do not have any objection to discuss this matter in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, why do they not accept the demand for a parliamentary probe? I am not asking for a C.B.I. probe. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The whole House can discuss it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What problem do you have in conducting an inquiry?

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that it would be discussed.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We are taking something about the decision on the Report of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is a part of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)* The parliamentary democracy is being diluted. . . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, you protect the findings of your own Committee. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, you do not accept the recommendation on the PDS. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. The Government has replied. Even today, you have a meeting of the Business

Advisory Committee also. If there is anything, you can discuss it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is not about a discussion. . . . *(Interruptions)* I am talking about the system. . . . *(Interruptions)* My question is to you as the Speaker. You have appointed the Standing Committee. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is his intention? There should be some discussion. The Minister has already replied. They do not have any objection to discuss the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : His intention is about a probe. His intention is not for a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Again and again, the same thing is being repeated. Now, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : When you can assign the case of Match-fixing to C.B.I., then why not this case? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Prof. Baghel says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Mr. Speaker, sir, on the night of 1st May, 20-25 dacoits committed burglary in Masjid Muhalla across the railway line of Tundla town and robbed the house of Chhote Khan, Mohammed Amin and Mohammed Amir and brutally killed three persons viz. Pappan, Ahmed and Shrimati Munadin. Four people were severely injured, they were–Kallo, Bashir, Kaksa and Mohammed Amir. There was carelessness on the part of the police. Despite the fact that the police station was merely at a distance of 800 metres from the site of incident, the police reached the spot after three hours. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Prof. Baghel says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Police reached there after three hours. In fact the police had gone on foot, it would have reached the spot in 10 minutes only . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I want to speak about the attack that was launched on Uma Bhartiji. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You will get on opportunity to speak after him.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : As this incident occurred under the very nose of the police station itself, and three persons of the minority community were killed, whereas five persons were severely injured, the police arrested four innocent potato porters, belonging to the Scheduled Caste community who were coming after parking the potato truck at the cold storage and killed them. Their names were Satbir Singh, Vijay Singh, Jaipal and Sukhdev. Cap of a policemen was recovered from below of one of the dead bodies. So a case of murder should be registered against the police.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised the point.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Subsequently, when the people of that area went to see the dead body, the police, without any fore-warning, or even without resorting to Lathicharge, straight away fired shots at the people and as a result Ramprakash S/o Phool Singh Jat was killed in this firing and Pratap Singh and Vedraj Singh were severely injured. A case of murder should be registered against the police. The police staff of Tundla police station alongwith the police Inspector should be suspended, this matter should be got investigated by the CBI and the Scheduled Castes and minority community people who were killed should be given Rs. Five lakh as compensation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a grave incident. Police patrolling in that area continues throughout the night. So that no one

*Not recorded.

could become an eye-witness and thus give an evidence of the incident against the police. The people are being terrorised and the police of this police station through one its constables deliberately got a report written that dead bodies of four unknown persons had been found their identification were made. A case without any delay should be registered against the police. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record please.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Tundla falls under Firozabad district and in India, it is a very important place from the point of view of Railways. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, M.P. from that area has mentioned about the incident which occurred there. It is a matter of great concern that there is no control on the Uttar Pradesh police and such incidents take place every now and then. As mentioned earlier, three persons of minority community and four Dalits were killed in the robbery that took place near Nagla Masjid. A cap of a policeman was recovered near one of the dead bodies and an injured boy named Santosh also confirmed that those people had been killed by the police.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one Jat youth has also been killed by the shot fired by the police. Total eight persons have been killed. It is a very serious matter a crime under section 302 IPC should be registered against these police personnel. Treatment of injured persons should be done and it has come to my knowledge that the police has illegally or detained many persons on this ground. They should also be released. There is a dire need for issue of directions by the Government of India to put a check on the autocratic behaviour of Uttar Pradesh police. This incident should be got investigated by the C.B.I. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now-a-days, State subject are increasingly being raised during zero hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Hon. Mr. Speaker Sadhvi Uma Bhartiji is a senior leader of this House for the last three days putting her own life at stake. She has been on an indefinite fast. Her demand is to restore wages of daily wagers in Bhopal. Just a night before yesterday, when she was sitting on her fast, three persons on a motor cycle came at that spot. They broke one barrier. Thereafter they moved back but suddenly returned and tried to approach near Uma Bhartiji but the personal bodyguard sensed something fishy and caught hold of them. Other workers of the Bhartiya Janata Party were also there. A sword and a knife was recovered from them. I want to say that though Uma Bhartiji had got a 'Z' plus security the State Government did not make any arrangement for her security. The State Government is not at all concerned about her security. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh is not making arrangement for her security. Therefore, through you I request the Union Government to make proper arrangements for the security of Kumari Uma Bharati, she is on strike for the last three days. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has refused to conduct enquiry in this matter You are custodian of the House and through you, I request the Union Government to intervene in this matter and the State Government should accept her demands. If immediate action is not taken in this regard. . . it will rise to unrest in whole Madhya Pradesh and state of anarchy will be created. . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

12.29 hrs.

RE: RECYCLING OF DISPOSABLE ITEMS IN HOSPITALS IN DELHI

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a matter of grave concern. Sahib Singhji is present here and I am very sorry to say that this matter relates to his village I have seen this distressing incident on television that disposable injections, hand gloves. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pilot, as you are raising a matter referring to a video cassette, I have to inform you that Rule 349(xxii) prohibits a Member to bring or play casette or tape recorder in the House. Therefore, bringing a cassette in the House is not allowed, the Member is informed is accordingly.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the cassette is closed. But, I thought I would place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Now, the cassette is closed.

[Translation]

I would like to say that injections, gloves, tubes and other such things used by doctors are sold to junk dealers at a rate of Rs. 20-25 per kg. After cleaning and washing these are sold in small towns. I have seen it yesterday in a programme 'Aaj Ki Baat' telecast on T.V. After purchasing it for Rs. 20-25, they re-sell it. The Government is spending huge funds in health schemes but health of people is being threatened in this manner, it is also in the notice of the Government as well. The producer of 'Aaj Ki Baat' programme went there and took photograph of it. I have brought that video tape with me and I would like to lay it on the Table of the House. You can see and issue instructions to the Government to take action against the people involved in it.

MR. SPEAKER : Are your authenticating it?

ShRI RAJESH PILOT : I have seen it in the programme 'Aaj Ki Baat'.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you authenticating it?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: If you are saying that about the video tape then I would like to say that I have seen it.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you authenticating the take?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am authenticating the tape seen by me.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidents relates to my village, so I would like to clarify that not a single person of my village is involved in it. My village is spread in an area of 10-15 or 20 km. and some tenants are residing there. Not local people but some other person might be involved in this work. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Such incidents will bring bad name to Delhi. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Please do not defame my village. . . .*(Interruptions)* Not a single person of my village is involved in this incident. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The village is part of the country. . . . *(Interruptions)* suppose there are ten colonies in Delhi and such an incident takes place in any colony, Delhi will be blamed for that. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a point on the matter raised by Pilotji. We all saw the programme 'Aaj Ki Baat' yesterday and were stunned to see that. Earlier we have heard that after cleaning the empty mineral water bottles, ordinary water is filled in them and sold in market as mineral water. But it is really surprising that disposable syringes, gloves and tubes are recycled and supplied to Delhi from other States, vans of hospitals and nursing homes are bringing them. I do not know about the incident of Mundaka but as per my information an area of western Delhi is Centre of operation of this work. I would like to say that police should register a suo-moto case in this regard. The question is not that who is recycling it, who is selling it in the market but question is that hospitals are not destroying these items and due to it these are being recycled. I would like to say that action should be taken against such hospitals because it has been prescribed in medical rules that hospitals and nursing homes must destroy disposable syringes. These may cause AIDS, HIV, Cholera and other diseases. When people purchase these items very carefully from chemist shops and then they come to know that such recycled items are being sold, they will panic and it may cause epidemic. So the Government should take action on it at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is replying to it.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Delhi Government is responsible for it. I would like to know as to whether Delhi Government is taking any action on it or not?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Recycling is going on throughout the country.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): This incident may have happened in a village of Delhi or it may have not been published in any newspaper but now recycling of these disposable items have created a new problem throughout the country, as hospitals are throwing these items without destroying them. Reuse of these items are causing several incurable diseases. We all, and the House is very much aware of it. Last year this matter was referred to supreme court and the supreme court had issued orders for Union Government as well as the State Governments that all the big hospitals consisting of more than 500 beds should make their own arrangements for destroying these items before 31st December of the last year and State Government were made responsible to make arrangements for destroying these items for small hospital having less than 500 beds. 10, 15 or 25 beded hospitals cannot create this facility for

themselves. So a public system should be made for them, such orders were issued by the supreme court. Some cities have implemented this order but it seems that others have not implemented it. On behalf of the Government I would like to say that Ministry of Health would remind the State Governments to implement this judgement of the supreme court and make it mandatory for the hospitals to destroy these items. Police should be ordered to take action against those hospitals, which are not following it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): I would like to make a submission that a particular matter has been raised here and investigation should be made in this regard. It should be investigated pin pointedly so that it should be found out that from where these items are coming and the persons involved in this. I request that you should convey this to the Minister of Home Affairs and like cricket case Delhi Police should be asked to conduct an inquiry into it. If it is found that the matter relates to the whole country and CBI inquiry can be ordered to conduct inquiry into it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Khuranaji has raised an issue, about which presently it is very difficult for me to say as to under which ministry it will come. It may come under the Ministry of Home Affairs, or the Ministry of Health, but whatever has been published in "Aaj Ki Baat" will be investigated by the government and presently I do not say about involving CBI in it but we will have to take precautions regarding such matter and hospitals should make such arrangement, that is important, because.

[English]

It is nipping in the bud itself.

[Translation]

And we will try to follow it but this matter will be investigated by the concerned Ministry. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call everybody, you please do not distub the chair.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Last year, the Cabinet took a decision to close down eight Public Sector Undertakings of our country.

12.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Out of eight, six are located in the State of West Bengal. Then, there was a discussion on the floor of this House under a Call Attention Motion. As there was a demand from the Members of this House and various trade unions that the Government, instead of closing down these important Public Sector Undertakings, should take steps to revive them, then the Government appointed a Review Committee. Sir, the Review Committee has already submitted its report, at least, six months back. But the Government has not taken any action in regard to revival of these Central Public Sector Undertakings. These are important Public Sector Undertakings like MAMC, Cycle Corporation of India, National Instrumentation Limited. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): You are insulting the Public Sector Undertakings. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government is not taking any steps to revive them. There is a possibility. Various Committees were appointed. Sir, a revival package was prepared and even it was submitted to the BIFR.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, this is 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I know it is 'Zero Hour', but the issue is very important. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The issue has to be raised but you do not make a statement. Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, for the last one year, we have been persistently and continuously demanding that sufficient and adequate steps should be taken to revive the Public Sector Undertakings. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Debate is going on in 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the Government doing? Under the SICA rule, when an Undertaking is referred to the BIFR, the operation of that Undertaking should not be stopped. In some cases, the operations of these Undertakings have been stopped. So, I demand that the Government should take urgent steps to revive these Central Public Sector Undertakings and provide sufficient budgetary fund. And the revival package which has been submitted to the Government should be approved. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you interrupt, I will not call you. I have the list. I will call everybody. Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I cannot go on warning you. Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Without further delay, the Government should take all steps to revive all the Central Public Sector Undertakings. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. I will give you a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : The Government is here. It is a very important issue. BOGL and MAMC fall within my constituency. The Review Committee has already submitted its report. However, till now, the money is not being given for the revival packages. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Khan, it is too much. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : It is a very important issue. The hon. Minister of Finance is here. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Khan, I warn you. You were not called. Please do not do like this. I have not given you permission. I may have to warn you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not the way. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are setting an example.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is the Government silent? How much time will they take?. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat now?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, from the yesterday's incidence it appears that there is no rule in Delhi, rather dictatorship is going on in Delhi. In Batukeshwar Dutt Colony houses of poor persons were demolished without any prior notice. It is done again and again sometimes by MCD, sometimes by NDMC and sometimes by DDA and railways. There are lakhs of people living in Jhuggis, who are being made shelterless. When Ex-Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh tried to stop them and came before the buldoger, even then they did not relent, and said that they would do it again. Thus this corrupt practices are going on. Four Ex-Prime Ministers had met to the Prime Minister in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : One Ex-Prime Minister is sitting here, he was not among them.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Who are you to make comment in between. . . . *(Interruptions)*. The shelter of the poor people are being demolished.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What does the Government of India wants to do, it may be asked.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Four Ex-Prime Minister had met the Prime Minister. They were told that it was policy matter therefore without making any alternative arrangements, the shelters of poor people may not be demolished. . . . *(Interruptions)*. I myself had gone to Khuranaji. Similarly, such incidences are frequently happening in Wazirpur and many other colonies.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever you had to say, you have said, now you please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : My request is that the shelter of poor people should not be demolished till the alternative arrangements are made.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, so far as we are concerned, we are not saying that all illegal encroachments will have to be protected. We are not saying that. A notice was given to these poor people in 1997 that they would be removed, but nothing was done for three years. What was being requested is that at least some reasonable notice may be given to them so that they can remove their belongings. Their residences are there and sometimes some business is being carried on. Please give them a minimum opportunity. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, the police should not take up such an action. Some taunting remarks have been made against the young girls. When it was asked as to where these

girls will go, they said, "send them to the police station." These types of remarks have been made which create provocation.

Therefore, let it be done in as humane a manner as possible. A proper notice should be given to them and they should be treated as human beings. There are many colonies, which have been treated as illegal. But let there be a proper investigation as to whether they are illegal or not. Therefore, we were asking only for a humane treatment to all these people who were served notices. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : I have given notice regarding the same subject. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will call you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, what is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please resume your seat. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay wants to speak on the same subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Bandyopadhyay says.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, on the issue of what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said, I am happy that good sense has ultimately prevailed in the city of Calcutta where hawkers were bulldozed without notice. . . . *(Interruptions)* Thousands of hawkers were removed from the streets without any notice. They were ruthlessly beaten up by hundreds of policemen. A few of them have even starved to death. They are now passing their days in very pathetic conditions. So, wherever they have to be removed, proper notices must be issued.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir my submission is that there are many serious problems in Delhi and there are no clear-cut policy decisions regarding these serious problems which may be strictly implemented. Whenever DDA desires, it goes and demolish constructions and nobody dares to go to those sites where ten storey buildings are being build-up. The settlements of poor people are demolished. The Urban Rural Development Minister should take policy decision regarding this and should inform the House about this so that the people may be ensured as to whose house may be demolished and whose houses may not be demolished.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Sri, I would like to raise the matter related to the Jhuggi-Jhopris located in my parliamentary constituency. Hundreds of Jhuggis were gutted in fire yesterday at half past ten in night. These "Jhuggis" are located on the land of Railways. Sir fifteen-twenty lakh people live in "Jhuggis" and fire is a frequent Phenomenon. Last year 36 people were died due to the fire at old bridge of Amar Colony. There are Jhuggis located at the bank of Yamuna and in the event of flood, the people of these Jhuggies will be evacuated and lakhs of rupees are spent for relief work. I would like to demand from the Government and to know from the government as to whether there is a plan of the government to make concrete houses at such place where there fire incidences do not take place again and again the losses occur on account of floods may not occur so that the standard of living of these people may be improved.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What will happen to the poor people?. . . . *(Interruptions)*. The Government is a silent spectator. After all there should be some policy. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji you are the member of this House for long. You have raised this issue in Zero Hour. Will you time and again raise the same matter? The governments has listen to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no, you cannot compel.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Please call me. When I will start speaking then they will not speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will be called when your name comes. I am going according to the serial number in the list. Now I am calling Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is too much. How can I control the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh this is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Lakhs of Jhuggi-Jhopri dwellers are labourers. They make Delhi beautiful. The Government is running buldozers over them. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are a very Senior Member, you cannot compel the government to take action.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will not listen to anybody.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, why is he objecting? What is this?. . . . (Interrutions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, there are other Members who have given notices. . . .*(Interruptions)* He is going out of his bounds. He should withdraw his remarks. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is wrong with you today, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, he is a senior Member and sits on the Chair. If he keeps on behaving like this, we will not allow him to behave like this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, both of you are on the panel of Chairmen. If you do not obey the Chair, how will you conduct the House ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, what is happening in the House? You called me. I should be allowed to make my point. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you keep quiet for five minutes. Let us see what will happen. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, will you allow everybody to speak like this?. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to take action against you, if you behave like this. You should know how to run the House.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever you want to say you have said. You cannot compel the Government to give reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever you want to say, you have said in "Zero Hours".

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, I will take action against you. I warn you Shri Athawale. What is this?.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will you not allow others to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Look like you many people came at 9.00 or 9.30 in the morning and have given notices. Why do you wasting the time of the House like this. It is not proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you continue to do like this, I will have to take action against you. What are you doing.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 O'clock.

12.56 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

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*Not recorded.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Matters Under Rule 377.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has razed the houses of lakhs of people to the ground by bulldozer, who were settled in Delhi. I had raised the issue before lunch also, but the House was adjourned. . . . *(Interrupthons)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Please cooperate with the Chair. We have taken up Matters Under Rule 377.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri V.P. Singh, who is on dialysis, stood in front of the bulldozers. The Government has razed the houses of the poor in many colonies of Delhi to the ground. Houses of the poor are being demolished in Karbala, B.K. Dutt Colony and Wazirpur. Please give directions to the Government to stop the bulldozing the houses. The Government should make a statement in this regard. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please do not prevent another hon. Member of the House from raising his Matters Under Rule 377.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My point is already in the agenda. Instructions should be given to the Government in this regard. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here. Houses of lakhs of poor are being demolished. Many organisations such as NDMC, MCD, DDA etc are taking such action against the poor. I request that the Government should be given instructions in this regard. The Government should have made a statement about it much earlier. Lakhs of poor are being rendered shelterless. Poor women are weeping like anything. I visited several colonies. The Government should be very sensitive about it. Please give instructions to the Government in this regard. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked but they said that they have no answer.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government should make a statement here in this regard. If they do not want to do, they should be instructed by the Chair to do so. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I asked the Minister. He is not going to answer.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will happen to the lakhs of poor? You are sympathetic to them. You direct the Government to do so. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly resume your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Prime Minister said that a policy has been formulated in this regard. Why are the Government quiet on the issue? Please give directions to the Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to run Express Trains on Keul-Gaya Rail line under Danapur Zone of Eastern Railway

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Keul-Gaya line, which lies in Danapur division under Eastern Railway was constructed prior to independence. No Express or Super fast train is being run on this line. It should be noted that the former Tinsukiya express (at present Brahmaputra Express) which runs from Guwahati to New Delhi was running on this line but it has now been discontinued after a few days. I want to request hon. Rail Minister through you, for running Brahamputra Express and Doon Express on this line so that thousands of passengers who are required to use buses to reach Howrah and Delhi daily are benefited. It will lead to economic development of the region and there will be a decline in the extremist activities in the area.

I, therefore, request that in the Keul-Gaya Rail section, one train for Delhi (Brahmaputra Express), second train for Howrah (Doon Express) and the newly proposed Varanasi-Vaidyanath Dham Express should be run without delay.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give directions to the Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already taken up another business—Matters Under Rule 377. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, kindly resume your seat now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because you are persisting again and again, I will ask the Minister to take note of it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Let the Minister respond to it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): It is not a 'Zero Hour'. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule your are raising this issue?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that they have taken note of it. So, that is the end of the matter. Now, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, kindly resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

(ii) Need to grant ownership/leasehold right to SCs and backward Class people tilling forest land at Robertsganj in Sonbhadra district, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 80 per cent of the population of my parliamentary constituency Robertsganj, district Sonbhadra, U.P. belong to Scheduled Castes and backward classes. It is a way backward district. Many projects of the Government of India and private sector are working here but displaced persons did not get reasonable compensations nor did they get employment in the projects. For last 15-20 years. They are cultivating the cultivable forest lands but they are yet to get property rights on it. The forest department is not giving them lease deeds under section 20 and 04 of the forest Act.

I demand that the Government of India make a legislation that to legalise the 20 year occupation of the cultivable land by giving the farmer property rights and lease for the land.

(iii) Need to improve the postal delivery system in Jaipur, Rajasthan

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the postal delivery system in Jaipur is not working properly. The number of employees is insufficient. New appointments have not been made against the retired employees. Till a few days ago, postal delivery in Jaipur was made three times a day. At present mail is delivered just once a day. Jaipur region has tremendously progressed. The region has expanded quite a lot with the result that people are getting their important and ordinary dak in 15 Days. Due to this people are experiencing a lot of inconvenience.

I request the Central Government to improve the postal delivery system in Jaipur and make appointments of the new employees.

(iv) Need to provide stoppage of Hirakund Express at Pendra Station and Sarnath Durg Express at Bilha Station in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : The people of Madhya Pradesh are experiencing difficulties due to non-stoppage Hirakund express at Pendra Road of district Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh. Permission should be given for the stoppage of Durg-Sarnath express at Bilha station of district Bilaspur. The common man in the Bilaspur region are experiencing difficulties due to non-fulfilment of this long standing demand.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to permit the stoppage of Hirakund Express at Pendra Station and Sarnath-Durg Express at Bilha Station.

14.14 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(v) Need for early completion of ongoing work of doubling of railway line between Mangalore in Karnataka and Shoranur in Kerala

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring the attention of the Union railway Minister towards the problems being faced due to the very slow work of doubling of railway line between Mangalore in Karnataka and Shoranur in Kerala.

The doubling work is progressing slowly. Land acquisition work itself is not complete in several parts. The ongoing work of construction of bridges on the railway line is also very slow. The primary works related to the sanctioned Railway Over-bridges itself has not started. If this type of situation continues, the amount provided for this work by the Central and State Governments may even lapse.

People of this area are very much agitated over this type of non-performance. Passenger trains are either curtailed or stopped due to this work. So, I request the hon. Railway Minister to fulfil the assurance given and take immediate measures to complete the ongoing doubling work of railway line in between Mangalore and Shoranur in Kerala.

(vi) Need to clear proposed grassroot nitrogenous fertilizer plant, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (Nellore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian Farmers' Co-operative Ltd, the premier agricultural Co-operative and an industrial giant in the country, aims at making the country self-sufficient in food production by meeting the increasing demands for fertilizers through more fertilizer production capacities. Keeping in view the basic philosophy of service to farmers, the IFFCO propose to set up a grassroot nitrogenous fertilizer plant with a capacity of 7.26 lakh tonnes of urea per annum in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh based on

[Dr. Rajeswaramma Vukkala]

Naptha as feed stock at an estimated cost of Rs. 1736 crore. The project, when completed, would bridge the increasing gap between demand and supply of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country, particularly in South Zone. The Society has already acquired adequate land and initiated various pre-project activities relating to water supply, construction of power plant, railway siding and storage at the project site.

Although the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Government of India has given approval to this project, it has not yet been cleared by the Public Investment Board.

Since IFFCO's own resources are fully committed for the next 5-6 years, it is at present not able to enter in a big way into the new areas.

I, therefore, earnestly appeal to the Government of India to expedite clearance of the Grassroot Nellore Project early to meet the increasing demand of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Because you are persisting again and again, I will ask the Minister to take note of it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Let the Minister respond to it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is not a 'Zero Hour'. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule your are raising this issue?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that they have taken note of it. So, that is the end of the matter. Now, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, kindly resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

(vii) Need to declare State highway between Lipu lake and Gwalior as National Highway

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a State highway of about 700 km. Long between Gwalior and Lipu Lake is an important highway, it passes through Etawah, Farrukhabad, Almora and Kausani.

In the national interest, this state highway needs to be converted into national highway because of following two reasons:-

(i) Many important cantonments like Jhansi, R.R.C. (Farrukhabad), divisional Centre Bareilly etc. are situated between Gwalior and Lipu lake. As this road goes to Indo-China border, development of this road is essential in view of smooth and speedy transportation of defence goods and defence personnels.

(ii) Many important places which are important from tourism point of view are situated on this highway between Gwalior and Lipu lake. These hill stations attract large number of tourists throughout the year from our country as well as from abroad. However, the pitiable condition of this road hinders the movement of tourists.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to upgrade status of 700 km. Long state highway (Gwalior-Lipu lake) into a National highway.

(viii) Need to release adequate funds for early completion of drinking water projects in Bundelkhand region of U.P.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the southern area of Uttar Pradesh known as Bundelkhand is a Plateau region. Due to lack of water it always remain affected with drought. Banda and Chitrakoot are the most affected districts of this area due to lack of drinking water facility and irrigational means. During the last session of Lok Sabha, I had drawn the attention of the Government and expressed my concern regarding the deteriorating situation in respect of scarcity of drinking water in Banda and Chitrakoot districts. I was hopeful that the Union Government will take immediate steps and start providing the relief to the affected people by immediately formulating permanent schemes to solve the drinking water problem. However, no steps have been taken so far. With the result

that with onset of the summer season, people of both the districts are facing accute shortage of drinking water. People are distressed due to unavailability of drinking water. People as well as cattle are wandering here and there in search of water. Despite sending many written requests to take up relief measures and to install handpumps in both the districts and even after approving Rs. 10 crores for other schemes, no steps have been taken in this direction. The affected districts of Banda and Chitrakoot which are adjacent to the border of Madhya Pradesh, have not been included in the list declared by the Central Government in respect of drought prone areas and the areas which are facing the scarcity of drinking water. Therefore, this should be immediately investigated and funds should be released as early as possible so that the work regarding the installation of handpumps and other incomplete and pending drinking water schemes could be started without further delay.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record and nothing else.

(ix) Need for a separate satellite for Indian Information Technology Industry

[Translation]

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Sir, Information Technology is at a fast pace and India has entered the 21st Century, making new strides in that field. Adopting computer technology for rural development has been the watchword of both the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh have taken up updated computerisation with farsightedness. In standardising Tamil keyboard and in providing common computer coded Tamil script, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has gone a step further and has enabled access to the World Wide Web sites using Tamil. Tamil Nadu has gone in for computerising the revenue records maintenance. The Union Minister of Communications has recently stated that telecommunication links for Internet connection would be strengthened but the infrastructure development for information technology goes on at a slow pace. This, at times, affects the rail and air reservation. Even the banking sector is not spared from the technical snags.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to work for setting apart a separate satellite for the Indian IT industry. The State Governments may also be involved in 'bandwidth allocation'. The Railways are now planning to provide a communication link to the IT industry through optical fibre cable line laid along the railway lines. Pioneering States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh may also be involved in this infrastructure development so that they may have a share in these ventures. Hence, I urge upon the Information Technology Ministry to take co-ordinated efforts involving all concerned.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

(x) Need to revise airfare structure for flights operating in Calcutta-Aizwal sector

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) : The operationalization of the Aizwal airport is a milestone in the history of Mizoram. We thank the Central Government and in particular, the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the active and dedicated involvement in bringing up the new airport within a remarkably short period. The initial operation of three scheduled flights by the Boeing 737 aircraft, which is now increased to four flights a week, provides efficient and reliable communication facility to the people of Mizoram. However, in the midst of all the good things stated above, we are unable to understand the existing extraordinary high fare structure on this route, i.e. Calcutta-Aizwal route. As compared to other places in the North Eastern region, the airfare charged in Calcutta-Aizwal sector is exceptionally high for reasons not known to us. The State Government took up this point several times with the Indian Airlines, the operating Airline and also with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. I myself also brought it to the notice of the Indian airlines authority and the Ministry of Civil Aviation more than once. But till now, no positive response is received.

I request the Union Government to take remedial measure by way of review and revision of the fare structure in Calcutta-Aizwal sector and put this sector at par with other sectors in the North Eastern Region.

(xi) Need to exempt coconut arecanut, rubber and spices from new import policy to safeguard the interests of farmers of Kerala

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : I would like to bring to your kind notice the pitiable condition of the farmers in Kerala due to the recent liberalised import policy introduced by the Government of India. The main agricultural products in Kerala are coconuts, arecanuts, rubber and spices. Kerala is the largest producing State

[Shri K. Muraleedharan]

of the above products. Though paddy is cultivated widely in the State, Kerala is depending upon other States for its need of food grains. Most of the farmers are small holders and they depend upon the income derived from their agricultural products for their livelihood. The price of the rubber was already reduced considerably due to the import allowed by the Government of India earlier. The liberalised policy of import now introduced has caused further reduction in the price of rubber. The rubber farmers numbering more than ten lakhs and their families find it very difficult to earn their loans taken by them in connection with the production of rubber. In Kerala, most of the farmers are coconut growers. The liberalised import policy declared by the Government has caused the reduction of price of coconuts from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- per thousand of coconuts. Also, the price of copra, a product of coconut has been reduced. In Kerala, thousand crores of coconuts are dumped for want of purchasers. The coconut growers in Kerala are now in a starving condition. In this connection, I may point out that the support price of copra now declared by the Government of India is very low and it has not made any movement in the market. Coffee also shows reduction of price due to the new policy. I request that the Government may take steps to safeguard the interests of the farmers of Kerala by exempting above items from the new import policy.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh may make his submission. This is not 'Zero Hour'. But as a special case, I am allowing him now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter I am going to raise now is related with the demolition of houses of lakhs of poor people. Their houses are being demolished. Raja V.P. Singh was not well and despite that he went there, only then the demolition stopped. Poor people from villages come here and work hard. Poor people have worked hard to built Delhi. People are living here for the last 25-30 and 50 years. Even four ex-Prime Ministers met the present prime Minister in this regard. An assurance was given by him that a policy will be formulated and their houses will not be demolished unitil some alternate arrangements are made. Despite of that houses of poor people are being demolished in various colonies i.e. in Karbala, Wazirpur, Khureji etc. by D.M.C., N.D.M.C., D.D.A. or by Railways. The sitting of the House is going on. Will the Government remain silent when the houses of lakhs of poor hard working labourers are being demolished? Whether the Government is for the rehabilitation of the poor people or to make them Shelterless? Why this House has been constituted and why we are sitting here? A Sensitive Government should immediately respond to such situation and alternate arrangements should be made as early as possible. Demolitions should be stopped, otherwise where will the distressed poor people take shelter. How will their children live on the road? Lakhs of people live here who have migrated from villages in search of employment. They are playing a big role in the functioning of factories and business. They are very laborious. Most of them belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, where will they go. What alternate arrangements will be made for lakhs of poor people? Government should respond on this issue.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : People are shelterless in this scorching heat, they are distressed. . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): This is not a very good convention. How the House will be able to function if several members continue to raise such matters which should be taken up during Zero hour only?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is a serious matter.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The Government always takes note of everything discussed in this House. The Government has also noted the particular point raised by hon. Member Raghuvansh Prasadji and his colleagues. The Government will take action which it thinks appropriate.

14.33 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2000

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you are aware, the Business Advisory Committee, in its Sixth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 19th April, 2000, has recommended that the discussion on the Finance Bill, 2000 may be taken up

on 3rd May and concluded on 4th May, 2000. If the House agrees, we may allot eight hours for all the three stages of the Finance Bill, 2000. We may have five and a half hours for general discussion, one and a half hours for clause by clause consideration and one hour for the third reading. Thus, the time allotted is eight hours.

Now Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha may please move the Finance Bill, 2000 for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to move: *

> "That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2000-2001, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker Sir, I had introduced the Finance Bill, 2000 to this House on the 29th of February this year. In that Finance Bill and through the Finance Bill, I had announced some fundamental changes in the structure of excise duties in my budget proposals. It is my endeavour to simplify the tax structure and the procedures. I have, however, received representations after the presentation of the Budget from certain sectors of trade and industry and from some hon. Members of Parliament asking for exemptions, concessions and removal of anomalies.

On careful examination of all aspects, I have decided to make a few changes. My approach has essentially been to consider changes where they are in the public interest or where they remove anomalies or provide essential support or protection to the domestic industry. I also wish to keep these changes to the minimum possible.

Sir, in the area of excise, I wish to propose the following:

- To exempt the following products from CENVAT, namely, Silicon, E-Mal and intravenous fluids, Tapioca starch, and Asafoetida (Heeng).
- To exempt biscuits of MRP not exceeding Rs. 5 per packet and weight not exceeding 100 grams from 50 per cent of the CENVAT.
- To increase the duty free clearance limit of paper made from non-conventional raw materials from 2500 tonnes to 3500 tonnes in a year.

On the customs side, I have the following amendments to propose.

- To exempt Artemisinin from basic customs duty. This is a drug used for malaria.
- To reduce the basic customs duty on DBM, fused magnesia and sea water magnesia of certain specifications from 35 per cent to 25 per cent.
- To increase the basic customs duty on tea and coffee from 15 per cent to 35 per cent.
- To increase the basic customs duty on poultry meat and their preparations from 35 per cent to 100 per cent.
- To increase the additional duty of customs (CVD) on marble slabs and tiles from Rs. 30 per sq. metre to 16 per cent.
- To increase the basic customs duty on non-coking coal from 15 per cent to 25 per cent.

The House may recall that I had proposed adoption of transaction value as the basis of assessment for excise duties. However, I propose to introduce certain amendments in the legal text so as to allay certain apprehensions and clarify the intention.

I also intend to move a few other amendments to certain provisions of the Finance Bill to clarify the legislative intention.

The changes leading to reduction in excise and customs duties would come into force from tomorrow. Copies of the notifications will be laid on the Table of the House in due course. Changes in increase in duties and other legislative changes will become operational after the Finance Bill is passed by the Parliament and enacted.

On the direct tax proposals, I propose to make the following amendments:-

(i) Venture capital funds shall enjoy a complete pass through status. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of such funds. The income distributed by the funds will only be taxed in the hands of investors at the rates applicable to the nature of that income.

(ii) To encourage Research and Development in knowledge-based industries, particularly pharma and biotechnology, the weighted deductions for such expenses will be raised from 125 per cent to 150 per cent. These R&D companies will also

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

enjoy tax holiday for ten years. I am also proposing to set up a fund of Rs. 150 crore to be utilised for promoting Research and Development.

(iii) The lock-in period five years shall be reduced to three years for investment of capital gains in bonds of NHAI and NABARD under Section 54 EC. I further propose to raise the limit of investment in infrastructure bonds for rebate under Section 88 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000.

(iv) To further promote housing activity, I propose to raise the limit of deduction of interest payable in acquiring self-occupied properties from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,00,000.

(v) The benefit of 100 per cent deduction provided to donations made to Indian Olympic Association is proposed to be extended to other national sports associations recognised under Section 10(23) of the Income Tax Act as well.

(vi) I propose to exempt charitable companies set up not with any profit motive from the operation of Minimum Alternate Tax.

(vii) The surcharge on non-corporate assessees having income above Rs. 1,50,000 will continue to be 15 per cent, but for the purposes of TDS it will only be at 10 per cent to avoid operational complications.

(viii) To mitigate the hardships being faced by farmers, I propose to discontinue TDS on compulsory acquisition of their land.

(ix) Exemption limit of tax at source on non-bank deposits is proposed to be raised from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000.

(x) The shares received by employees under employees' stock option plan would not be regarded as a perquisite and would be taxed only as capital gains at the time of sale.

(xi) The concessions available to units set up in Free Trade Zone or Software Technology Park and to export-oriented units will now be phased out over a ten year period. The unit set up till March 2000 will have concessions for ten years, those set up in 2000-2001 for nine years, those in 2001-2002 for eight years and so on. I further propose to extend the concession to I.T. enabled services as well. Concessions on domestic sales up to 25 per cent of the total sales shall continue. Units in Special Economic Zones will also have the same benefits.

Will these modifications, for which the amendments will be circulated, I commend the Finance Bill, 2000 to the House for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial propsals of the Central Government for the financial year 2000-2001, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

You are not doing anything for the members.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Finance Bill, 2000 is before us for consideration. If only they could inspire a servant like me to offer my support to the Bill and the proposals it contains and the amendments that have been announced today. But it is full of contradictions. I would have supported the Bill if it could be used to realise the dreams mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister or those of the hon. Prime Minister. But in the present circumstances I do not feel myself equal to supporting this Bill. Why? Because hon. Finance Minister, with all his pleasant personality has presented a dream budget before us.

14.42 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

If we consider the Finance Bill of the last year and the year before, then we would realise that his dream budget is far from realities and facts. We all know what happened to the last year's finance bill and the budget. That is why we feel constrained to support the bill in its present form. The speech of hon. Finance Minister was full of statistics and it was, as the present Prime Minister while speaking on the budget of 1996, had said that like a labyrinth, the labyrinth of Lucknow. It seems that the labyrinth has further been complicated with the help of statistics. The labyrinth of statistics made this budget a far from reality. I would like to know what is the idea and the objectives behind this budget? I remember that when Dr. Amartya Sen, Noble Prize Winner, Had visited India, he was accorded warm welcome by the Government of

India and the hon. Finance Minister had long discussions with him. Our hon. Prime Minister also got the opportunity of conferring with him. About the finance bill, I would like to remind you what he had to say about our fiscal policies. After receiving his Nobel Prize in Stockholm, he was asked by an AIR correspondent what advice he would give to the hon. Finance Minister, if he were to visit India.

[English]

He said : I will tell him, Shri Yashwant Sinha to stop think in wrong terms and ask him to get his objectives right.

[Translation]

He explained his stand in Calcutta, and also in a Press Conference in Delhi.

[English]

He said : India rest its economic priorities to make them people oriented rather than commodity related as this alone would help the country meet the globalisation challenge. Only by providing for a certain economic security to the poorest of the poor could the country meet the challenges of globalisation as there is no way any economy can escape the proves of integrating with the world.

[Translation]

I would like to ask hon. Finance Minister whether he has thought about it.

I would like to offer my congratulations for the proposals contained in the bill and also the amendments that have been made, since some of the amendments are good intentioned. But in totality, we see a different picture– Custom duties have been lowered or abolished on a number of commodities such as wheat, salt, common salt, tobacco, hookah, tobacco etc. At the one said tobacco farmers are committing suicide due to economic hardships and at the other its import is being freed. Import duties are also being abolished on beedi, onion, wheat, neem, maize, rice, turmeric powder, ginger, whole milk products, pomegranate etc. Export import policy should be linked to the finance bill, since hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about these in his Finance Bill.

Export import policy has a very close relationship with the proposals contained in the finance bill. I would like to know why amendments were not made in the finance bill for the welfare of farmers and what were the reasons behind it? It may be that we have signed some agreements as per which we are required to reduce duties on import gradually but why are you not doing it in phases as you are doing in the case of export taxes. For that you are giving 10 years? Famine is looming large over the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and also Bundelkhand, as one hon. Member has just mentioned. Monsoon was good for the last so many years but unfortunately, according to the reports the monsoon this year may not be as good. We do not want to see the issue from the perspective of party politics but the famine is looming large on the one hand, and suicides are increasing all over the country on the other. States have governments belonging to various political parties. Even if we see it from our party's viewpoints we can observe that famine conditions are present in all parts of the country. Orissa is also going through a famine after the destructive super cyclone of the last year. That State is experiencing famine and long hot season this year. Tankers of drinking water have to be provided in Delhi. This is the situation of potable water. I was expecting that the finance bill would have some provisions to alleviate the effect of famine on poor, that would have led to some improvements in the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have read in yesterday's newspapers–Economic Times, Business Standard and the Daily Financial Express that the rate of inflation has increased to 5.55% is what was the level of inflation at the time of Budget presentation and where it is now. The Governor of Reserve Bank has given reports about the currency and finance conditions of the country, in which the country, the administration and this House has been warned that the inflationary pressures continue to exist. On the others hand, we take much pleasure in the fact that our share market, the sensex, as reached to such heights. then why it has plummeted down by 255 points when the New York Market has increased to such a great level and the other share markets of the world are improving. Why? Why it had to happen today, when this House is considering the finance bill. What should we understand by this? Sensex is playing truants for the last three weeks it is playing hide and seek. It is going up and down and we are much concerned about it becouse it affected in psychologically. The sensex of the poor, which is index of poverty, is sliding downwards. This sensex is tottering even when it is linked to the index of the world. It seems that we are living in such a world where sensex has become a measurement of our success and other measurements have become meaningless. I am not saying that the administration is not giving importance to that.

[Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari]

Recently, when the sensex was going down, the hon. Finance Minister had to announce unwillingly that the 21 companies, registered in Mauritius, where they do not have any factory, or establishment or institutions, which only works as a post office and provided address to those companies, will not be served only tax notice. It resulted in the loss of thousands of crores of tax revenue, the income of the Government but it had to be done to insure that the sensex do not fall further you did it a few days ago but now you have to find another way. In the Mcdowell case, the supreme court said that it is not in the interests of the country to allow trade in a fraudulent manner. Other countries also have such laws. The major countries are not afraid to take action against the fraud companies. That is why the Microsoft company is being split into two and Bill Gates is troubled due to it. Microsoft was the most successful company of the world but the administration of North America is spliting it into two parts. Bill Gates cannot do anything but watch and the other big factories of technology are fearing for their future. And our finance bill is a testimony of facts.

Sir, we had also woven a beautiful dream in the budget of the last year. Alas! If only that dream could be realised. Last year, the finance bill and the budget had many good proposals and announcements with the blessings and inspiration of the hon. Prime Minister.

The Finance Bill and the Budget have identical objectives, that is why I have to refer to the objectives of the budget when I speak of the finance bill. The budget of the last year had a number of good-intentioned, inspiring and hope engendering proposals. For example, the Annapoorna Scheme, under which the senior citizens, i.e. those of the age of 65 years and above, were to get 10 kg. of grains free of cost. It is my good fortune, that I come in that category of senior citizens. Such old age pensioners would be given 10-20 kg. grains free of cost. A separate fund the primary health care was announced for the Gram Panchayts. The year 1999-2000 was declared as the national year of the Gram Sabhas. What a colourful dream! Each Panchayat would be given annual asistance for the primary health. There is another colourful dream about the Educational Gurantee Scheme, under which the Panchayats would open their own schools for two years and later the Government would take over it. Gram Samaridhi Yojana, in which the villages have been given full rights to make their own plans for which they would get assistance. I cannot see those schemes in this bill or the budget, it has not been mentioned anywhere. I read the whole budget literature, statistics but this proposal was not present. What happened to these colourful dreams. Swarna Jayoti Gram Rozgar Yojana was also announced. Also announced were Samagra Awas Yojana , Tax free bonds for the municipal boards to construct houses, Deen Dayal handloom promotion scheme, 100 .clusters every year for village industrialisation, National Programme for Rural Industrialisation Garib Yojana. I ask hon. Prime Minister, where al these schemes have gone. The slogan of 'Jai Vigyon' was appropriate and Rs. 20 crore was announced last year for the foundation. All these schemes were good and nice, but no, follow up measures were taken. They were not clearly mentioned in the budget. An hon. Member was appropriately saying, that no scheme has been made for the poor whose houses were demolished. Where they would live now. You say that their houses were built on unauthorised site. There should be a policy to provide proper shetter to the people of the slum all over the country. It would have been a great pleasure it that policy had been mentioned in the budget. A comprehensive housing scheme for slum dwellers could have been made with providing 100% tax exemption to the Municipal Boards, the Government and the builders. It would have provided houses to those who really need it. It is correct that they should not be allowed to live on vulnerable locations, such as the roadsides, but whether any policy was announced to fulfil their shelter needs. Now, I would like to see the present position from the economic viewpoint. What do we see? Now the total debt on the Government of India has come to about Rs. 8.5 lakh crores.

15.00 hrs.

I repeat that the total debt has come to about Rs. 8.5 lakh crore. Our debt policy appears to be like 'take whatever you can, drink ghee even if you have to do so on debt'. Take as much debt as possible and spend them. Situation has come to such a pass that interest payment in the year 1990-91 was Rs. 21498 thousand crore and in 2001-2002 it has come to 101266 lakh crore. The burden will go on increasing.

We will have to take huge debt for giving assistance to the famine victims. What is the financial condition of the states? A fiscal responsibility act was to be formulated. That had the provision for curtailing the gross fiscal deficit. But what I want to know is, that how do you propose to do that. Most of the states today are not in the condition of paying salary to their employees. Half of the states are finding it difficult to pay salary to their staff. Recently the

Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh said in a Press Conference in Delhi that just to pay salary to their staff they have to incur an annual debt of Rs. 4800 crore. They will have to pay interests also on it. The interest payment of Rs. one lakh core is not just the issue concerning the Government of India. All the states look at the Central Government for assistance because they have incurred so much debt. Their financial condition have come to such a pass that looking at the centre for assistance is inevitable for them. The burden of the states become the burden of the Central Government. Either they get over draft from the Reserve Bank or come to you for the assistance.

Recently, the Eleventh Finance Commission headed by Shri Khusro, has given Rs. 15000 crore to the states. I do not know whether the budget has provisions for it or not. But if we consider the fiscal deficits of both the states and the Centre, we would realise that the situation is not going to improve in the near future. We have to think about it. For every rupee that the Government borrows, 24 paise go in debt servicing and only 65 paise actually reach the Government. Central Government borrows money from the market, the banks and the Reserve Bank and the more money Central Government borrows these sources, the less money is available for small traders, farmers and industries because the total available money in the market remains constant. Thus, if the Government goes for high borrowing, there remains, to the same extent, less money is available for the market, farmers, industries and trade. It means more pressure for them and less capital availability for the market. At present, the small, medium and large scale industries and the business community is facing shortage of capital. Therefore the more the borrowings of the Government will increase, the more distortion there will be for the economy and also the production process.

Emphasis has been given to agriculture. The Finance Bill also confirm this. But what is the condition of the agricultural credit, which is only around 16%. The some amount is being utilised for cultivation also. The proportion of agriculture in the total disbursed credit is declining be it through primary cooperative societies, or land development banks or state coopertive banks or through banking system. Cooperative banking system is also getting weaker. My collegue since long, Shri V.B. Patil Saheb is present here. Recently I had the opportunity of participating in a seminar along with him which was relating to agricultural credit through NABARD. A very important information was provided there that the focus of commercial banks is now moving from agricultural credit to industrial credit. It was expected from Commercial Banks that they would give adequate loans for agriculture but this loan is on the decline now-a-days. Credit-deposit ratio is a foremost criteria which reflects the pace of progress made by any state in the field of industry or agriculture. Today, in most of the states the Credit-deposit ratio has gone down. Reserve Bank of India has directed that in every state credit deposit ratio should be at least 60 percent. Except four-five states credit-deposit ratio in remaining all the states has come around thirty percent. In a state like Uttar Pradesh it is 23 percent, in Bihar it is 18 percent. This is all because the banks are paying less attention toward priority sectors. Lead bank scheme is faltering. Though I have deviated my. speech slightly from Finanace bill, yet its financial objective is same, therefore, I am compelled to say this. We will have to have a second look at Lead Bank Scheme. Reserve Bank had linked each every village with one or the other bank it was decided that a bank will prepare a Credit Plan for that village. On the recommendation of Talwar Committee one such country vide scheme was prepared for rural loans. A seminar was organised for three days in Mumbai wherein all the banks were invited. It was decided that each village in the country would be attached with a bank and that bank would prepare credit plan for that village. What happened to that? I am amazed to see that that plan does not find a mention even in the papers. I accept that Hon'ble Finance Minister is Laborious and I feel that he may be working for 20 hours out of 24 hours. But different priorities will have to taken care of. If we want to make India a great power in all the respects, then we will have to think what can be done for poor farmers and the poorest of the poor, who is also a respected citizen. As hon'ble Amritya Sen has said, though the world has belatedly conferred Nobel Prize upon him. If we don't adopt his true economic policies in India, we may adopt Gandhiji or some one else, we will not be able to succeed.

I would like to present other figures also. The Report of Reserve Bank was published and Governor's statement also appeared. The Economic Times, the Time of India, the Observer, Asian Age and the Hindustan Times carried different conclusion of the report on 4 Janury, 2000.

[English]

> "On the flip side, India ranks a poor 13th among emerging economies in terms of atracting foreign direct investment and its share in net FDI received by development countries was a mere 1.2 percent."

[Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari]

[Translation]

Reserve Bank and outsiders had said that India is placed at 13th place.

[English]

"Share of exports in GDP is still far below than what it should be. There has been a distinct deceleration in agricultural growth rate and cash GDP ratio, after crossing 10 per cent of GDP in 1990-91, is down to 8.5 per cent in 1998-99."

[Translation]

And the comment is that:

[English]

Far from happy portals at the dawn of the new millennium.

[Translation]

From last year onwards the position has been like this. I am not disappointed at this and I know hon'ble Finance Minister is also not disappointed. I would like all the parties to sit together in the House and decide how the nation can face these challenges. Will you come to consensus with this view that we have done a lot and a lot in yet to be done. As in the beginning I have mentioned a song "Maine sub ke liye sat rang ke sapne bune" and continuously you have been selling dreams. You don't sell dream but in reality do something new so that crores of poor people can be benefited. You should not confine yourself to sensex only. Sensex is essential because of the share market. On the one hand China is going in for globalisation, on the other hand poor people are also taken care of. The task which China has accomplished in a dictatorial way, we should accomplish that task in democratic way. To do this meaningful job is a foremost necessity today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now you take the case of direct taxes. What is the condition of tax collection? We are not in a position to collect direct taxes fully. Time and again it was said by not only you but by previous Finance Minister also that we would tight up monitoring, strengthen the board and would maintain some criteria at lower levels. Today the situation is such that outstanding collection figures of direct taxes, which were Rs. 33,585 crores in 1997-98 have gone up to Rs. 41,230 crores today. Arrears have increased by 25 percent, out of which 61 percent arrears are relating to high demand cases i.e. above Rs. 10 lakhs. Arrears outstanding towards poor, with high slab income are more. Prior to this, when my younger brother Shri Chidambaramji was Finance Minister, many new schemes were evolved. During that period the number of assessees has gone up and now it is one crore 34 lakhs. 14 lakhs and 72 thousand new income tax payees have been added during one year, but what about recovery. Difficulties are being faced in issuing 'PAN'. You have made a rule that it is mandatory to mention Permanent Account No. Every where. But I would like to know from hon'ble Finance Minister how many people have been issued this number. And have you simplified this system? PAN and credit cards are not being issued. As far as question of collection of direct taxes is concerned, during 1996-97 it was Rs. 38,895 crores whereas now it has touched Rs. 48,280 crores. This enhancement is not because of hard labour, but because of the collection made through VDIS. We got Rs. 9554 crores under VDIS. If VDIS would not have been.

15.13 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the chair*]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : It was not done by them, but was done by United Front's Government.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: It was done by the United Front Government but I had already mentioned that we should not have one sided views. We should not find faults with the past Governments but evaluate the things in todays perspectives. Therefore, I said that there is a need of strengthening the machinery of direct tax collection. There is a necessity to remove the difficulties. Today, level of income tax is such that low salaried class which is in low income group, pays 51 percent of the Total income tax. We should have a progressive income tax policy. In between, there was some change, but it was not enough to call it a progressive tax policy.

Similarly, take the case of indirect tax. During the year 1997-98 it was proposed to recover Rs. 40 thousand crores as custom duty. But, in fact the collection fell 24 percent short and similarly Duty Drawback.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : You are reading out the figures of which year?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : It relates to year 1997-98 when Shri Chidambaram was Finance Minister. But this year's figure, you will come to know after two years.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No, it has been received.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: What conclusions you have arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): This year we crossed the estimate.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: This year we crossed the estimate but we should learn a lesson from it, because you collected the taxes. You started collection right from Shri Chidambaram's time who got what. They collected. Can you say this officially?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes, they had launched the VDS Scheme in 1997-98. The figures which you are presenting before this House pertains to the year 1997-98. They were recovered in that year only and were also collected in the same year.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am talking about VDIS. What I mean to say is that due to such kind of machinery, there is no increase in income of the government, whether such machinery was during the tenure of Shri Chidambaram or your goodself but it always remained the same. That is why I am talking about the machinery which is prevalent in all times. I would be very happy if you show that you have realised a good amount. I would also give the figures as to what actually have been realisation of money during the last year.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: These have been brought out by the press.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am saying this on the basis of actual data. I am not presenting these details in the House merely on hypothesis. In the same way proper consideration is required to be made on Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme. Especially for Vajpayeeji who has now become the Prime Minister, when he was leader of opposition in 1996, he had once said at the address of Shri Chidambaram–

> "for the last many years under the Government, there are problems in over-invoicing, Import-Export and under-invoicing and bungling of one lakh twenty five thousand rupees is being done."

I want to know as to what provisions have been made in this Finance Bill to deal with the problem of under-invoicing and over-invoicing? I would request the Finance Minister to read the address of Shri Vajpayee as he was leader of opposition so that I may not get a chance again to say that Shri Yashwant Sinha has practically applied the statement made by Shri Vajpayee in his address and thus congratulate him that whatever he has done is really good. Shri Vajpayee performed his duty as leader of opposition but what developments are taking place in the issue that he had raised. Now you see that ten thousand seven hundred fifty eight licenses were made free of Import duty, out of which there was a turnover of 3532 crore rupees, when was this investigated? These are the only authorised datas of over-invoicing and under invoicing.

But I only want to submit that as hon. Finance Minister is saying regarding service tax that we are reviewing it, I would like to know as to how much money has been realised through the service tax till date. As per my information total sum of Rs. 1895 crore in the year 1998-99 has been realised. But in all this, there is a lot of scope for collecting revenue. So a software should be made so that some easy way may be evolved for the tax-payee to make his assessment.

We are presently living in the age of software and information technology. Cannot we evolve some new system in Income Tax, excise department through computerisation, e-mail etc? So that it may become easy for the tax payee to pay tax. In numerous countries of the world, such kinds of systems have been evolved and new software for this purpose is being used. I do not know as to whether any such software has been developed in our country or not. Our young Minister for Information and Technology is sitting here. Sir, through you, I would like to sugest that some sound software system should be evolved on priority basis so that whether in States or at Centre, the tax payee may pay tax easily and less time would be wasted in file work and appeal which otherwise involves a long cumbersome procedure and thus states as well as centre could also realise revenue in an easy manner. We have not been given any such assurance or information so far.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister on one more problem, as he has mentioned it. This problem relates to poverty and unemployment. I would like to know from hon. Finance Minister that whether the reply given to a question in Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 1998 is correct or not? In this august House of Lok Sabha, the answer given was that today 32 core people in our

[Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari]

country are below poverty line. When a supplementary question was asked in this House as to when will the new data come, it was told that new data will come in 2001 after the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Department. I would very respectfully and affectionately as he is very young to me, so very like to know from hon. Finance Minister that last year he had declared that an Employment Register would be maintained in each village. Am I right did you say so?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Whether those Employment Register have been maintained and whether any monitering has been done in this regard? This much I know that Employment Registers have been maintained but how many people at the village level are such who are employed today? We do not have any data in this regard. We only have figures for the year 1993-94 and today we have reached the year 2000. We even do not know that how many people are poor, even the State Government do not know as to how many people are below the poverty line.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: These people have nothing to do with the poor.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: It would be better if they start thinking for the poor also.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: It is the result of your deeds only.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am only helping you. I wanted to say that. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (Gazipur): This data is available only in Bihar.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The Reserve bank has given its comments in this regard and even in the Economic Survey Report it has been mentioned that the data regarding number of poor people are not reliable. We cannot say that the data are reliable and that is why a statistical commission is being constituted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A lot of medley is going on in Sankhya Vahini, I wonder what statistics are they preparing.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: You are making Sanstha Vahini, I do not know whether it would be made or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my request is that whenever you make it whatever your outlook may be in this regard, but the main stress in this process should be that one should check that details of all works done in this field have been computerised or not since we do not have any sound machinery right from the district level to the Centre which could ensure the expenditure incurred because this amount is not being utilised for these purposes in the States. Planning Commission is not able to carry out its responsibility. Plans are not being monitored. My request is that two-four young Ministers should be inducted in the Cabinet for this purpose so that they may go to the states and plans can be monitored fully. States are given financial aid to monitor the plans but they divert that money for disbursing salaries. They say that their first priority is to disburse salaries. Now whom to blame for this.

Mr. Chairman. Sir, as per the figures available with me and figures presented before the House on 8 March, 1999, I would like to tell that there are 2,85,000 educated unemployed persons. I am quoting these figures on the basis of registration in Employment Exchanges. No unemployed gets registered his name in Employment exchange two or three times but the fact is that in many of the exchanges, even the name of an educated unemployed person is not registered. When I refer to Hon'ble Finance Minister, it is symbolic, because by him. I mean entire Government. Since you are the Finance Minister and no job can be done without finance, therefore, you are a Central point. You are a focal point of development and all other activities also. It is your fortune that you are Finance Minister in this Government. Therefore, time and again I am calling your name and urging you to play your role properly. Last year you declared that every year one crore people will be provided employment. Today, I would like to ask you as to how many persons have got employment and at what level. Be it rural level, at the level of small scale industries or medium scale industries, how much employment has been provided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today all and medium scale industries are on the verge of closure. Today, there is another anomaly. Employment is available in Information Technology sector, but it is available in service industry only. It is available in new computer companies. I would like to know about the fate of lakhs of B.A's and M.A's who are not computer literate, where will they go? How will they get employment? Consequently, today 90 percent educated youth are compelled to stay unemployed. Though computer

training is essential, yet there is no assured provision for comprehensive training. How we would provide them employment?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today through you, I want to tell the House that when ULFA surrendered, it was revealed that their basic problem was unemployment. Today unemployment is the root cause of growing terrorism in the state of Punjab, Kashmir and North Eastern states. The problem of terrorism is growing because of unemployment. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and my old Socialist friend Shri George Fernandes have also said that unemployment is one of the main reason behind increase in terrorism and mafiaism. My submission is that the Government should held a meeting with all political parties and find out as to how to generate more employment.

How to retrain them, since all cannot go to public schools. It is known to everyone how much fee is charged in public schools and how admissions are given in Public Schools and Engineering Colleges. Likewise, 90-95 percent youth are unemployed, running from pillar to post. Perhaps, every morning unemployed youth may be farming a queue in front of M.P's house with a request for helping them get employment, and telling him that since he is very close to so and so Minister, and is a very influential person, therefore, he should help them getting employment. You ask our M.P's how much they are bothered by these things. Even they are to be offered food and provided a shelter somewhere, since it is our duty. These are the figures poverty and I am not happily quoting these figures but I am quite dismayed at this. This is not only your's or Government's problem. It is a problem of society, and of country as well. But the Government has to make proper use of its power. We wish you to proceed further and try to achieve the target set in this direction.

I can say a lot, but next time when I get an opportunity I will convey my views. I desire that maximum number of hon'ble Members should convey their views, therefore I do not want to act as an impediment. I would humbly request hon'ble Finance Minister that he should keep in mind the points or figures I have presented with examples, and make some announcement and give assurance on my points in the course of his reply. Then I would think that the Finance Bill for the year 2000 has indeed been introduced.

You have very rightly mentioned in your speech that it is your fortune to have got an apportunity to present first Budget of this millennium. Indeed you are fortunate, but in true sense you will be considered fortunate only when the rays of this fortune reach crores of poor, landless and unemployed persons in the country.

lastly, I would conclude with one more point. Recently, I went to Gazipur. I was told about agriculture labour and was also informed that Naxalism is on the rise. It is growing in Eastern Uttar Pradesh also and it is infiltrating from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. I asked about the reason behind it? It is because Harvester Combine and Thrashers are available in villages on hire. There, I heard that agricultural labourers were agitating against the use of Thrashers because it was snatching their livelihood. On the one hand there is a demand for modernisation whereas on the other hand there is a demand from poor people against it their plea is that being landless they survive on the basis of remuneration received during four months job they get during harvesting. And now Harvesters and Thrashers have arrived to deprive them. People requested with tears in their eyes to do something. What will I do? All of us will have to think about it. We have to go for modernisation, but simultaneously we have to provide food to the poor. Similarly, we have to remove slums and on the other hand we have to provide accomodation to the slum dwellers also. Who will think about it? Time has entrusted you this responsibility. Humbly, I would request you to take new initiative to carry out historical responsibilities entrusted to you. I strongly appeal to you to think about it and do something.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for enabling me to participate in the debate on the Finance Bill presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

After a long spell, today I got the privilege of listening to my esteemed friend, hon. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari. In his speech, he might have wished to give some compliments to the Finance Minister for the innovative steps taken in the sphere of tax structure, but he did not compliment.

He was compelled to do his duty to Congress Party because he could not go beyond that. But in his speech, he repeatedly made a reference to the dream Budget. Of course, I do concur with him that it is a dream Budget because this Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is having a dream for a proud India, a dream for a prosperous India and a dream which is going to be fulfilled.

[Shri Vaiko]

In his speech, the hon. Member himself said that there are formidable challenges ahead. What was the situation in the month of March, 1998? The situation was very grave, alarming, gloomy foreboding that the Government would land in a quagmire. What was the situation when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took over the reins of the establishment? The growth rate in the previous years had fallen as low as 5% of GDP. What was the scenario in industry? There was total recession. What was the picture in agriculture? Agriculture recorded a decline in value added production. What about foreign exchange reserves? They have fallen. What was the international situation? As the hon. Member has rightly quoted the nobel laureate Dr. Amartya Sen by saying it was a real globalisation challenge because the crisis was all over the world. When we entered into the ruling area by the month of March, 1998 the international situation and the economic situation was very serious and the crises were everywhere, particularly in East-Asian countries and the value of currencies were falling. The value of Japanese Yen was falling. China was facing a problem. Our neighbour and our sister country, Pakistan, was on the brink of financial collaps. At that time, we came to power. Shri Yashwant Sinha became the Finance Minister. Therefore, the warning was there. In the month of March when he was about to present the Budget, not only some of the experts, but our leaders from that side, gave a warning that we are going to enter into quicksand and we could not wriggle out. That was like a warning to Caesar "The ides of March." But there was no lean and hungry-looking man here in India. What happened? Immediately we took over when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister. I explained the scenario. But after that, the biggest challenge came and we had to protect the security of the country. That was the prime concern of the Government.

Pakistan was a frustrated neighbour that could lodge a misadventure, putting its hands on the nuclear trigger any time. Therefore, the Government took a historic decision at a defining moment in the history of this country going in for the Pokhran blasts. Immediately after the Pokhran blasts, the challenge of sanctions came from the capitalist countries and the US. Our friends said, 'We had already told you that you were going to be caught in a quagmire. How are you going to come out of it when the sanctions are there?' Despite the forebodings and warnings of our friends from the other side, the result was different.

There was a prediction that the growth rate of the economy would be further reduced from five per cent to 3.5 per cent or four per cent. But the growth rate in 1998-99 was 6.8 per cent and the growth rate for this year has been projected to be 5.9 per cent. This is the result after the Pokhran blasts and the Kargil conflict. You could say that we could have taken some more steps but we had to make an additional allocation, an increase, of Rs. 13,000 crore for Defence in a single year. Again, we had to make an additional Plan allocation of Rs. 11,000 crore and another Rs. 11,000 crore under the interim award of the Eleventh Finance Commission. So, there was a total allocation of Rs. 35,000 crore and an interest payment of Rs. 10,000 crore. This alone comes to Rs. 45,000 crore.

The Non-Plan revenue expenditure is going up only by 1.8 per cent because of the control in Government expenditure. When we hear the gloomy forebodings of some of our friends, we should not forget the history. We should not forget the malaise and morass, which is the resultant legacy of the previous regime. We inherited the legacy of the 45-year rule by the Congress party.

When our hon. friend Shri N.D. Tiwari, the leader from the Congress party spoke, I expected that he would delve at length about the tax structure, the direct and indirect taxes and the innovative measures that have been taken. If you take the duty structure, the Govenment has done a historical work on the taxation side.

First of all, let us take excise duty. There were hundreds of rates for excise duty some years ago but last year it was reduced to three rates of basic duty and two levels of additional duty. This year, the Budget has reduced this to a single rate of Central Value-Added Tax at 16 per cent, which, more or less, accounts for 85 per cent of the entire excise revenue. There are only three addtional excise rates for special items. So, is it not a big innovative step towards establishing a national Value-Added Tax?

In their heart of hearts, they would agree that it is a commendable step towards establishing a national Value Added Tax.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am thankful to my dear friend and colleague from Tamil Nadu for his suggestions and for the references to me. May I humbly remind him that the three-tiered excise duty continues in the form of special excise duties, which are non-MODVAT-able? So, he will see that the tax reforms have been diluted to that extent that there are no special excise

duties and the same old three-tiered structure had been retained. It is non-MODVAT-able. It is not CENVAT that is levied on us.

I thought I should not go into all the jugglery because on the one hand, they have reduced the number of excise duties and kept it at a middle level and on the other hand, more duties are covered. Really speaking, they have increased the excise duties on most of the items from eight per cent to 16 per cent. Single duty means increasing the excise duty on so many items.

So, I would request my great friend from Tamil Nadu to look into this aspect also. Ot course, I agree with what said, to a certain extent.

SHRI VAIKO: But there is a level-playing field. There is no scope for any lobbying. In this endeavour, really, he has taken these steps with a vision. The procedures have been simplified; equity is maintained. In most of the cases, duties have been increased from eight per cent to 16 per cent and in some cases, they have been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent. Previously what was happening? How many rates of excise duties were we having? That is the point.

Now, what he has done is just the procedural simplification. In a big way, simplification of rules has been done, making the tax administration very simple. The Finance Minister has introduced the idea of tax payment in banks and getting refunds also from banks, which will be a great been for ordinary taxpayers. 'One by six scheme', which was introduced in about 54 cities has been extended to cover new places; now it will be introduced in 79 cities, which will expand taxpayer base.

I think, hon. Member Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari would agree with me because the hon. Finance Minister has introduced the concept of 'transaction value.' Even now, he has referred to it. The concept of 'transaction value' is to determine excise duty in place of normal price that was open to so many disputes. Now, he is permitting excise payment after every fortnight instead of on a day-to-day basis. He is prescribing that the Excise Department would rely upon the records of the manufacturers. It is very important to note it. It was in practice for many years. That is why, the entrepreneurs and others were put in the stronghold of the bureaucracy. Now, that has been removed. They would now rely upon the records of the manufacturers. The requirement of statutory records has been totally dispensed with.

All the simplifications have been done. When he was referring to CENVAT, the availability of CENVAT credit would ensure an equitable spread of tax burden. That is the concept and that is the direction. He has taken these steps towards the goal of achieving equitable spread of tax burden. The experts in the field of economics and many other people have been demanding that these measures have to be implemented. When such measures have been implemented, the credit should be given to the hon. Finance Minister for his bold and innovative step.

Let us take the case of customs. Of course, our Finance Minister would not take any democratic step as in the case of excise because of the reason that any across-the-board reduction would have hurt the Indian industry. But, now he has been very cautious and careful He has maintained a clear direction which is of rationalisation and reduction of duties where they can boost the Indian industry and placed items at the peak rate where it was needed in the larger interest of the country. So, he has maintained the equilibrium and the balance. He has put the items at the peak rate in the larger interest to safeguard our legitimate interests and at the same time resorted to reduction of duties where it can boost the Indian industry.

Particularly, the reduction of duties on items relating to telecome, information technology, entertainment, infrastructure definitely shall give a boost to our industry and exports because nobody would deny the fact that the world is changing at a hurricane speed. Particularly in information technology, a revolution is taking place. To cope with the change of time, we have already given a message to the world at the dawn of this century and the new millennium that we would like to become the economic super power of the world. It is going to happen. That is our vision, that is our dream. That is why we have used the word dream.

Of course, certain stringent measures should have been taken. But we are going in the right direction. You would remember that the peak customs duty has been brought down from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. It is a very good step, a well thought-out step taken in the right direction. When the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government left the office, the peak tariff rate was 50 per cent. Then, the UF Government brought it down to 40 per cent. but slapped a five per cent across-the-board special customs duty. Now this five per cent point reduction in the peak tariff rate in the current Budget finally moves the tariff reform forward.

[Shri Vaiko]

Our hon. Finance Minister has also decided to phase out the income tax exemption for exporters in five years. It needs courage and good economic sense to phase out the exemptions. I do remember that in his Budget speech he proposed the abolition of the Finance Minister's discretionary powers. Nobody would be willing to lose or abandon the discretionary powers to grant ad-hoc exemption on customs and excise duties. It was being done by so many Finance Ministers keeping the liberty of discretionary power to give ad-hoc exemptions of customs and excise duties at their disposal. It was being done at times at the whims and fancies of the ruling elite. But that has now been given up voluntarily, suo motu. It is a self-denial. I would not opt for this. What is the result? He has saved Rs. 500 crore for this country because of this one innovative step. But, our friends did not have the courage at least to congratulate him in their speeches. Nobody in the ruling party would be willing to give up such discretionary powers.

When we come to the arena of income tax, our Finance Minister's hands are tied. We know that. But, he has taken commendable steps with a dual strategy. The first one is to phase out some concessions, so that the low and uniform rates of tax can be sustained.

The second thing is, he has spread the additional burden by equitability. That is the point that he was referring to. There is a small extra surcharge on upper income group and a small increase in the dividend tax on the companies. He has made a small increase. It was already existing. But he has also removed interest tax and taken a number of measures to help the tax-payers. The dividend tax on companies is not new. It was already existing, but he has raised it. MAT has been rationalised and the rate has been reduced from 10.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent. I think, in a different situation, he has done an excellent job.

Inasfar as agriculture sector is concerned, there are some advocates that agriculture also should be brought into the tax net. But we know the conditions of the agricultural farmers, the land-holding class. We have got concern for agricultural labourers. At the same time, the small land holders and even the medium land-holders are always in the debt trap in spite of possessing land. This is happening. As a farmer, I know it. I know how to plough the land. I come from a small rustic village and I belong to the agricultural class. I know what is happening in my village. When monsoons fail, even the land-holders do not have money in their safe deposits. Many agricultural families hold land but they do not have a television to enjoy in their houses. This is the situation. So taking into account all these aspects, agriculture has not been brought into the tax net. It will stay out of the tax net in perpetuity. We have to congratulate the Government and the Finance Minister for this innovative step.

Our Finance Minister has announced some Additional credit facilities for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs). The Reserve Bank of India had recently dispensed with the collateral requirement for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh to small units. Our Finance Minister has raised this limit to Rs. 5 lakh. The Credit Guarantee Scheme for the SSIs is also being launched with a provision of Rs. 100 crore in the Budget. When we touch upon this area, we find that lakhs of people are employed in the Small Scale Industries, the cottage sector, and the tiny sector. I represent a constituency where ten lakh people belonging to large number of poor families are depending on cottage sector which is engaged in producing hand-made match sticks. This tiny sector caters to the needs of ten lakh people. But there is a danger of mechanisation and all these people will be thrown into lurch, chill, penury and misery. Therefore, we have been pleading with the Government to protect the interests of this tiny cottage sector, particularly the industries which produce hand-made match sticks.

My comrades are, of course, concerned about the proletarians, the poor, the working class and the labourers. I really commend their sincerity, loyalty and commitment. But the leader of the very same comrades for whom I have got the greatest respect, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, came all the way to North Block to meet the Finance Minister and make a representation for the mechanised sector. This is a fact. In the last Budget speech also, I have referred to this. I have got great respect for the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I agree that he is a legend in that State. But when our Comrades are agitating in the streets of my constituency and southern districts of Tamil Nadu to protect the cottage sector, their own leader comes here to plead for the mechanised sector to reduce the tax.

16.00 hrs.

This is happening. This has already happened. Therefore, I have made a plea to the hon. Finance Minister. What happened when the Janata Party Government came to power in the year 1977? There was a bold attempt to protect the interests of the cottage sector, that is, the hand-made sector. So, the duty structure should be in such a manner that it should protect this sector, particularly the

hand-made sector where ten lakh people are depending upon this sector for their livelihood. But the mechanisation is coming in a way surreptitiously. Before we took the reins of the Government, particularly when the NDA Government came to power, even before 1998, the mechanisation had crept in. Therefore, we came all the way to meet the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister to put an end to this. Mechanisation should not be allowed. Otherwise, the whole lot will be in deep crisis. There will be a terrific problem for their livelihood. So, they should not be allowed to operate the machines. This is my fervent plea.

The most significant announcement is the acceptance of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms for reducing the minimum shareholding by the Government in nationalised banks to 33 per cent.

The other important area is the area of foreign exchange reserves. It is an area about which we are very much concerned. It protects the economic well-being of the country. A priority area for economic reforms had been trade and exchange rate policies. Exports and receipts on current accounts were encouraged to build up foreign exchange reserves Import controls through licensing was virtually abolished. Import duties were reduced substantially in stages with the objective of reducing the cost of production, and, at the same time, improving competitiveness of indigenous industries. This has been done with a view to strengthen the competitiveness of the domestic industry. Therefore, the exchange rate of the rupee was made to be determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market. The combined results of all these efforts led to a build up of substantial foreign currency assets from merely $1 billion in June 1991 to more than $35 billion at the end of March, 2000.

We are all worried about the price situation. But what happened in the past? What legacy have we inherited? The situation is so due to the resultant legacy of the past wrong policies and the policies which were not implemented with a view to promote the economic prosperity of the country by the previous regime, particularly by the party which was in power for 45 years. What is the real position?

The year 1999-2000 was characterised by low inflation because the year began with a downtrend in the rate of inflation which decelerated continuously to reach an eighteen year low of 1.9 per cent as on 24th July, 1999. This downtrend was maintained through November and December except for the 40 per cent hike in diesel prices on October which nudged the annual inflation rate close to three per cent level. The year ended with an annual point to point inflation rate of 4.16 per cent and 52-week average inflation rate of 3.1 per cent. When we look at the figures given by the Director-General of Economic Intelligence, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the year 1992-93– with the annual rate of inflation on point to point basis– ended up with seven per cent.

16.05 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

The 52-week average was 10.1 per cent; in 1993-94, at the end of the year, it was 10.8 per cent but the 52-week average was 8.4 per cent in 1994-95, it was 10.4 per cent and again 52-week average was 10.9 per cent; in 1995-96, it was 4.4 per cent and the 52-week average was 7.7 per cent; in 1996-97, it was 6.9 per cent and 6.4 per cent; in 1997-98, it was 5.3 per cent and 4.8 per cent, 1998-99, it was 4.8 per cent and 6.9 per cent; and 1999-2000 it was 4.2 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively.

The annual rate of inflation in the primary articles (which includes foodgrains) was 3.7 per cent at the end of March, 2000. Prices of food articles increased by 5.2 per cent as against a rise of 10 per cent in 1998-99. It was 10 per cent in 1998-99 and it has come down to 5.2 per cent. While those of non-food articles were lower by 2.5 per cent as against a rise of 6 per cent in the corresponding period of 1998-99.

As far as the manufactured products are concerned, prices in this group increased by 1.6 per cent during the year as against 3.7 per cent rise in the corresponding period of 1998-99. It is a very significant point. Liberalised imports of manufactured products were one of the reasons for prices in this group remaining subdued.

As far as raw materials are concerned, the prices of raw materials showed very modest rise of just 0.8 per cent during 1999-2000 as against 4.2 per cent in the preceding year, that is, 1998-99.

Regarding the trends in essential commodities, the prices of all important items of daily consumption remained either stable or lower than the preceding year. Price rise in the group of 30 essential commodities that are monitored on a weekly basis was 2.2 per cent as against a rise of 4.6 per cent in 1998-99.

[Shri Vaiko]

We know as to what happened when onion prices picked up and as to what happened in the subsequent Assembly elections. But the prices of vegetables like onions and potatoes were lower by 34 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. These commodities had recorded very high price rise in 1998-99.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Are you reading from the report?

SHRI VAIKO : Yes. I am reading from the report of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for the tax rebate of Rs. 5000 for women taxpayers along with an increase in the rebate to senior citizens from the current level of Rs. 10000 to Rs. 15000 though the goal is to bring all custom duties down to 10 per cent or less by the year 2010.

Sir, there was an expectation that the Budget would be a bolt from the blue. That was the gloomy foreboding. At the same time, to meet the globalisation challenge, experts on economics were giving advice that we should increase the taxes. This is the advice of experts on economics, not the political parties. Political parties will not do it. Experts on economics were giving advice that we should increase the taxes, at this juncture to meet the challenge, to meet the globalisation challenge, because India has a very low taxed GDP ratio. So, taxes must be increased. That is one point. But that did not tempt him. Increases beyond a point could hurt industrial recovery and growth. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister understands the plight of the taxpayer. Therefore, he has not done it. You could say then that he could have removed the surcharge and he could have given some more benefits but he should not forget the mounting deficit due to uncontrollable and unavoidable circumstances– additional allocation to the tune of Rs. 13,000 crore in Defence; Plan allocation of Rs. 11,000; and another Rs. 11,000 crore because of the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

All these things, including the interest, have accumulated to an enormous amount of Rs. 45,000 crore. Therefore, the mounting deficit was there and he had to tackle that problem. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Sir, the hon. Member from the Opposition, Shri N.D. Tiwari was giving detailed facts and figures about unemployment. I really appreciate his concern. Of course, we are all concerned about it. But the unemployment problem has not been created by this Government. We have inherited this legacy. He has given a figure of two crore and odd educated unemployed people and stated that many people have not even registered their names in the Employment Exchanges. I would like to ask him as to what steps they have taken to make a dent in this sphere, to meet this challenge when they were in power.

Sir, many years back, when there was a crisis, 'tighten your belt' were the words that we used to hear from the Government. When I was studying in the college, I do remember reading the news report of a statement made by a very important Minister of the Central Government in which he stated: 'We have to starve at least a day in a week; then only the country could survive.' He had also stated: 'You should not take three meals a day and nobody should host a feast for more than 50 people.' Even the officials were asked to count the leftover leaves to book the people who hosted a feast for more than 50 people.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): It was 25.

SHRI VAIKO : It is only 25. I stand corrected. I thought it was 50.

Sir, when I started my speech, I said that it is a dream budget. It is a dream for a proud and prosperous India. We have got dreams, but there are challenges. To fulfil that dream, we have to meet the challenges. The challenges were not created by the Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but they were thrust on us due to so many reasons like the global recession, the East Asian recession, recession in the industry in our country, decline in the value added materials in agriculture, the Pokhran nuclear blast, the Kargil conflict etc. We have to take into account all these factors. When all the economies were falling, when all the currencies in the Asian countries were falling, we have come out successfully out of this crisis. The countries which were mounting pressure on us and imposing sanctions one after the other, are all withdrawing the sanctions now. So, it is a great victory and the credit for this should go to the Government, because when formidable challenges were there, the Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee met these challenges successfully and it has come out victorious.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri Yashwant Sinha is the Finance Minister.

SHRI VAIKO : Yes; the credit should go to the Finance Minister. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee knows who are the competent persons and where to put them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I also congratulate him on many matters. I would not only congratulate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but also Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Vaiko. Of course, Shri Baalu does not agree with all that Shri Vaiko says. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, since Shri Somnath Chatterjee said something, I would like to quote a couplet from Thirukkural which was given to us by the great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar. It says:

"Idhanai idhanaal ivanmudikkum endraindhu Adhanai avankan vidal."

It means that one should see who could do a particular task successfully and then entrust that task to him. Therefore, I would like to say that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has chosen the right person for the right job. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But there is one failure. With all respect to our Prime Minister, he has not made him a Minister.

SHRI VAIKO: He is always willing to put me in a trap. . . . *(Interruptions)* Therefore, we have given a notice to the world that we are going to be the super economic power of the world because this century belongs to India. The competition will be between two Asian countries, between two giants–India and China. But as a democratic power and also with the intellectual capability of our youngsters in computer technology–in technology information–we would definitely excel the two giants. We will march ahead and will be a super economic power of the century. . . . *(Interruptions)*

The USA will learn lessons from this century when it belongs to India. The century should belong to India and it will definitely become a 'New Deal' because he referred to the USA. When the 'New Deal' was introduced, President Roosevelt was criticised like anything. Likewise, we have started this. We have been waiting. The Opposition, including you, have been waiting for more than 45 years.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am always in the Opposition.

SHRI VAIKO: But you supported Shri V.P. Singh's Government. You supported the United Front. These Governments came with your support. We are, at least, all happy that a non-Congress Government is there in any form. I like a non-Congress Government. They had got the monopoly for 45 years.

After all these things, I would now like to congratulate the Minister of Finance. He has made a list of announcements to advance the cause of the second-generation reforms: rationalisation of indirect taxes, plans to bring services into the tax-net, increase in the dividend tax, reduction in the highest tax rate, reduction in and eventual elimination of tax exemption on export earnings, plans to bring down the reduction in inequities in tax and regular treatment of venture capital in relation to Mutual Funds and a variety of procedural simplifications.

These announcements give ample evidence of continued commitment to the economic reforms on the part of Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Vajpayee's Government. Therefore, I commend the Finance Bill. I would like to request our hon. friends from the other side, at least, to be courteous for the innovative and commendable steps taken by the Minister of Finance.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. Because of time constraint, of course, I shall confine myself to a few areas only. The Finance Bill provides a large scope for discussion because the whole administration can come under review. There are so many lapses, financial irregularities and all these things. I am not going into the details of each one of them as reflected in some parts of the Finance Bill.

Article 265 of the Constitution stipulates that no tax shall be levied except by the authority of law. There have been several occasions in the past when this Government avoided the Parliament. Even when the Parliament was sitting, they had been imposing duties in the nature of taxes on the people of this country and then came to have the sanction of this Parliament only at a later date. It only erodes authority of the Parliament. I am not going into the specific steps that have been taken with regard to the price hike in diesel or, for that matter, in dismantling the APL and rise in prices of petro-products gehind the back of this Parliament–on several occasions both yourself, your Government and your previous Congress Government for quite some time.

There are proposals for new taxes, both direct and indirect. There are proposals for modifications in the existing tax structure. There are also proposals for continuance of the existing rates. But one thing is to be

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

noted, that is, the tax GDP ratio that has been constant for all these decades. There has hardly been any major change in the tax GDP ratio.

In that sense it has been noted by economists that in spite of the complaints made by the industrialists and the rich people of this country, India is having the lowest rate of direct taxes, even in comparison with the rich or developed nations of the world.

If we take the tax GDP ratio from 1950-51–of course, there can be rather different sorts of calculations as to how the ratio is to be taken into account, I am not going into the details–the sum total is that there has hardly been a major change. But a matter of major concern to our countrymen is the distortion of ratio between direct tax and indirect tax. That is to be noted. In 1950-51, the direct tax accounted was 36.8 per cent and the indirect taxes were to the tune of 63.2 per cent. In 1960-61, the direct taxes came down to 29.7 per cent and the indirect taxes were 70.3 per cent. In 1985-86, the direct taxes came down to as low as 14.4 per cent and in 1990-91 it further came down to 14 per cent and the indirect taxes were 86 per cent.

The declining share of direct taxes was not consistent with the norms of tax theory. There have been many studies and as we remember the long term fiscal policy was—I think, Shri V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister at that time in Rajiv Gandhi's Government, I shall come to that—framed. As an economy experiences modernisation, diversification and expansion of corporate sector, the scope for direct taxes aso increases. But in India, we find just the opposite.

The share of service sector in national income has increased over the years and lately it has become the largest sector in our economy. We may say that the base for direct tax has grown enormously in India, but why the proportion of direct taxes has continued to be as low as possible. Of course, this time, a little or negligible modification has been made. But where from this money will come? It is from the agricultural sector.

Of course, this time from the farm sector, non-agricultural income has been considered to be taken into account by the Finance Bill. There has been an estimate, how far it is true, I do not know, the farm houses around Delhi account for more than 50,000 crore of rupees of assets. They are owned by former bureaucrats, people beonging to business community, mafia, politics, judiciary and many more of them. But there is an attempt on the part of the hon. Finance Minister to take into account the huge assets accumulated at the hands of a few. That is not agricultural income. Of course, agriculture is a deep subject. We have seen people in some rural areas with Maruti cars and cell phones. They are considered to be able farmers. They are the rich people there. The mercantile capital as per some reports, is surpassing the industrial capital in Indian situation after so many years of industrialisation.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : Please give us the percentage.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No one can say about percentage, but there is a feeling that rural rich should be brought into the tax net. How? We can sit together and sort it out. This is a welcome step, at least. But if an inquiry is instituted with regard to the farm houses in and around Delhi, it will provide a real picture.

This has come in the report. I do not know how far this report is dependable. It is more than Rs. 50,000 crore. . . . *(Interruptions)* Agricultural income is untouched. There has been a scaling down in the rates of direct tax. It has been done because there would be a better compliance and all these theories are moving around but our experience is that it has never happened in India. The psyche of Indian industrialists, particularly in the richer sections, is different, and it has not developed to that extent. In a developed country, and in the Scandinavian countries, people are proud to say that they are paying tax but here, even if the Finance Minister announces kar samman, there is no one to come forward to have that samman. So, the scaling down in the rates of direct tax has not served any purpose at all.

Then, there are plethora of exemptions and concessions. Of course, the hon. Minister has admitted that he proposes to bring down the number of concessions and exemptions. I fully agree with him—this is a big 'but'—but there is a large-scale tax evasion. I shall cite a few examples towards the end as to how the present Bill encourages tax evasion.

The long-term fiscal policy of the Congress Government had proposed that certain balance had to be maintained between direct and indirect taxes. Taxes like personal

income tax have an important role in tax structure. It cannot be substituted by duties on commodities because the excise duty and customs duty on commodities will ultimately be a burden on the poorest of the poor, who cannot escape from this. What is happening is that the rich people are becoming richer, and some handful of people are accumulating wealth and also evading tax.

Let me come to a specific example, amazing example. Some of the richest companies in this country have been paying 'zero tax'. I had asked some very important people, 'How is it possible when their company's name is in Fortune and in Forbes?' They are among the 500 richest companies in the world. They are paying 'zero tax'. Their reply was, 'You have passed minimum alternate tax. What can be done? We are paying minimum alternate tax.' So, there are umpteen number of ways by which they are evading taxes. Now, the time has come that some firm measures need to be taken but I think, this Government has neither the capacity nor the will power, political will to take such a step.

There has been a widespread tax evasion. It is a bane on the Indian tax-payers. Tax evasion occurs through under-reporting, non-reporting, through alternate accounting, and balance sheet accounting process. There is no uniform accounting practice because in some parts of the country, still there are marwadi systems of accounting. In Gujarat, there are some other systems of accounting and they are called 'Number one accounting system, number two balance sheet'. All these things are going on. How can things continue like this in a civilised society? We are speaking so many things about liberalisation, globalisation, excellence, and competition, but still the feudal practices in accounting system are going on. There is no international accounting norm and code still today, which is accepted by this country, particularly the richer section of the pepole Tax evasion is illegal and if detected, people who are evading taxes must be punished. I would like to know as to how many people had been punished.

Of course, in Bihar, a former Chief Minister had been put behind the bars because of his unaccounted money; disproportionate wealth to the tune of Rs. 45 lakh. . . . *(Interruptions)* There are people, Ministers against whom there are charges of corruption of several hundreds of crores of rupees. . . . *(Interruptions)* There have been people in the previous Government, there are people in the present Government and there are friends of this Government also. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): This is highly objectionable. . . . *(Interruptions)* Are you supporting Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Not at all.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: He is not supporting him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How is it relevant, supporting or not supporting?. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It will be judged by the court whether you are misusing the CBI or using the CBI. It will be judged by the people. I am not going into that.

There have been several Committees–Taxation Enquiry Commission, Commission to report taxable income. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Taxes are not recovered.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: After FEMA and Money Laundering Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)* He knows it. He has himself audited all these things. I shall tell you *(Interruptions)*. I have been insisting in different areas about fraudulent changes in the books of accounts; falsification of accounts, etc This is not the occasion to raise it. You have proposed that falsification of accounts is only a civil offence. Big people, big fish, rich people and industrialists are falsifying their accounts. Falsification of accounts is a crime. They should be punished, but you are taking it as a civil offence. Naturally, they are being encouraged. They are keeping multiple books of accounts There have been reports that as a result of large-scale tax evasion, black money of Rs. one lakh crore has been generated. It is a rough estimate. It is because of your tax structure, the loopholes, the failures in the tax administration and lack of political will on the part of the Government to punish the offenders that this is happening. Instead you are coming forward with amnesty schemes.

Now, currently, you are extending the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme. You are going on extending and extending this scheme. What happened? The people who were ready to pay their taxes, as per assessment, they also had withdrawn their offer and opted for the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme. The same thing has happened with the earlier schemes. The widespread non-reporting, under-reporting of taxable income has been studied by the latest Tax Reforms Committee. But this Government has not taken any lesson.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Sir, with your permission, I am reading a part of the speech made on this very floor of this House:

> "It is inexplicable that in a country of over 900 million people, only 12 million people are assessed to income-tax and what is worse only about 12,000 assessees are in tax bracket of income-tax of above Rs. 10 lakh."

This is very important. This was the speech made in 1997-98. All of us know as to who was the Minister of Finance at that time. From 1.2 crore people it may have come up to two crore people. But if you analyse the world over regarding the corporate tax, the tax paid by the companies, they account for more than 85 to 86 per cent.

Now, in India, the situation is just the opposite. The salaried class people cannot evade tax. They have to pay to their neck. It is the professionals, the industrialists, the rich sections who hold the reins of the companies, who evade taxes. Out of these two crores, the largest chunk is coming from the salaried class people who cannot evade the tax. I would ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he could name the most profit-making companies which had not been paying even a single paisa till he came forward with the Minimum Alternate Tax. Would he tell which are the companies whose names are there among the 500 richest countries of the world and how much tax are they paying? This is very necessary. The country and the Parliament has a right to know this. It is very difficult to quantify how much tax is evaded, but this Government is out to encourage tax evasion is very clear. Let us have a look at Clauses 100 and 101 of the Finance Bill. It has been said in Clause 100 that in Section 14A of the Central Excise Act, sub-section (4) shall be omitted. So also Clause 101 says. It says that in Section 14AA of the Central Excise Act, sub-section (4) shall be omitted. Now, what is there in sub-section (4)? Let me read out sub-section (4) with your permission, Sir to have a better understanding of this provision. It was initiated by no less a person than Dr. Manmohan Singh. No one can say that he is against reforms. It was continued by Shri P. Chidambaram. No one can say that he is not a believer in economic reforms, liberalisation and globalisation. This is what sub-section (4) says:

> "The expenses of and incidental to such audit"–it relates to the independence of audit, the remuneration of the Cost Accountant–"shall be determined by the Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, which determination shall be final and paid by the manufacturer or the person, and any default of such payment shall be recoverable from the manufacturer or the person in the manner provided in Section 11 for the recovery of sums due to the Government."

This is what sub-section (4) says. What does it signify? It is being said that henceforth the statutory excise records will be dispensed with for all assessees from 1st July, 2000 and the Excise Department would now rely upon–this is very important–the records maintained by manufacturers. What is the experience now? The experience is that out of the target, only 35 to 40 per cent of the excise–which is the largest component of the indirect tax; about 20 per cent of the total indirect tax is from excise only–can be collected and that too because of this provision initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh and supported by Shri P. Chidambaram that there should be independent audit. If that is done away with, what will happen? Henceforth the companies will take care of themselves. They will seek the help of the consultants and they can say that they are not ready to pay to the independent auditor. So many articles have come out to strengthen the independent audit system in a globalised, liberalised world. Even in the days of reforms, the regulatory power and authority should be strengthened, but they are doing just the opposite. They are weakening whatever infrastructure, whatever regulatory authority, whatever independent objects of checks and balances we had in the accounting system, in the audit system.

The cost accountants are put at the mercy of the tax evaders only. How it came about? What is the history?

Sir, there is a Calcutta-based company, Paharpur Cooling Tower Limited which has filed a writ in the hon. High Court of Calcutta challenging the action of the Department in appointing auditors in their company. They obtained a stay. Ultimately Berger Paints and others came in. The Government did not contest it. Instead of contesting this, they came forward with a decision that external audit should be dispensed with. That means that even in these days of large-scale evasion of excise it is happening.

There has been a provision in the Central Excise Act which was initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh who initiated the reforms. We may agree or we may not agree with it. That is a different issue. We have been opposing his concept of reforms. We have our own concept of reforms. But, still, there was a provision and this Government is

trying to do away with this provision. This will spell disaster. This will cause more evasion, Generation of more black money and weaken this Government financially.

This Government have, all along, been complaining as to wherefrom the money will come. There are several ways by which you can mobilise the resources. You just take care of tax evasion. You are not doing it. You broaden the tax net. You are not doing it. You should tax the richest people. You are not doing it.

The black money is a menace to the Indian society. We have been discussing about corruption in high places. Now the match fixing has come. We are debating it. What is this match fixing? Match fixing is related to this globalisation process. . . . *(Interruptions)* What is happening even today? Of course, it is with the blackmoney–Bollywood, Hollywood etc. The Bollywood, Hollywood and cricket stars and your match fixers all are closely related. I do not know how many politicians are there. That will come out. I am not going into it.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Even before 1991 there were matches. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am not going into it.

SHRI VAIKO: Cricket is confined to Commonwealth. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The money is there. What happened very recently in the Rajya Sabha elections? This is not my complaint. Very responsible people have discussed it. What will happen to this institution if things continue like this? What has happened? Even today corruption has reached a stage where black money is eroding the basic ethos of this country in such a manner that even today we found a notice from the hon. Speaker that this Lok Sabha proposes to constitute an Ethics Committee.

There is a firm, Transparency International. You shall say it is a CIA body or whatever you may call it. This Transparency International have come out with a report and they say that India is among the most corrupt countries of the world and it is related to this disinvestment process. Even today it has come out. I can cite only three examples which have come out in the Press today.

Even the hon. Leader of the Opposition had mentioned it when she participated in the debate during the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. What was that? It was about the Modern Bakery which has been sold to Hindustan Lever Limited—unfortunately I cannot but name it–for a meagre sum of one hundred plus crores of rupees. The real assets of this firm will cross at least Rs. 2,000 crore. The employees have challenged this Government that if it is not true they were ready to resign enbloc from their services. The Government cannot take their challenge.

They have proposed to bring down the Government's stake in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited to 20 per cent. This is one of the major giants in the public sector.

They can do anything and everything from power generation to diesel generation sets. Books have been written on Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. So, they are proposed to be disinvested.

Sir, MTNL is a classic example. MTNL, through the process of revenue sharing, has made a profit. Profit-making is not an offence. Since this is a public sector undertaking, this Government will sit over it and decide who will be the Chairman and who will not be the Chairman, how much percentage will be disinvested and how much will not be disinvested. All that is under their control. Now, the Income Tax Department said that they were to pay Rs. 209 crore as income tax. The company said that what they had spent was revenue expenditure. They appealed to the Chairman, CBDT–after two days, he joined as a Member of the Telecome Regulatory Authority of India–and he refused to budge. Then, there is a practice that when there is a dispute between a Government Department and a public sector undertaking, it is referred to the Committee of Disputes They appealed to the Committee of Disputes and the Committee did not decide anything. Then, they went to the court, but even before they went to the court, something happened which was unprecedented in the history of free India. The Minister owes an explanation as to what is that. The Income Tax Department ordered a freeze of all the accounts of the MTNL on 30th of March when they were to make payment of salaries to their employees. The nationalised banks were graceful enough not to do that and made payment after securing the assurance. This is with regard to a pulic sector undertaking. There are umpteen number of instances. . . . *(Interruptions)* On the other hand, GAIL is a glaring example. There are so many other examples also.

I am citing the example of Jessop & Company Limited. What is that? A number of multinational companies, three of which are multinational banks, have not paid a single

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

farthing of income tax and the Income Tax Department had been sitting without doing anything. They were appealing, they were requesting, and they were imploring but the multinational banks were saying that they did not care a fig for them, irrespective of whatever they did.

SHRI VAIKO: So, do not allow any multinational company to enter your State.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Then, I come to companies which have come via Mauritus. It was ordered that they would pay transfer price. They are making calculations of where there are more concessions. All the multinationals are coming via Mauritius because we have Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius. Now, the Minister was bold enough to say that he would look into that and the very next day, when they retaliated in the share market, the Minister said 'No'. We know that very scathing comments had come one by one from Sucheta Dalal of the Indian Express. The next day, this Government did not have the spine to take action. They are inviting them and they are weakening our own public sector undertakings. They are asking our own public sector undertakings to make payment for which they need not make any payment. That is the situation.

SHRI VAIKO: I think, about multinationals, you have to speak before a mirror.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is a mirror? How can Shri Yashwant Sinha be my mirror? He cannot be my mirror. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Sir, a situation has come where this Government is bringing disaster to the whole economy of this country. They are out to compromise our economic sovereignty by taking steps which this nation will never tolerate.

I oppose this Bill and I think that the hon. Finance Minister will reply to the points raised by me during the course of my speech.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had the pleasure of listening to all the three hon. Members, who have given a lot of statistics and made various other points, but I do not want to go into all those things. I would only like to deal with a few items that are mainly concerned with the policy matters, and also to what extent they require to be modified, which is something that has to be considered by the Finance Minister. When we see the statement, we find that the Government wants to remove the infrastructure bottlenecks, give priority to human resource development and strengthen some other things.

Another important item relates to the National Commission on Land Use Policy, which comprises experts from the relevant fields, who would adopt an integrated approach. This is also one of the important items, on which I definitely support the Finance Minister.

The Finance Minister has announced a scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana' through which he is going to support a number of things in rural areas, which is going to be very helpful. Under the Rural Housing Scheme, he sanctioned money for 25 lakh dwelling units. Some of the other things are very important. He has also announced a new insurance scheme called 'Jeevan Shri Bima Yojana', which is meant for the poor people. It is an excellent scheme that has been introduced because it will be very useful. He has also announced that a Task Force with eminent persons would be set up to review the existing legislations and also other Government schemes pertaining to women, national economy and women's employment.

I am mentioning some of these things because they are very positive directions in which the Minister is thinking about. There are various other things where we need to work together to see as to how we can strenghten the economy in the present situation.

The Finance Minister has also said the budgetary support for Plan has gone up by Rs. 11,000 crore, that is, from Rs. 77,000 crore to Rs. 88,000 crore. He has also increased the Central Budget outlay from Rs. 1,03,000 crore to Rs. 1,17,000 crore. The amount of assistance given to the States under the Plan has also been increased from Rs. 33,000 crore to Rs. 36,000 crore. In Agriculture, the financial support has gone up by 20 per cent.

One of the main points that I would like to make is about the banking sector. We are very happy about two things. One is, the Minister has reduced the interest rate by one percent. Today, India is not able to meet the competition in the international sphere because our interest rate is a biggest burden. Though our wages are low, and the quality has to be improved, the biggest burden is our interest rate, which is not allowing industrial development. Another thing that he has done is that he has reduced the interest tax by two per cent and as a result, the liquidity has also improved. Now, there will be enough amount of money, which can be used for development and growth of the industry as well as

agriculture. NABARD and SIDBI have also given some support to assist the rural agricultural sector.

Another important item on which the Minister has to make a special survey is about industrial sickness. It has become one of the greatest worries for everyone of us because a huge amount of resources is being kept idle. We have been repeatedly thinking about this. But what I want to bring to your notice is that sickness is not our problem alone. It exists in all the developed countries, including Japan, but the point is that they have removed this sickness at a number of places. BIFR is not going to handle these things. It is only handling a small set of things, and not amalgamations or mergers. We should either have a different organisation to deal with this or we have to make the financial institutions to come forward with financial assistance to see that these sick industries are stabilised. If we can get indications of the sikness from experts in advance, there is scope for amalgamation. Amalgamations and mergers are going to be resorted to in a big way. We have not done it so far in spite of our repeated efforts. This would really make a lot of difference. This can be taken recourse to in different sectors where there is mobility or adaptability. If a tractor manufacturing company is getting into some problems, another automobile company can merge with it and utilise some of its facilities, equipment, manpower, etc. There are other areas in which we are required to do a lot of work which need to be concentrated upon. To do all this we require efficient technical experts in all banking and financial institutions to monitor things. Even agriculture needs to be monitored. We must have the people who can monitor these things and give proper guidance at appropriate times.

The next point is about the direct and indirect taxes. An hon. Member has said that the direct taxes have come down and indirect taxes have gone up. It is a healthy indication. The country in which direct taxes have gone up has suffered badly. Talented people and people with resources have gone out of the countries where the rates of direct taxes are high. A lot of our people have gone out of the country because of high taxes here. Water always flows from a higher place to a lower plane. A human being prefers to stay in a place that offers more attraction to him. Today, after the direct taxes have come down, people started thinking of coming back to their country. Our own NRIs and experts are now thinking that they should come and support their own country. They are feeling that they would be better off in this country than anywhere else. Direct taxes had to be reduced to see that the resources, the manpower, the abilities and talents in the country can be retained in the country. One can think of increase in indirect taxes. I say this because in India only two per cent of the people are paying taxes. Out of a total population of about 100 crore, if two per cent of the people only pay taxes, there is no justification in the policy of taxation. Are these other people not gaining benefits of the resources in the country? The tax net should be widened. At least 20 to 25 per cent of the people in the country must be made to pay taxes by different methods. Whatever method the Finance Minister will adopt in this regard will definitely lead to a stable policy. This is very important. I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance will take this into consideration.

In regard to agriculture, hon. Minister of Finance also knows as to what is happening in this field. After we became dependent on the PL-480, we had started developing our technologies in this field. People like Swaminathan had done tremendous amount of work towards achievenent of Green Revolution. Now, in spite of the increase in population, we are able to produce enough foodstuffs. We are now in a position even to export. But, unfortunately, in the last two years the growth has slowed down a little. This is an alarm bell for a difficult situation. It indicates that we should give more support to agriculture by adopting various methods. Though the hon. Finance Minister has given some additional finances for agriculture sector, much more needs to be given. This sector has the greatest employment potential in the country. More than 65 per cent to 70 per cent people in the country depend on agriculture. It is agriculture that is able to sustain our economy. Our inflation rate has been kept in check because of agriculture. The last monsoon has really helped us. That is a very great support. This year, due to lack of rainfall we find ourselves in the midst of droughts and other problems.

One of the items mentioned in the Budget is the national calamities. I think the Minister should be able to deal properly with the national calamities. Provision for national calamities must be increased because we are facing severe problems. Cyclones have caused great havoc in Orissa. The funds that were given for this were not sufficient. Today we are having drought conditions in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. There also we require a lot of support. Snce we have not been able to provide funds to national calamities, we have been constantly facing these problems. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will be able to take special interest in this.

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

17.00 hrs.

Sir, the special item that we need for the agriculture sector is the watershed programme. The watershed programme is very important. The substantial quantity of rain water is going into the sea and we are not able to utilise it. Unless we are able to utilise it properly, tomorrow all our drinking water schemes, agricultural development and other related programmes will be facing difficulties.

We hope that our hon. Finance Minister would be able to given special thrust for hydel projects by which we would be able to reduce the floods destruction and utilise the water for various other purposes. It will also help in generation of power by using the water for our requirements. We are really facing the problem. So, this is high time for us that we give the top-most priority to it.

My next point is about infrastructure. We are giving a lot of support on infrastructure. As I had mentioned earlier, we need more than 200 billion dollars in order to stabilise our future economy and development. Be it, power development, road development, port development or the communication development, we require various things. But we also know that our savings are not enough to meet all these requirements. So, we need an outside support either through NRIs or through other resources. There is a need for infrastructure support by giving more tax concessions for a longer period. We have to do all these things as early as possible. Otherwise, our rate of growth, our anticipation will get badly affected and a lot of problems will be there.

Sir, my next point is about human resources. When it comes to human resources, I feel, one of the prime problems is on education. Today after 52 years of Independence, still more than 40 per cent population of our nation is illiterate. They have not yet come up to any educational level.

But, Sir, as far as our Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we are giving a lot of efforts and support in regard to providing education to all. Our hon. Chief Minister wants to make every people of Andhra Pradesh cent per cent educated in the next five years. In this direction, in one year, he has provided 30,000 school buildings as also 1,20,000 school teachers. Meaningful education will be provided there. In this regard, he has also appointed the parents of the village to look after the educational facilities. If any teacher is absent or leaving, they have been empowered to immediately appoint another teacher so that the studies of the students are not affected. So, we are giving concerted effort to see that good education is provided to them.

Another thing which our hon. Chief Minister has done is that he has provided a very substantial support in regard to women folk. And, one of the greatest developments that has taken place in our Gram Sabhas is DWACRA. It is a self-help resource. As a lady, we will provide Rupee One per day as saving. By that, a group of people of 10 to 15 will be able to start helping their development. Whatever they could be able to save, they will start some development programmes. About 30 lakh women have already become members of this Programme and they have already saved Rs. 700 crore. They should really be able to utilise it for their development and other related purposes.

My next point is about the fertilisers. You are loading 50 per cent higher duty on it and this is definitely going to cost greatly all the farmers. By that, the burden will also come on the common consumer. The farmers will not absorb it. They have to put it somewhere else. So, ultimately, this price-rise is going to create a problem for everybody. When the prices go up, your savings will come down. In fact, to every State, small savings give a lot of support. If the small savings come down, the resources will also come down. That is why, we are requesting to do something for it. Of course, this year, we have said that we will go upto 29 per cent of the resources. But we want to go upto 33 per cent. Unless, we make it 33 per cent, probably the States will not be able to generate enough amount to start their developmental works.

In fact, in Andhra Pradesh, we have started Rytu Bazars. It is because earlier the farmers were producing at a particular price but the consumers were getting at a very high price. That means, in between, a lot of things were going on. Now, we have started a lot of Rytu Bazars and in that bazar the farmer sells it directly to the consumer so that he gets a little higher price and the consumer gets a lower price by eliminating middlemen. That is why we are trying to stabilise our distribution system.

Another thing which we have started is cold storages. During the season when the production goes up, the prices come down. But again during off season, the prices shoot up and the consumers make it very difficult. To

avoid all these problems, we have also started storage facilities. We have even included chilly, onion, tamarind and so many other items so that they are released during the time the prices shoot up. This way, we are trying to maintain our distribution system.

But in this regard, the Government of India has also to do a lot of things. They should bring about various concessions for cold storages and warehousing. They should give tax concessions, lower interests rates and other such things. This is all the more necessary.

Similarly, there are various aspects where we are facing problems. In this regard, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the House about the problems being faced by the Vaizag Steel Plant. It is one of the most modern steel plants in the country. Unfortunately, it is not part of anybody's else responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Government of India. They took about eight to ten years to complete the project.

That is why, the escalation has gone up by ten times because they have started giving small amounts. In fact, I have fought for them and then they have increased it because 50 per cent being the administrative expenses, only 50 per cent less is going to the project. So, it has gone beyond control. Once they have given some concession. But now it is right time because it will be able to sustain 18,000 families who are working on that. The hon. Finance Minister said that wherever the technology is good, wherever it is viable, they will try to support it. It is one of the projects in which they require a lot of support.

Coming to indirect taxation, I would also like to bring to your notice that in WTO, everybody is going on criticising. The measures proposed in the WTO have been discussed for more than ten years. After the Uruguay round of discussions, the developed and the developing countries came to a certain understanding. They have found out a via media through which both sides made some sacrifices and they wanted to try and see for some time whether it will go well or they have to take corrective measures if there are some problems. That is how, in 1994 in Marrakash, they have signed an agreement. It does not matter which party signed it, but it is internationally very important. Even countries like China, Russia and many other countries want to get into WTO. There are some benefits in it. Unfortunately, there are also some points which we should take into consideration. We liberalised imports of certain things. That is what is meant by OGL. But there is a protection for us. Every item, specially the agricultural items like milk, rice and wheat are allowed to be imported. But we can use leverage which the developing countries like the US, European Union, China and Japan are using. We have to go in for tariff protection. If we are unable to get tariff protection in time and if we do not take quick action, people will suffer. That is why, I had requested the hon. Finance Minister that he must develop immediately whatever machinery is required because it has got tremendous amount of advantages.

Coming to tax structure of indirect taxation, we have simplified the tax process. But unfortunately 8 per cent tax has gone up to 16 per cent. A number of people have been tremendously affected by this. The requirements of the common man have all gone up. This is one of the problems to be solved.

The hon. Finance Minister has given some concessions just now for some of the non-conventional paper industries. I have just gone through the paper which is here with me. This is a small scale sector. Fifty per cent of these industries have become sick. You can exempt at least 10,000 tonnes. This is a small sector. It is not modernised. The hon. Finance Minister says that it requires very high capacity, high technical skill and a lot of manpower. I am sure you will also consider this and see that at least 10,000 tonnes should be exempted from this taxation.

Coming to various other financial procedures that we made on these proposals, we also feel that housing is one of the important aspects. In rural India, housing is one of the important things for which you have given some support and I am sure that will go a long way. But the question of implementation is one of the things that we require. Implementation and effective utilisation are some of the things that are required to be done. In fact, today even for some of the housing or for some other things like drought conditions, we are trying to use MPLADS. In fact, I am trying to prepare a proposal on this so that we should be able to take care of all the calamities. The programmes that have not been implemented earlier are the main constraints. We are trying to remove all the problems by taking up the matter with the concerned Ministries. Once we do it, I think we should be able to do even more on these programmes. We will effectively do service for the people and specially for the Members of Lok Sabha, it is a great boon to help people because people are expecting that we have to do something for them and all the things that are required by all the communities can be done.

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

Some hon. Members have made a suggestion for increasing the amount to Rs. 5 crore but what I would like to say is that the money that has not been utilised could be utilised very effectively and successfully. I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance will be able to take into consideration all these things and come forward and try to help the poor people. The fertiliser industry can also take some of the load. He can ask the industry to improve its efficiency so that the load would not come upon the farmers. I hope, the hon. Minister of Finance will look into these things.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak. I am also grateful to my party for giving me this opportunity.

Yesterday, I wanted to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for what he did for the sports person. The sportsman in me would have liked to congratulate him for giving a hundred per cent exemption to the Indian Olympic Association. The Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting–he is also the President of the DDCA–told me a short while ago that he has extended it to the National Sports Federation and to the State Olympic Associations. But the soldier in me is not permitting me to support the hon. Minister of Finance in this Bill.

Only yesterday, we passed the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill authorising him payment and appropriation for certain sums–Rs. 7,84,932 crore. We passed it without a whimper. Of course, article 114(1) says that there should be no change. But we did not get an opportuntity to discuss because it was streamrolled. There was no transparency or no accountability. Today also, because of the massive majority of this heterogeneous conglomerate, I think, we are going to pass the Finance Bill.

I would like to take the opportunity here to bring certain things to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance and to the notice of the Government through him because some of the Ministers are not present here. I would confine myself only to three or four subjects because my colleague Pandit Narayan Datt Tiwari, the first person to speak from the Congress, has already dealt with many of the points.

Yesterday, during the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, I wanted to move Cut Motion No. 72. What was this Cut Motion No. 72? In 1993, this very Central Government–no matter what the party in power was–had, in its wisdom, thought it fit to appoint a Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education where all the Education Ministers of the country of all hues and views were represented. The unanimous recommendation in 1993 was that physical education and sports formed an integral part of education. The reason for this was that sports is a State subject and education is a Concurrent subject. So, we did not get into the hassle of a Constitution Amendment and all that. It only took 15 minutes for the Central Advisory Board of Education in Vigyan Bhawan, to accept that recommendation. Seven long years have passed since. The first step was that it should be introduced in the Government schools, that is, in the Nawodaya schools, in the Kendriya Vidyalayas and in some of the public schools where facilities already existed. It would have been 'zero' budget where you would not have had to spend even single paisa more.

Today, there are 200 million children in 600 thousand schools and it would require $200 million if you have to give them the basic facilities. But here the facilities existed in the Sainik schools, the military schools, the Kendriya Vidyalayas and the Navodaya Vidyalayas. There are about 1,200 Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. Seven years have passed and nobody has been made accountable for not implementing it. You will find that there is only one Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi Cantonment and another in Ambala Cantonment that have implemented it.

There was a discordant voice saying that we are seeking some amendments. Seven years later, we are thinking of an amendment. Why was it not implemented? You want a healthy country, a fit country and a strong country. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy brought in a discussion on the dismal performance in Olympics. Whiy? We are not producing healthy children, but at the age of 24 or 25, we catch hold of them and we want them to be world-winners. We are a nation of 100 crores but we do not get any medals.

So, here I would like to take the opportunity to say that in the last 100 years of Olympics, out of the four medals won by India individually apart from hockey, three of them are from my school, La Martineire, Calcutta because they are taught Physical Education for three periods in the classroom every week. We have Norman Pritchard in 1900 and Leander Paes in 1996 from this school. The Lucknow Branch of the school has produced

four Maha Vir Chakras and 17 Vir Chakras. It is because soldiering, physical education which leads to a healthy body, a healthy mind as well as health education, are all integrated. This is not what I am saying. From 1904 when the bad old British were here, they had introduced it and they had said that no school will be recognised if it does not have a playing field and if it does not have an integrated education.

Dr. Radhakrishnan in 1948, Dr. Mudaliar in 1952 and Dr. D.S. Kothari in 1964, have recommended like that. Ninety-six years from 1904, till today, we have not been able to provide this to our little children or to our youth and we want a fit and a strong nation which will bring us glory in Olympics. This is my first point.

The other day, read a news item on convergence. Shri Ram Jethmalani said that there would be a convergence of communication, information and broadcasting, telecom, information technology, etc. I wish there were some convergence in the field of sports also, instead of division, duplication and dichotomy.

Now, the hon. Finance Minister has given income tax exemptions and I hope that we will be able to pool all the resources of the Central Government, the State Government, the oublic sector, the private sector, the schools, the Universites, the UGC, etc. and produce the ultimate athlete so that we get a gold in Olympics. Today Olympics is the symbol of national pride, national fitness as well as the symbol of nation's place amongst the comity of nations.

As I said, the soldier in me does not permit me to support this Finance Bill. I will come to Defence Services. The first and foremost thing that I would like to say is that we have not learnt from the lessons of the past, whether it is 1947 or 1962 or 1965 or 1971 or the Arab-Israeli wars that took place. It would have given us many lessons at a very cheap cost because we did not have to undergo the Arab-Israeli wars.

17.19 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Deep into a proxy war on two fronts, infiltration everywhere, danger of a frontal conflict developing into a devastating war with an irreconcilable neighbour, it is imperative that we follow the lessons that are brought to light in the last three wars as well as the Israel's six-day war and also, the recent Kargil war.

I recall that I had mentioned two years ago here that we lack credible defence. I know that the Defence Minister is not here and we are not going to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. This year, an amount of Rs. 13,000 crore more is being spent as a result of the Kargil war. We do not have a credible defenc, which deters enemies from attempting adventure on us. This is exactly what the Israeli's grand strategy or the aim was. They did not have depth. They could not invade other territories. But they had to be ready throughout, with an aim and a policy that they could move into the enemy's territory simultaneously, in a mobile manner and they could not quickly react to it.

That is how they have survived in the midst of large countries which are hostile surrounding them.

Now, I refer to the role of the Territorial Army, the citizens' army. In 1995, this Parliament and the Government of the day appointed five Members of Parliament. The only signatories left today are Maj. Gen. B.C. Khanduri and myself. In 1995, five distinguished soldier Parliamentarians who are Vir Chakra awardees and other highly decorated soldiers as well as Armed Force personnel and senior bureaucrats gave a unanimous report to the Government. The report was handed over to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and to the President of India as the supreme commander. That report is yet to see the light of the day in this Parliament after five long years. The Territorial Army was established by an Act of Parliament in 1949. Therefore, it is a citizens' army Sir, through you, I am trying to convey to the hon. Raksha Mantri. After my discussions with him I know that he would like to act on this report because the entire Israeli Army is territorial. Nobody can afford a large standing army with pay, pension, perquisites and the other wherewithal. Ninety per cent of our Defence Budget goes towards these items. So, very little is left for modernisation, retrofitting replacement, etc. That is why, this year the Finance Minister has been kind enough to give us Rs. 13,000 crore more after the 45 day adventure we had in Kargil.

Secondly, I come to the plight of ex-servicemen. A high-level Committee of Ex-servicemen met in 1984. Hon. Jaswant Singh, Hon. Rajesh Pilot were also its members. There were seven members of the Council of Ministers in that Committee. In that case also, some of the recommendations are yet to see the light of the day. One was relating to the formation of the Ex-servicemen Financial Development Corporation with a corpus of Rs. 150 crore from the Centre in five years and Rs. 150 crore

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

from all the States of the Union in five years. We have a Financial Development Corporation for minorities, for the scheduled castes, for the scheduled tribes, for women, for small-scale industries. But, for 14.5 lakh ex-servicemen we could not find Rs. 300 crore budget between the States and the Centre.

In the Territorial Army Committee as well as the Ex-servicemen Committee, the question of second employment came up. People join at the age of 18 and retire at the age of 33. The nation has pumped in its resources to train them. They are a dedicated and disciplined force. You have seen the number of people who have died in Kargil. Right from 1947 they have been dying, so that we are safe here. They have given their today for our tomorrow. But, we do not want to utilise their services for which the taxpayer has paid and for which they have been trained. Therefore, they go abegging at the age of 33. A highly motivated, disciplined and trained manpower is of no use to the nation building activity.

The Territorial Army has also got ecological battalions. They have done excellently well in Bikaner, Shahjahanpur, Mussoorie, Pithoragarh and Chambal Valley. The Government of Orissa has been demanding one ecological battalion so that as an aftermath of the cyclone also they could be helpful. I am very grateful to Shri T.R. Baalu who has written to me yesterday saying that there is no money at the moment with the Government of India for this purpose. If it does get sufficient funds in the Tenth Plan, then he may consider the ecological battalion for Orissa.

In the Terriotorial Army Review Committee there is a proposal for a water wing and an air wing. It is because disaster management has been engaging the attention of the Government of India today. The super cyclone of Orissa was the latest manifestation. I do not see how we are going to reconstruct that part of India which is known as Orissa. Parts of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Bihar, parts of West Bengal have also been hit by the super cyclone or the weather related phenomenon.

That is why, this Finance Bill is a bit disappointment. I do not know whether the hon. Finance Minister had visited the aftermath of the cyclone. The Defence Minister and other Ministers have visited. At least, half of Orissa is destroyed. Fourteen out of 30 districts have been destroyed. Devastation and damage are very minor words. To reconstruct and rehabilitate or to get on with life, an astronomical figure is neessary. But I do not find it on the Bill. What are the steps which the Government is taking in this regard? The Finance Minister has said that this Budget is the first of its kind in many ways and the first in the millennium. But this is rather disappointing. I thought that this was a fit occasion where Orissa could have been given a special status or category, as Orissa does not come under the seventh Schedule States or the hilly States. Even if it is not there in the Constitution, it could have been innovated. Now, you do not have a Task Force in the Constitution nor has the Ninth Finance Commission or the Tenth Finance Commission have recommended it. But you innovated it and you made the hon. Defence Minister the Task Force Commander to oversee the aftermath of the cyclone. So, the same innovate step can be brought in here because Orissa, alongwith its neighbours like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, have been subjected to these weather-related phenomenon for the last nearly four decades. This is eroding the tax base and the capacity for raising the resources for the Plan. Therefore, the regional imbalance and the regional backwardness of Orissa, vis-a-vis, the leading States are more accentuated and none of the formulations of the Planning Commission has been able to bring up Orissa and some of its neighbouring States. So, I would appeal to the Finance Minister to use his good offices to prevail upon the Planning Commission to come out with innovative ideas where such States can come up in an accelerated manner and get in with more investments.

My third point which the Finance Minister has to ultimately deal with is about the mineral royalty. He comes from a State which has got more minerals than my State, that is, Bihar, and had Saraikela, Kharsawan and Singhbhum remained after 1956 in Orissa, then Orissa would have been the richest mineral-bearing area in the whole world. But I wish him well. Now, after the cess was removed by some of the States, Shri N.D. Tiwari himself mentioned that half the States of the Union are unable to pay salaries to their employees, teachers and docors and there is a case in Orissa also. Therefore, they have to resort to more loans from the Reserve Bank of India and the hon. Finance Minister had been very kind to us during October-November-December when he gave us the overdraft and advised the RBI also not to force the Orissa Government to deeper trouble. The mining royalty has not been revised, whether it is coal or chromite. Chromite is again a Central subject. It is revised after every five years. Since 1994, the coal royalty has not been revised. Orissa does depend on this mineral royalty. It will help it to recover faster.

I will now come to the question of water shortage. During the debate on drought, we did discuss about water shortage. But water is the elixir of life, whether it is drinking water or augmented water supply in the rural and urban areas. I come from an area which has river Brahmani flowing through and most of the effluents of the undertakings have been released there. It is as long as the river Mahanadi, with Brahmani polluted, the entire fishermen folk who live on both sides are without avocation and livlihood and they have to look for alternatives. So, a Brahmani Action Plan due to pollution as well as, compel us to increase the outlay and quicken the process of augmented water supply to the rural areas, particularly in our areas. For the last 20 years, we have been trying for it with the Central Government. Dr. Venkateshwarlu was very kind when he was the Urban Development Minister and sanctioned two projects for Dhenkanal and Angul, one at the cost of Rs. 15 crore and the other at the cost of Rs. 13.50 crore, that is, about Rs. 30 corore. But, for the last three years, due to paucity of resources, the Government of Orissa could not even pay the margin money and today, that Rs. 20 crore is lying unutilised.

If the Task Force, which is looking after the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation aspects, is asked to help the Government of Orissa to pay up the margin money, then these two municipal headquarters, each having a population of 50,000, would at least get a drop of water. I do not wish to quote Sir Yadunath Sarkar about the story when Shajehan tells Aurangazeb about two drops of fresh water. That is the question. We are like Shajehan waiting for two drops of potable water for the towns of Dhenkanal and Angul. It might create some problems if I quote the whole thing.

This time, because of the super-cyclone, the entire environment has been destroyed in Orissa. The entire tree cover is gone. Today, I saw that there was a question on repropagation of Sal trees. In Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, the Sal trees have been plentiful. In my district, which is hundred kilometres inside the sea-coast, Sal trees worth Rs. 4 crore have been destroyed. The Sal tree cannot be propagated. It cannot be planted. It has to regenerate on its own. That way, the entire tree cover is gone in 14 to 15 districts out of the 30 districts. Today, I have got a telephone message from my Collector. He informed me that nine people have already died of sun-stroke. Last year, 400 out of the 1800 people who died in Orissa were from my area. Today, because the tree cover is gone, sun stroke and heat stroke deaths are taking place. There is an acute shortage of water. The villages have a habit of getting their houses burnt during this time of April-June before the onset of monsoon because of fire hazards. This is where the hon. Finance Minister could help. In the past, we used to go to the hon. Prime Ministers for getting money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. By giving one thousand rupees per family, it becomes the seed money for getting a loan from HUDCO or from HFDC to build fire-proof houses. There is a village called Bhuvan which used to be the largest village in India. Every year, it used to burn. When I approached Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1987, he spent Rs. 30 crore and for the last thirteen years, not a single house has been burnt. If you can think of either the Indira Awas Yojana or some other methodology, it would help. Hon. Shri Gujral had also sanctioned us Rs. 3 crore and those two villages are now safe. For the last three years, not a single fire incident has taken place. We would like to build fire-proof houses and the main source of fire is the kitchen. Either the kitchen should be fire-proof or the entire thing should not be of thatched-roof but it should be fire-resistant. If we do this, a lot of money, which is now going towards giving relief and dole, could be kept for developmental purpose. It will not be diverted.

The other vexatious problem, which has been concerning most of the Members of Parliament from Orissa, irrespective of the party affiliation, is the news item in the media that the live telecast of Lord Jagananth's Rath Yatra has been stopped. But I had checked up with the Information and Broadcasting Minister who said that it has not been stopped but we are repeating what was happening last year. So, the hon. Minister, Shri Ajit Panja was the first person who had it coverd in the electronic news gathering. For three years, from 1993 to 1995, we did the live telecast in the national hook up. It was continued by Shri Sangma and Shri Ibrahim. But, of late, for the last two years, they have been showing it only in the regional link up. So, what I intend to say is that Lord Jagannath is neither a Hindu nor is he an Oriyan. He is the Lord of the Universe. You will be surprised to know one thing. Hymns form the Old Testament are sung. Legend say that of the 12 years of disppearance of Jesus Christ, one year was in Avantipur. The legend says it. I have not seen it. They say that it was also in Puri. The first disciple of Guru Nanak was from Puri. So is the Shabad Kirtan known as Shakshi. The best disciple was a Muslim sufi saint called Salbeig. Of course, the Bhajans of the Gowdiya Mutt and the Vaishnavas are there. So, Lord Jagannath is not a Hindu. He is neither one of the Dasavataras. But he

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

is a Universal Deity. People from outside Orissa come to see and participate in this festival. There, 25 to 30 lakh people come. Therefore, it would be a retrograde step if the live telecast of that event is stopped from the national hook up.

Regional thing means only in Oriya. But it was not Oriya at all. In 1993, Shri Siddharth Shankar Ray wanted 100 cassettes to be distributed in the United States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, this is my last point. I come to development and information technology. Sir, we used to think of information super highway four or five years back. Today, we have multi-media information highway. We have a new Ministry for Information Technology. In 1995, a small experiment was done by Information and Broadcasting Ministry by converging all the segments of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry with the able help of Dr. Venkateshwarlu, the Director of Central Rice Research Institute. At that time when the crops had failed, we got 19 times more yield by using a simple communication exercise. Dr. Kishanlal Sondhi, the elder brother of Shri Manoharlal Sondhi, M.P. was the architect of this, along with the Central Rice Research Institute. At that time, I had written to Shri Chaturanan Misra, and I met Prof. Dandavate, who was the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission and told him that if we can converge this in KBK districts and extend it, replicate what had happened in Dhenkanal four-five years back, we may get even 600 million tonnes of foodgrains which will give us a lot of food security. The scheme is available with the Planning Commission, and the Agriculture Ministry. It has been discussed even with Shri Sundar Lal Patwa only last month. Somebody will have to take the initiative, either the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Agriculture. At that time, it was the Information and Broadcasting Ministry that had taken the lead but somebody has to take the lead as a nodal coordinator.

Lastly, we were talking about the basic necessities, minimum needs like water, health, and housing, now, I have been getting frantic calls that in many areas of South Delhi, in this hot and scorching sun, demolition is going on with the help of bulldozers. I do not know after the bulldozers have done their job perfectly, what will happen to those people who were living in the dwelling units there for the last 40 or 45 years and what is going to happen to them in this hot weather?

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Tiwari who initiated discussion on behalf of opposition and thank him for reminding us of our dreams. I would like to say to Tiwariji that only those people dare to dream who can turn them into reality. The Government of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee aroused hopes in people of the country and our Finance Minister has the ability to realise those dreams. Pt. Deendayalji had stated "We have dreams of bright future in our eyes but we are not slumberous". Do not listen to the advise of those who frighten us of the hurdles of the Path. We have to build our own path. Our destination will pave way for us. I would like to thank the hon'ble Finance Minister for providing level playing field in India to promote venture capital fund. The correction made by him in the field of venture capital fund was necessary. Technical correction with a liberal attitude is essential. He has not made correction only in venture capital fund but alongwith it he has also made announcement that the benefits which were to be given to software companies registered before 31st March 2000, would also be given to other companies registered afterward which is laudable.

I would like to say here that our government has a dream that India should lead the world in field of Information technology and we will make it true. Today, India has made progress to a great extent in the field of information technology. Hon'ble Finance Minister has formulated a scheme that software companies registered in Technology Park of India will be given benefits. This scheme is for technology park set up 10 years ago. During last 10 years only 1400 companies were registered and out of it only 700 companies are working at present. We have shown a dream to the world, technocrates of India and IIC Engineers who have faith in information technology.

Sir, Finance Minister has made an announcement on 28th February. During last nine years only 1400 applications were received and out of them 700 companies were functioning. Now in one month 4500 new software companies have registered themselves. We hope to increase our export upto 100 billion dollar by the year 2001. Today our youth are doing business with people of USA while sitting in India. He accepts orders from USA. He has contacts with thousands and millions of customers on the telephone lines taken on lease. NDA government has provided this facility. . . . *(Interruptions)* You can only create controversy by making argument for the sake of argument.

Sir, it is correct that our Minister has levied meagre taxes in some fields. It is essential to administer bitter dose of tetanus if the child is injured by a sharp nail. It will be dangerous if the mother does not take the child to a doctor with apprehension that child would weep and suffer pain due to injection. This is what you did with this country at the critical juncture you did not pay proper attention and did not take harsh measures. I would like to say to Tiwariji that he has raised a good point. I did not want to raise that issue. Sir, there was a Hindi movie 'Chor Machaye Shor' atleast you should have not raised the issue of income tax regarding Mauritius. You were Minister in that government and showed the way how to evade taxes. Your government signed the Mauritius Treaty in 1983 and made provision of illegal trade. In 1991-92 Shri Manmohan Singhji initiated privatisation and globalisation. You should tell that who left this loophole in that treaty. Yashwant Sinhaji has not done that. FII was encourgaged to make a backdoor entry and evade tax. The C/o address given in respect of Maurtius was alright but this C/o address was provided by Delhi Office of AICC and through Manmohan Singhji. We have no objection in holding discussion on this issue. You want to say that FII is coming via Mauritius. . . . *(Interruptions)* He has right over this company and made investment via Mauritius. Do you know that nine offshore Funds of Unit Trust of India are functioning here via Mauritius. The first offshore fund was set up during the tenure of your government. I admit this and would like to say that this issue should be debated whether this mistake was committed by Manmohan Singhji or by Congress Party and UDF Government have ignored the matter. They kept on filing income tax returns for seven-eight years but nobody has taken care of even checking them. Atleast our government has taken care of checking this malpractice.

I agree that out of an investment of Rs. 43 thousand crore of F.I.I., Rs. 12 thousand crores have been channeled via Mauritius. I would like to make a request to Hon'ble Finance Minister that we do not have sufficient time today, but he should think about it and hold discussion on this issue as 38% investment has been made via Mauritius. Today the U.T.I. has to approach for collection via Mauritius. It should not be so that this fund rises to 80%, because in that case the F.I.I. can dictate us its own terms. I won't like to dwell at length on this subject but Tiwariji does not have the right to comment on it. I would like to submit that our Government has administered a bitter dose and the injection of tetanus but would you like to know about the results achieved? There has been a sharp rise in the business during the last two years. Under the rule of N.D.A. Government and excellent leadership of Hon'ble Atalji.

[English]

The Business Confidence Index–BCI–has improved by 14.6 per cent showing a positive indicator of higher level of business activity in short-term future. The BCI was based on the survey of over 621 respondents.

[Translation]

It is not based on response of two or three persons. This survey has been conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research. There is stability in the country today. Earlier the Government was toppled by just one vote due to which economic progress was hampered. There is political stability now due to which the confidence of the businessmen, enterpreneuers and technocrats has been boosted. If you want figures, I can give you that also.

[English]

Good quarter foreseen by the company itself climbed by 23 per cent. The net profit jumped by 32 per cent in March 2000.

[Translation]

In these three months, the turnover of 500 companies of the country has risen from Rs. 42185 crore to Rs. 51728 crore and their net profit has jumped from Rs. 4336 crore to Rs. 5737 crore. The Finance Minister has been benefited by this turn of events. Last year the tax collection was Rs. 571 crore which has risen to Rs. 874 crore. This is an improvement and people have gained confidence. Export growth has touched double digit in three years.

[English]

After three years, India registered 11.58 per cent growth in 1999-2000 $ 37,537 million.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would like to sumit that our exports are increasing and imports are decreasing.

[English]

The import bill is 31% below expectations.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

The import bill of oil industry has come down. What is the most important fallout thereof? Rupees has been strengthened. I would like to submit that when we discuss the economic matters, we should not politicize it.

If the rupee has gained somewhere, we should admit it. If there is a mistake, we are ready to rectify it. It has been stated in the Econmic survey that :

[English]

"Further imports are becoming increasingly competiive since the rupee has lost just 2.3 per cent value against the dollar since the last Budget. The domestic inflation rate in the same period is nearly six to seven per cent. The rupee has gained by 12-13 per cent against the Euro currency."

[Translation]

One one hand Rupee is gaining strength and on the other hand imports are declining. When congress came into power in the year 1991, the value of the Rupee was .22 and when they demitted office it was .39.

[English]

It was something like 90 billion dollars.

[Translation]

It means that our total debt liability was Rs. I lakh 98 thousand but when you demitted office, the value of rupee was 38.39. Due to which our total debt liability increased to Rs. 3 lakh 42 thousand crores and the increase in debt due to devaluation was Rs. 1 lakh 44 thousand. Who is responsible for it? I would not like to discuss it here, however, I would like to mention that the country is relentlessly moving on the path of progress. Venture capital scheme was formulated because there is a lot of scope for pharmaceutical companies, information technology and entertainment business in our country. Today we can compete with America. Indian companies are taking over the American companies. We had never dreamt of such things during last 50 years. Emperor Ashoka had dreamt of it hundreds of years ago. Now under the dynamic leadership of Shri Atalji this Government is trying to realise that dream. Only the Indian youth have the capability to take over American companies while being in India Venture capital fund has been launched to support the technocrates of our country. An announcement has been made today that :

[English]

'Top brass join IBM to launch a new venture fund'.

[Translation]

Who all have joined it?

[English]

HDFC's Deepak Parikh, Kotak Mahindra's Udal Kotak, Mahendra Kothari of DSP Meryll Lynchu have joined it. They will initially form a corpus of 50 million dollars.

[Translation]

Earlier, we were afraid to mention these statistics. Now people of our country are venturing out and IBM says that they are prepared to lend their support. This is not the news item of 'Organiser' and 'Panchjanya'.

[English]

Here is the author named Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar in the Sunday Times of 19th March, 2000,"The great Indian takeover of America'.

[Translation]

Today our society and country is capable of realising this dream. We can realise this dream by working together. We can take information technology over there :

[English]

'The great Indian takeover of America'.

[Translation]

I would appeal to everyone here that let us not bring in politics on this issue. We should work together and give a new direction to the economic policy of the country. I believe that there is a need for bringing about reforms and changes in our march to economic development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir now I would like to focus on the protection being given to the small investors. Five-six months ago, I had said several times in the House, that the rise in share market is fabricated. You should look into it. I had requested the Minister of Finance to keep a watch on share market operators and F.I.I's .

[English]

Forget about Mauritius.

[Translation]

They come here to earn money by hook or crook. No matter, whoever the Minister of Finance is. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): This is also yours. It has been stated that :

[English]

'Sinha spiked tax evasion notices against FIIs, alleges BJP MP', that is, him, "The decision cost the nation Rs. 3,000 crore."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, he is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Probably, you did not pay attention to what I said or you have not understood it, or I have not been able to explain it properly. If you want, I can repeat it. Today also, I have requested the hon. Minister of Finance to consider about the route via Mauritius. I also said the taxes worth Rs. 3000 crore were not imposed, because from 1991 to 1998, no Income-tax officer gave notices to the F.I.Is. All taxes, were waived off returns were cleared and at that time your Government was in power.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: But at present your Government is in power.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The returns for our period have not yet come. These are the returns of 1997. The hon. Minister of Finance is in a better position to reply about tax-evasion. I am aware about it, but it would be in propriety if he explains the position.

Because you have left a loop hole in that. You told them that nobody will check it and if F.I.I. enquire about it you give them a C/o Address. Therefore, my request to the House is that they should consider over it. You taught us how to cheat because it is country's money which is involved. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance should look into this. I was talking about the Share Market.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): It is unparliamentrary to level an allegation of theft and the talks which are going on about Mauritius.

[English]

I am not interfering. We do not have any Double Taxation Treaty only with Mauritius. Those who have misused can be criticised. You cannot criticise the Double Taxation Treaty. We must give respect to a foreign country. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member is using unparliamentary language. The word 'theft' is unparliamentary.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir F.I.I. has committed theft and they have shown the way. . . . *(Interruptions)* You left F.I.I. free to commit the theft. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhuria, he is not yielding. Shri Chaturvedi, he is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, will he let me speak.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: You have committed the theft.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Your Government taught us how to commit theft. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It is evasion, and not chori. You are a Chartered Accountant. You use the word 'evasion'. Do not say, 'chori'. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: What have you done about the income-tax returns of the last seven years?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: That cannot be called a theft.

SHRI KIRIT SOMIYA: When you are mentioning wrong C/o address, it amounts to evasion of tax. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was talking about the Share Market.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The Minister of Finance was saying that. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go into record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was talking about the share market. Prior to this, I had raised this issue two three times earlier also and I have said that operators are responsible for this turmoil. Sometimes they talk of next date, sometimes they talk of Income Tax notices and sometimes they talk of enquiry but this kind of volatility in stock exchanges affects economy and common investors. In such a situation, I would like to stress that whether it is mutual funds or private mutual funds or U.T.I. they all suffer losses. I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to see whether the possible reason behind prevailing situation of stock market is that the heavy investors, within higher Income Tax bracket may have manupulated to raise the prices and they may have got the payment before correction or operation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally by giving two-three suggestions, I will conclude my speech. Whatever has been said about PAN, I would like to say that it is a good step. Alongwith this, the salaried class have not been considered this time but in future we should see that they should also get some relief. The taxation rates which are prevailing in China and Bangladesh for middle class, can we implement those rates here also? I hope that the Minister of Finance will definitely pay attention towards salaried class in his next budget. With these words, I support this Finance Bill.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and simultaneously I want to thank hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinhaji also. Sir, many issues have been raised here, which have raised the confidence of industries. The second issue which came up was India take over of America. Both these issues are related to rich community. I am a poor person and I have come here to talk about them, to raise their point. It is a good thing that confidence of industries has gone up. I want to thank you for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hold on for a minute.

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is six O'clock now. Therefore, I want to request the House that today it has been decided in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee that all the Members who want to speak on this issue, should complete their speech today only. And tomorrow after Lunch hon'ble Finance Minister will reply to this debate. Since it takes one and a half or quarter to two hours for passing the Finance Bill clause by clause and it will take almost two to two and a half hour for his speech and other procedure to conclude. Today it was decided in the meeting. Therefore, I request the House to extend the time today, so that the discussion on this issue is complete today and the reply should be given tomorrow.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I myself and my party has no objection on this and the House may complete discussion on this issue and entire budget. We have always wanted this. But I would like to remind Pramodji that when the House was discussing price rise and drought, then you objected and said that the House should not sit so late, and late sittings should be reduced.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was our view that the debate on price rise and drought. Should be completed in one day. And the opposition cooperated. Therefore, I will always be grateful to them and even today I am grateful to them. But if this debate goes on for too long. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I want to say only this much that the way we cooperate, sometimes you should also cooperate with us openheartedly. When such important issues come up you should not reduce the time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Therefore, openheartedly, we have arranged for dinner at eight O'clock. Afterwards you can complete the discussion and the House would sit till then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has proposed, it is my view that the House has agreed to complete the discussion today and tomorrow hon'ble Finance Minister would reply to this discussion. The House would sit late till then.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohiteji, now you can resume your speech.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Mr Chairman Sir, I have already told that the confidence of the industries is up and India take over of America was being discussed here. But the constituency I represent, is the poorest constituency in Maharashtra and the people who have elected and sent me here, they are the poorest among people living below poverty live in Maharashtra. Therefore, I am speaking to raise the issue of poor people. I have thanked Sinha Saheb since he is thinking of industrialisation. I want to invite hon'ble Minister's attention.

[English]

We have given the title to the Budget that it is a pro-poor Budget. This Budget is described by the Finance Minister that it is pro-poor Budget but with very sad heart, here I am going to tell you this. I have studied the entire Budget. I will explain each and everything logically. It is not a pro-poor Budget but it is a pro-poverty Budget

[Translation]

We want to alleviate proverty and not the poors. But, the salient features of the Budget, which I have borrowed from Economic Survey, I would explain them one by one. As per them we want to eliminate poor and not the poverty.

Therefore, it is necessary to give a serious thinking towards this pro-poverty Budget. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi raised the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. It was quite long back when she gave this slogan. But what we see today that in place of alleviation it is increasing every year. Poverty could not be alleviated but the poor people are being alleviated, but the poor people are being alleviated. Poor people are compelled to commit suicide. My question is that are we preparing a Budget to alleviate the poors in place of poverty alleviation.

[English]

I am not critcising any hon'ble Minister or any Department of the Government of India.

[Translation]

I said that whatever I say.

[English]

That will be on the basis of logic. I will justify each and every point.

[Translation]

I will start my speech either from my domestic Budget or from the domestic Budget of Sinha Saheb. I start from my domestic Budget.

[English]

Shri Sinha is having a very huge vision.

[Translation]

But there may be another person in this country by name of Sinha.

[English]

Who is living on the BPL?

[Translation]

First I will take up LPG.

[English]

LPG cylinder is a very common thing. It is a very common need of the urban and the poor population.

[Translation]

In that also at an average 40 to 50 Rupees have been increased. It is not Rupees 50 per cylinder, but Rupees 50 per month per family have increased. You can think what shall be the plight of poor people in such a condition.

[English]

My second point is related with Home Affairs. There is a hike in foodgrain price.

[Translation]

Subsidy on fertilisers has been reduced. The prices have been increased.

[English]

It hits the prices of the foodgrains.

[Translation]

It is slogan of our country. We call it a slogan of India. Let it be any party, I don't believe in them. We say that.

[English]

We are giving food security to poor people to have an adequate quantity of food at reasonable rate.

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

[Translation]

When the price of fertilisers have been increased it will ultimately lead to price rise of foodgrains.

[English]

Where is the slogan for giving food security to the poor people?

[Translation]

There are many such examples. The rates of ration, kerosene have been hiked. But one good thing has been done. I feel, that the blind society of India, till today was divided into three categories.

[English]

One is rich community and second is poor community. If you classify the poor community, there are three types of people living in the poor community. First is middle class, second is lower middle class and third is poor class, which you all know is BPL class.

[Translation]

If I speak on behalf of Budget, the financial aspect.

[English]

In term of the purchasing capacity of the poor class.

[Translation]

If I tell you, the middle class, the lower class and the poor class, all these three categories have lost their purchasing power. Therefore, the Budget has accomplished the task of bringing all the three categories at same level. I feel an arrangement may have been made whereby the poor people from all these three categories can unite and fight against the rich. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister why did he do so?

[English]

Why have you hit the poor people?

[Translation]

The reply will be–to reduce fiscal deficit.

[English]

We have made the arrangements to reduce the fiscal deficit.

[Translation]

Then I would ask one question–did you not have any alternative? Were all the options closed? I will also reply that No, it was not so.

[English]

I will justify each and every thing. What are the points to be taken into consideration?

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first I want to speak regarding claims and disclaims. Sir, I have read each and every page of industrial recovery.

[English]

That is why I said I shall justify each and every point. The hon'ble Finance Minister is receiving congratulations from the industrialists.

[Translation]

Even a clipping of newspaper was shown in the House that the confidence of industries has increased. It is good, but what are we doing?

[English]

We are receiving congratulations from the industrial people.

[Translation]

It is necessary to look into it to find out how far it is true or is it only a show. When we are talking of industries, I would like to tell.

[English]

That there are two basic industries. One is the basic and consumer industry and the other is the capital goods industry.

[Translation]

Sir, regarding basic industries. I would like to explain each in one line.

[English]

I agree that there is a positive growth in the basic industry in our country, but the positive growth in the basic industry is the strongest indicator of the depletion of the natural resources. Please try to understand the meaning of my sentence, Sir. Positive growth in the basic industry is the indicator of losing our natural resources.

[Translation]

I can even cite examples. Suppose we are manufacturing cement and we need bitumin for manufaturing

cement we explore it from the mines. If we need line-stone, we explore it from the mines. Though we are trying to enhance the production but simultaneously we are finishing our natural resources. Though it positive but at the same time we are losing our natural resources. We are also losing the industrial gifts which the nature has bestowed upon us.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there are famous Kolar Gold Mines in our country where the gold is not available now.

[English]

There is no manganese in India. There is no copper in India. We have already exhausted them.

[Translation]

Likewise we lost our gold, Sir, I would like to say.

[English]

That it is against the sustainable development also.

[Translation]

Our coming generation. Our grandchildren will ask us as to where is Goldmine. Where is Manganese, Copper mines etc. May be, we won't be able to tell them at that time because all our industrial resources would have been depleted by that time.

Sir, I would like to tell about consumer industry.

[English]

That there is a competition of show.

[Translation]

If we go outside the House we will find a number of Boards on which attractive slogans are written.

[English]

There is a competition of show. Many multinational companies are indulged in competition.

[Translation]

In those advertisement boards false promises are made. Poor people are carried away by these slogans. If we take a peon as example who is the person working on the lowest post then we will find that even he wants all the modern facilities like TV, Fridge etc. in his house. Carried away by these advertisements he buys these things on instalments, but he forgets to spend on the education of his children. Multinational companies take back the articles because of non-payment of instalments on time by him. This is not a happy situation.

[English]

For this, checks and balances are to be maintained at the Government level.

The third one is the capital goods industry. The rate of growth in the capital goods indicates the growth in real terms.

[Translation]

The capital goods industry.

[English]

That is a permanent asset.

[Translation]

Its price goes on increasing. Take for instance construction of power house.

[English]

Day by day the cost of that powerhouse is increasing. The grwoth that will be there is the real growth of the nation.

Sir, I have two more points. We are talking about nation-building here. I have already said that I will justify each and every thing said by me.

[Translation]

When we are talking about capital goods industry. I want to draw your attention to Econmic Survey's page numher 115, table number 7.2. It is given in clearcut terms there as to what is positive growth and what is negative growth. For Nation Building positivie growth is necessary but here there is a negative growth.

[English]

There is a negative growth of 4.7 per cent in the capital industry.

[Translation]

It was 11.3 per cent in 1998-99 and 6.6 per cent in 1999-2000. I do not want to go into the details because of paucity of time. Growth had not taken place, where it should have been. Consumer items which are not durable in that sector we see growth. Major aspect of the Budget is fiscal deficit. We are increasing the price of different commodities including fertilizer, why?

[English]

This is just to adjust the fiscal deficit.

[Translation]

I would like to give some suggestions about reducing fiscal deficit also. But I want to ask two questions from the

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

hon'ble Minister. My first question is whether rate of growth is low when fiscal deficit is high? This is my first and important question. If fiscal deficit is high, whether there is any effect on the rate of growth?

My second question is that while preparing Budget you have hit the common man, did you not have any other alternative? I can give example of a nation whose fiscal deficit is very high.

[English]

I am quoting the example of Turkey. In the whole world, Turkey is one nation where higher fiscal deficit is there but the rate of growth there is much more. . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, in just two minutes I am giving my suggestions and I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

Here is my first suggestion. I want to touch a sentimental note. As far as reducing fiscal deficit is concerned due to which prices are hiked. I start with myself as to what I am? What I can do for the poor? What can I do for reducing fiscal deficit? I want that a beginning should be made from the offices of the Ministers.

[English]

There is an expenditure of Rs. 1 crore for the renovation of a single building of one hon'ble Minister.

[Translation]

If this renovation and beautification is curtailed then I think we can achieve the level of 10 per cent of fiscal deficit. It is not possible to bring down fiscal deficit without self discipline. I do not want to name anybody but when I speak, I speak with specific information. I do not want to name any Minister but you can find it out for yourself. Renovation at one Minister's house is still going on. Rupees two crores have been spent on the renovation of one of his rooms.

[English]

It is a fact. That may not be given to the CBI or CID. But you can just see it. . .*(Interruptions)* My second suggestion is on restructuring of administrative reforms.

[Translation]

I come from Ramtek constituency from where Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao used to be elected earlier. In 1991 country's Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao introduced a very good scheme.

[English]

That is on restructuring of administrative reforms. It was a good scheme. I said earlier that I am not interested in Party things but we should accept anything for the development of the nation.

[Translation]

A number of high powered committees were constituted in 1951 for restructuring Government jobs. Though structure was made but its re-structuring has not taken place till now, 10 years has passed since 1990. That has fractured, now the fracture. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I am just concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

SHRI SUBUDH MOHITE: I will finish my speach within two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You wanted two minutes and I have already given you more than two minutes. Kindly wind up now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am talking about Energy Conservation. We have listened to many speeches and seen many circulars. But when we talk about Energy Conservation. I would like to give example of Bill Clinton. When Bill Clinton was in the Central Hall, some papers fell from his hands when he was coming out of the Hall. When the Indian bodyguard who was behind him, tried to pick them up he checked him and told him, that he would pick the papers himself. The talk of Energy Conservation.

[English]

It is just paralled to the example of Bill Clinton.

[Translation]

How many people switch off while coming out of the room. How many people switch offf their TV, light and fridge.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Sir, I will speak just last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called another Member.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : I will just say my last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, he is asking very relevant things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that. I have to judge because I am sitting here.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you.

[Translation]

Nothing is going on record. Why are you speaking? After this Shri Rattan Lal Kataria's speech will go on record. Except that nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You have taken 25 minutes.

[Translation]

It is no injustice. I have given you full time. I warned you three times but you continued speaking. You cooperate with me in running the House. I am asking for your cooperation. I have called him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called you, but you were not there. Now I have called him. Please take your seat. I am requesting you.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: You have not allowed me to complete my submission. Anyway, I thank you.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to extend my congratulations to Union Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha for moving the Finance Bill, and Presenting the budget of the country consecutively for the third time under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Infact, it is a budget which would eradicate poverty and unemployment. India's prestige has risen in the last two years, you may recall that period when entire India had a very poor image amongst other nations to the extent that whenever any leader visited some foreign country, it was published in the newspaper that they were international beggars, so give them loan in the name of god. Today the image of India has improved under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee and the reforms programme of Yashwant Sinha ji. No sooner did India conduct a nuclear test in Pokhran, developed countries of the world tried to subdue India with their power and said that they would impose sanctions on India, so India may stop its programme of conducting tests. But at the request of our government, the NRIS in various foreign countries sent four US dollars to India, and with this amount we continued with our programme of economic reforms.

Presently, if we see the position of the balance of payment, we would find that export of our country is increasing day by day, as a result of which, whereas in 1991, there was a reserve of only one billion American dollars in the exchequer of India and we were forced to mortgage our gold, today our foreign currency have sufficient amout of money. We have a reserve of 35 billion U.S. Dollars.

When Shri N.D. Tiwari, from the opposition, initiated the discussion, he said that today the country has a debt of Rs. Eight and a half lakh crore. Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to ask one thing that our Government has come into power only for the last six or seven months, how can the country be indebted with such a huge amount in just a short span of time. I would like my congress colleagues to recall that their prime minister, while speaking on corruption in Mumbai convention had said that if I release Rs. 100 for the development of the country, only Rs. 15 reach the common people because of the corruption prevalent in country at different levels. This is the reason that in this country 40 percent peoople are living below the poverty line. I give credit to my government for having taken steps to check the corrupt Politicians, bureaucrats and power brokers who had firmly gripped the economy of this country like an octopus. Under those circumstances, any person like Harshad Mehta would come and befool hundred crore people of this country, leaving them in absolute poverty. It is this Government only, which today, has taken effective steps to exercise control over all of them which is really praiseworthy.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

I want to tell you that economy of a few other countries was discussed in this House. But I wish to say that our finance Bill is not like those of the European countries. For instance, if you take England amongst the European countries, you would find that the Finance Bill in England only mentions where from did the funds come and they were spent under which head, so all calculations are done as per these two things. But our hon. Finance Minister has a big responsibility in the social area. He has a responsibility of those poor people who, even after 52 years of our independence, are unable to get food, clothing and shelter. I congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha for initiating revolutionary steps in the housing sector. He described as to how 25 lakh houses would be constructed under the Housing sector, 12 lakh houses would be constructed under the Indira Awas yojna, one lakh fifty thousand houses would be constructed under the Golden Jubilee Housing scheme and HUDCO would construct Nine lakh houses with Rs. 100 crore.

In the same way, he also described as to how the co-operative sector will erect one lakh fifty thousand houses. I would like to tell you that this Housing Scheme is so workable that during the period of recession in various countries of Europe, it was the Housing sector which provided a lot of help to improve the economic condition of these countries. Construction of houses would encourage our Iron and steel Industry. People who are working in unorganised sectors, would get work. Brick Industry would flourish and thus economy of the country would get more strengthened. Similarly, we praise the objective of providing elementary education to all under the 'education for all' (Sarwa Shiksha Abhiyan) campaign and educating 75 percent of the people of our country by the year 2003. In order to achieve economic progress, it is very necessary for the people of a country to be educated. A mention of the Nobel prize winner Shri Amartya Sen was made here today in this House. He was made here today in this House. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his thesis in which he had laid emphasis on the fact that such a country would never develop where poeple are illiterate, so in this way, he also put stress on education. Today our government has really taken a step forward by laying a lot of emphasis on education in the present budget. I myself belong to the Scheduled Caste and so I feel that a lot of measures have to be taken in the field of education for the Scheduled Caste people. Today children belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes leave their studies midway beacuse they do not get even uniforms or clothes to wear I once again congratulate Yashwantji for doubling the amount in the Present budget to give impetus to the education of these people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Katariaji, I request you as also other hon. Members to stick to the Finance Bill only. Their speech should be related to the Bill only. This is not the general discussion on budget. With this, other hon. Members would also get some opportunity to speak and we all would benefit out of it. This is my request to you.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I have come into form now. It will take some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is getting over.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would also like to congratulate hon. Finance Minister that big agricultural farms which were being used commercially, have also been brought under the purview of Income Tax, this is going to be very beneficial for us. Similarly amount of funds has been increased for the Health Services sector. Especially the implementation of Gramodaya scheme initiated by our hon. Prime Minister under which Rs. Five thousand crore are proposed to be spent on five basic amenities, viz roads, health schemes in villages, education schemes etc. would definitely enable the poor people of our country to rise above the poverty line. Their standard of living would be enhanced, because if a person will have sound health, he would be able to work and become educated, and as a result, he would prove to be an asset for the country. So, if all these schemes are implemented in rural areas, then it would benefit all the people. Our government, presently is laying emphasis on construction of roads, but I would like to draw your attention towards an incident that took place during last elections. I would like to state what I had heard during the last election campaign in the tenure of Lalooji and Rabriji*. Once they went to a village, the people of that village urged that no road has been constructed in their village since independence. Please get a road constructed here. At this *said–I can get the road constructed tomorrow itself, but how will your work go on if the road is constructed, i.e. how would you be able to sell opium, moreover after committing murders, you go and hide into the huts, but when road would be constructed then police would directly approach you and catch hold of you. And in this way your illegal activities would come to an end. At this the villagers said – O.K. Sir, we do not want any road. So, you can see the kind of leaders we have in our Country, who befool the people and thus are leading the country towards destruction instead of development. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): It seems he has been briefed. Please talk about the poor people only.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Katariaji please conclude now.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Sir in this budget, some amount has also been allocated for dealing with the problem of electricity. Electricity is very much essential for the development of any state. Central Government has made liberal allocation for this head we would like to congratulate hon. Finance Minister for this. I would also say one thing that our opponents are making a propaganda that the NDA government is going to sell the public undertakings such a defamation is an unhealthy practice. I would like to tell the House that allocation has also been increased under the PSU head and vision in this regard is also very clear. We would support such Public undertakings which would help the country with their own independent functioning. Such a decision has been taken for those public undertakings which are running in loss, and would never recover from such a loss. Moreover, the provision of employment for all those employees who would be affected by such a process has also been made. I praise the government for this measure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the finance bill. A lot of discussion has taken place on the budget.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, at the end I would like to say one more thing. My constituency is Ambala, which is a reserved area. Basic problem of the people in this area, have remained the same. I would request hon. Minister to make some provisions in the present budget for development of my constituency so that metal industries, industries related to Science, and certain other industries in my area could also be encouraged.

With these words, I support this finance bill and congratulate hon. Finance Minister and his colleagues.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been noticing that in the present discussion on finance Bill, no sharp minded person was on that side, so directly hon. Mimbers were asked to speak. Everyone congratulated hon. Finance Minister in his speech. Shri Subodh was right in saying that this budget is not pro-poor, but pro-poverty, few members like the Shiv Sena members do speak well from that side.

Sir, Finance Bill has a great importance, but it has brought disappointment. Poor in the country would not benefit out of it, but the capitalists would only be benefitted. In this budget no provision is there for the poor. Tiwariji was telling about the condition in the country from different angles. He said that the country is indebted with eight lakh crore rupees and we have to take more laon for paying its interest. Black money is also around eight lakh crore rupees. We wish to ask the government whether it has taken any action to do away with this black money, there is no mention of it. They are the supporters of people having black money. Until and unless a control on the black money in India is made, economy of this country would not succeed and no improvement can be made in it. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Laloeji has black money that is why, he is in jail. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH. *The Prime Minister, who was undergoing the court case of Hawala scam, should also have been imprisoned. This is my point. . . .*(Interruptions)* we have given statement in the court. *(Interruptions)*. The case also went on under the disproportionate assets. C.B.I. case went on in the Hawala scam. . . .*(Interruptions)*. I want to establish that this government is a supporter of people acquiring black money. Why a case of 'disproportionate assets' was not filed against Advaniji and Yashwant Sinhaji, who were charged sheeted as accused in the Hawala case. . . .*(Interruptions)* So, I wish to say only this that the country would not be benefitted with such a dishonest government having double standards. . . . *(Interruptions)*. Why was the case of D.A. not filed agianst the Minister of the government who was charge sheeted as accused. Whereas Laloo Yadav has to face charges under the D.A. case. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: He was acquitted by both the courts. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Cases were filed against both the ministers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, you were speaking very well on the finance Bill, why are you making unnecessary discussion. Please speak on the finance Bill.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, members may be presented from creating pandemonium in between the speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am stopping them from doing so.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They try to benefit their our minister.* Standing Committee has given its report. If anyone has courage, he may get the matter investigated* . . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasadji please do not raise such issues, which may create tension.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman Sir, please expunge such words from the proceedings. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Please expunge words related to allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Derogatory words and words relating to allegation may be expunged.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please expunge such words from the proceedings.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): It has been proved beyond that the highest office in this country is involved in the Sankhyavahini scandal.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You would expunge these words from which proceeding, the whole world knows it, it is spread in the entire world now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Try to understand what is Sanhkyvahini.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You want that bungling should be continued in Sankhavahini.

SHRI ANIL BASU: This company is yet to come into existence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris) : It was discussed in this House. . .*(Interruptions)*. How can it be a scandal? You should not make allegations like this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : You have started this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: It is not correct to say that it is a scandal. . .*(Inerruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : They are bringing the name of Laloo Yadavji in it. . .*(Interruptions)* why action has not been taken against the black marketers and the people who keep black money. If no action is taken, I would presume that you are the supporter of black money, you are hobnobbing with them. They harass the poor who take loans be it from the cooperative institutions or the banks. You take extreme measures to recover the loans taken by the poor, including seizing their immovable properties. But there are non-performing assets of over Rs. 58 throusand crore. Why action is not being taken to recover that money? Out of this, Rs. 30 thousand crores are outstanding against the CII members – who are close to the hon'ble Finance Minister. Can you tell me, why action is not being taken against them? Why action is not being taken against the CII members who have not repaid Rs. 30,000 crores of bank loans.

The price of kerosene, which is used by the poor, has been doubled Diesel is used by the farmer. Its prices have also been increased. But why the prices of solvent, Naphtha and MTO have not been raised? Why these three commodities have been left untouched? You are trying to correct the oil pool deficit. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you go to the villages, you can see that kerosene is used by the poor. The old women buy half or one litre of kerosene and its price has been doubled. Do we have any such precedent in history? Why the price tarpentine oil has not been increased, which is used by the rich. It is not used by the poor. Why the price of naptha has not been increased? You ought to increase the prices of only those commodities which are not used by the common people. You can generate a revenue of Rs. 40 crores thus. But they are not going to touch these.

My fourth question is – they tell us that the total fiscal amounts to Rs. 1,11,000 crore and to bridge this deficit, economy is being reformed. What are you doing to bridge this deficit? To bridge the deficit, you have increased the prices of kerosene and foodgrains consumed by the poor. Its rate has been increased from Rs. 2.50 per kg. to 4.50 per kg. You could have increased the prices by 10-12 annas. Increase in HSP also leads to increase in Central issue price. It is being said that they are merely following the formula devised by the previous government. Why are you commiting a fraud on the nation? Economic cost was fixed at Rs. 9 – but what is its sanctity – was it fixed by the God – or by the commission – if you go to either Delhi, Patna or Lucknow – wheat is being sold at Rs. 7-8 per kg. and in the village it is being sold of Rs. 6 per kg. Still the economic cost is being fixed at Rs. 9 per kg. 90% of the economic cost was the central issue price for the APL. Did you fix the price after arbitrarily increasing economic cost? If you are purchasing it at Rs. 5.80 per kg.–how did you add Rs. 3.20 per kg. In the name of economic cost? They are doing it only to boast that they are providing grains at half the economic cost. 34-35 crore people are living below the poverty line. What provisions you have made in your Budget for the poor? They used to get

foodgrain at half the price. Which has been increased from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 4.50 per kg. We were told that fiscal deficit is being corrected, the national economy is being corrected. You doubled the price of the commodities, such as the kerosene and the foodgrains, which are used by the people below the poverty line. I want to know that taxes you propose to levy on the rich?

Moments ago, Shri Kirit Somaiya was talking about information technology in his speech. Government claims that the foodgrain production in the country will be doubled in the next 10 years. If this is to happen, production ought to increase by 10% every year, but it has actually declined by 40 lakh tonnes. Thus instead of increasing by 10%, it has decreased by 40 lakh tonnes. It will lead to the issue of food security in the country. It was said here that the economy of the country would be corrected if the fertilizer subsidy to the farmer is reduced. What is the philosophy behind subsidy? What is the philosophy behind reservation? Provision of reservation is laid down in the constitution. What are reasons for this provision? Poors have been exploited since thousands of years. Since their mentality had become backward and they were called untouchable and inferior, facility of reservation was provided for them. About 34 crore people are living below the poverty line. People having income below Rs. 6000 per annum are termed below poverty line. People having income below Rs. 6000 per annum are turmed below poverty line. People, who have their annual income over Rs. 6500/- come in the APL category. They should not be provided with foodgrains. But what I want to know who is going buy grains at Rs. 9 per kg. According to the census of 1991, about 6 crore people live below the poverty line while as per the present figures, that number has increased to 8 crore. Population of 6 crore are being given that facility while 2 crores are deprived of that. I often go to the village and, I hope, hon'ble Members also visit villages. Many deserving people do not find their name among the people living below the poverty line. Poor people of the village would be telling the hon'ble Member why their names are not there. IRDP is a scheme for the people below poverty line but the real poor are not among the beneficiaries. Their names should be registered. The number of people becoming poor or lying just above the poverty line in the last ten years is quite substantial. But still they are considered as APL.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, income tax dues are outstanding against the rich to the tune of around Rs. 52,000 crore. What action has been taken to recover that amount? The Government seems to know of no other way than to increase the prices of kerosene and foodgrains which are used by the poor. Subsidies for the farmers are being reduced and the coalition partners of the Government are reacting to it in a strange manner. They won't listen to their problems. What sort of autocracy is this? They go to the hon'ble Prime Minister who ask them to support the bill and thank the hon'ble Finance Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want explanation from the hon'ble finance Minister about the 6-7 issues that I have raised, otherwise I would regard this Government as the supporter of the capitalists, capitalists are getting all the benfits in their regime and the poor are getting ruined due to price rise. Moments ago, Shri Tiwariji had asked about the functions of a modern Government. Constitution says that it is the responsibility of the Government to provide the facility of shelter, food and clothing to the commonman. Poors of this country are divided into several categories in the last 40 years. If he comes to the town from the village he gets to earn only about Rs. 10-12 daily. He is also exploited. If he constructs a jhuggi by saving money, that jhuggi is demolished. Government's policy seems to be of demolishing their houses by arranging for bulldozers from Uttar Pradesh and other neighbouring states. This Government seems to have no humanity left. It may be that a big plan is under formulation. I don't say that plan should be shelved but it is the responsibility of the Government to provide an alternative for the poor for this, a proper notice should be served for vacation of the place. It is not the way that if the poor refuses to leave, the house is demolished. Such kind of dictatorship is happening in Delhi and the houses of the poor are being demolished. Shri V.P. Singh is the ex-Prime Minister of India, the mention of whom, these people don't tolerate. He is the same V.P. Singh, who sacrifices the offer of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and Prime Ministership and today when he is ailing–he has to go to look after the conditions of the poor in Juggis and hospitals.

19.00 hrs.

Therefore, the Government ought first to make alternative arrangements for the poor and only them their houses should be demolished. Without doing it, it is not appropriate to demolish their houses. Tears of the poor are never wasted. If injustice is done to the poors, their houses are bulldozed then this government will also not last long, it will also be demolished like the houses of the poor Finally, I wish to quote a few lines of Shri Gopal Singh Nepali:

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

'Jab chandra kiran se mahalon ki
deewar chamakti rahti hai
chandni jhuggi-jhopadi se lipat, kar
raat bhar sisakti rahti hai'

With these words, I caution the Government against playing with the sentiments of the poor, and harassing them, otherwise it will have to face the consequences. Whoever has tried to play with their interests, has not survived. With these words, I strongly oppose this Finance Bill since it is anti-poor and pro-rich. With this, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the previous speaker belongs to the Panel of Chairman and so, he is our ideal speaker. Naturally, I shall follow him and I would request you that you may not ring the bell. I do not possess that much lung power as he possesses. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are today discussing the Finance Bill which is the final stage of our Budget. This is a formality and a ritual. I say that it is a ritual because it will be placed before the House and passed. Our country is going through a very difficult and alarming financial crisis. We have to admit it and this has not dawned upon us overnight or on a single day. I would tell you that the present Finance Minister has a very difficult task to handle. No longer the Central Government is an ideal one for other States so far as the fiscal management is concerned. The present Finance Minister and the Government has inherited it from the past Governments. Till 1979-80, things were all right so far as revenue budget was concerned. After the return of Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1980, this revenue deficit has crept into the Central Budget. This is a matter of facts and figures. Prior to that period, there was no deficit on revenue account at all. Of course, in 1971-72, during Indira Gandhi Government, there was a deficit of Rs. 100 crore on revenue account. From then, the revenue deficit is increasing and it is going up. I will give you the figures in this regard.

19.05 hrs.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh *in the Chair*]

From 1980-81, the Revenue Deficit has crept into the Central Government's Revenue Budget. It was Rs. 1655.04 crore. During the twenty-year period, the Revenue Deficit has gone up to Rs. 82,310 crore as has been estimated in the Budget of 2000-2001. The Revenue Deficit has gone up by fifty times. During this period, from 1980-81 to 2000-2001, the Revenue Receipt has gone up only by fifteen times–from Rs. 12,828 crore to Rs. 1,98,788 crore. This is the figure.

So far as the borrowing is concerned–I am particularly talking of the internal borrowing–the internal borrowing has gone up by thirty times. I have not come to the external borrowing which is still higher. It has gone up from Rs. 2,848.50 crore to Rs. 81,268 crore. So, the NDA Government has inherited this from the previous Governments and more particularly from the Congress Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Let me tell you that the disease has become not only chronic but also cancerous. It has eaten into the fiscal fabric of our body-politic, the fabric of the Central Government's fiscal administration. So, a cure is necessary. For curing this disease, this chronic and cancerous ailment, some strong actions are necessary. There is no doubt about it. Can the present Finance Minister, can the NDA Government take the strong action? Whatever action they would take, naturally there is opposition from opposition side also. But I tell you certain things. . . . *(Interruptions)* It will be criticised. It has got pros and cons and everything. I am telling you that you may call this Budget whatever way you like. You may say that there is plan expenditure, there is non-plan expenditure, there is development expenditure as also the non-development expenditure. So, I do not go into these polemics. I am only telling you that the expenditure that the Central Government has incurred is an incremental one. We can call it an incremental Budget and nothing else. It increases every year by 10 per cent or so and then goes with the Budget. My point is that if you want to cure this chronic disease and ailment, then, instead of the intcremental budget–it may be unpalatable to many of us–it should be decremental budget. Every year, the expenditure should be cut from 2 per cent to 10 per cent excluding the Defence Department till the fiscal management comes to an even keel. If the expenditure is not brought down, then I tell you that this ailment will never be cured. This cancerous ailment will finish this country. Therefore, I am telling you that instead of the incremental Budget, we must adopt the decremental Budget in order to save the economy and the fiscal management of the country.

Look at the subsidy. No doubt, this year subsidy has gone up to Rs. 24,100 crore. Different subsidies are there in the Budget. I would request that this Government should

identify the areas of subsidies on merit goods and services and subsidies on non-merit goods and services. The Government should take a strong stand to do away with, to dispense with subsidy on non-merit goods and services and be the ideal and be an example to the States to follow it. Unless you check that, unless you identify those areas, unless you take strong steps to do away with subsidies on non-merit goods and services, the disease will also not be cured.

There is an alarming increase in the interest payment. This year we have to pay interest payment to the tune of Rs. 1,01,000 lakh. How would the Government solve this problem? It can only be solved if the borrowing is reduced by Rs. 10,000 crore every year or the borrowing is reduced to less than Rs. 10,000 crore from the previous year. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: How will the interest payment be made?. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Then, the interest will come down. The Government cannot do away with interest and the Government has to pay it. But the Government has to take strong stand in that regard. If Government do not follow all these things, I can tell you that the problem will not be solved. No doubt, I will agree with you, Sir, so far as blackmoney is concerned, you have to unearth it. So far as rich persons are concerned, they are not paying their taxes; they are evading the payment of taxes. They should be strongly dealt with. The Government has to adopt these steps also.

Under article 292 of the Constitution, it is provided that Parliament should enact a law to limit the borrowings. It has not yet been done. Prof. Madhu Dandavate made the first declaration, the first attempt. I heard it from the Visitors' Gallery that day. . . . *(Interruptions)* Unless you pass that law, you cannot put a limit to the borrowings. No Government, whether it is the Government at the Centre or the State Governments, has done that. Independent of the Central Government, the State Governments under Article 293 could have taken up this measure also. No Government has ventured to do this. Unless you put a limit to the borrowings, this ailment will also not be cured. These are the steps you have to take. While taking all these steps, you cannot forget the poor; you cannot forget the common man; you cannot forget the deprived man; and you cannot forget the totally neglected, deprived and deliberately neglected regions. All these things also have to be taken into consideration while formulating the policy.

From discussing the fiscal policy of the Central Government, I now come down to my own State, which has been totally ravaged by the supercyclone. So far as the relief operations are concerned, the hon. Members have done a lot; the Central Government has done a lot.

They have saved the affected people of Orissa. So we are grateful to this august House because they have also donated a lot for providing help to the affected people in our State. Then, we are also grateful to the Central Government for all the help that they have extended. But as far as reconstruction and rehabilitation are concerned, I would like to say that precious little has been done so far.

Sir, in the State of Orissa, 19 lakh families have lost their houses due to super-cyclone. You cannot rebuild all their houses. But you have to provide a core house of 10 ft. by 10 ft. or 12 ft. by 12 ft. with R.C.C. roof for them so that they will feel secure. The Finance Minister has announced in his Budget Speech that 25 lakh houses would be constructed all over the country. He has stated that 12 lakh houses would be constructed under Indira Awas Yojana and 13 lakh houses would be constructed out of loans from HUDCO and other agencies. Yesterday, the Minister of Urban Affairs has stated that 10 lakh houses would be constructed by HUDCO all over the country. No specific provision in the central Budget for the restoration and reconstruction work.

I would like to say to the Government through this august House, that 19 lakh houses cannot be built in Orissa this year–a single year. They should be done in a phased manner. The Government can build 8 lakh houses this year, 6 lakh houses in the next year, and another 5 lakh houses in the year next to that. I would like to explain as to why it is impossible to build 19 lakh houses in this year itself, in the State of Orissa. You may get cement and steel, but you cannot get the required quantity of bricks and you cannot get masons. I am explaining about the practical difficulties in this regard. I am not indulging in politics here. I would request the Government that 8 lakh houses may be built during this year, out of which 5 lakh may be built under Indira Awas Yojana and 3 lakh houses may be built through HUDCO and other agencies. In this connection, I would also request the hon. Members of this august House that they should also contribute their respective state's share for this purpose. This is my request to this august House in order to help the affected people in the State of Orissa.

Then, about 20,000 schools, both primary as well as secondary, have been completely razed to the ground

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

during the super-cyclone and to rebuild them, provision should be made from the Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and also from other relief funds. All these 20,000 schools should be rebuilt before the month of July positively. If you do not do that, you will not be doing justice to an area, which has been completely ravaged by the super-cyclone.

Sir, I have already mentioned that precious little has been done as far as reconstruction is concerned. Now, six months have passed after the super-cyclone, but nothing has been done so far. So far as plantations are concerned, up to three kilometres from the coast, all the mangroves and saline forest have been completely uprooted, millions of coconut trees and other trees have been uprooted. They have to be replanted. So, I would suggest that secondary school and college students should be engaged in this work.

The Central Government should come forward with a gracious heart for the plantation programme. I would request the Government to take up the work of reconstruction and restoration of cyclone-affected areas with sincerity and commitment. This should be done during the current year.

Lastly, unless and until very hard measures are taken by the Central Government to rectify the financial ailment, the fiscal administration cannot be rectified. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to express my views on the Finance Bill, 2000. The Government is performing a constitutional function by planning this Bill. It is a mandatory constitutional function. The Finance Bill relates to amendments to the Income-Tax Act, Customs Act, etc. It has not met the demands of the poor. It meets the demands of the rich. Though the 'Magna Carta' says that no tax shall be levied except by the authority of law, yet the Parliament has to levy tax or collect tax. And while appropriating, they should get the consent of the King – akin to our President. The president has moved these amendments for consideration. We are considering the Presidential recommendations. Though it is constitutionally correct, according to article 118 of the Constitution, I am constrained to express my views. As expressed by my colleagues, no Government at the Centre has wiped out the black-money . When you were in the Opposition, you said that there was black-money. But when you came to power, you are not in a position to wipe out the black-money. At one stage, with a little study of Economics in a college, I thought: "Why should not the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Central Government, stop printing the currency notes for five years?" The currency notes printed by the RBI have been circulated and these have been tapped by the rich. These are in gunny bags. If the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Central Government stops printing all these currency notes, I am of the view that the gunny-bag r.otes may come out. You cannot abolish black-money with a legislation. Umpteen number of legislations have been passed during the last 40 years, but no Government at the Centre has been able to arrest the hoarders and black-marketeers. At one stage, when Shri P. Shiv Shankar was the Minister of Law here, he expressed his views at a Conference of the Bar Council at Hyderabad that the . . .* Of course, he said it and faced contempt. But, later on, that was withdrawn. That is about 15 years back. The same position continues even if there is a change of Government. You know, it is only a change of guard. The Minister of Finance is only a change of guard. The body-politic is the same.

They are following the Congress Policy, they are following everything. But at the same time, I would like to know whether the present NDA Government has taken any steps to arrest the hoarders, to remove the mal practices, and to wipe out black-money. That is the question to be answered by the hon. Finance Minister.

At the outset, as is said, this Bill relates to the rich. First 111 amendments relate to the income tax, wealth tax, interest tax, indirect tax, and service tax. As my colleagues expressed that the poor are not represented in this Parliament, their views are not being taken note of by the hon. Finance Minister while introducing the Bill or during consideration stage of the Bill. The poor are only electors, they are the voters. After that their function ends. The Central Government, not on the basis of politics but on the basis of economics, should have framed rules, regulation to tap the rich and pay it to the poor.

I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see, at this juncture, that at the time of the consideration of the Bill – because he looks attentive, I think, I will get reciprocative reply from him – that the funds allocated for poor people reaches them. It is for the Central Government to see that the channel of States, the Channel of municipalities, the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

channel of corporations, the channel of Pnachayats and the channel of other departments are streamlined.

My friends of this side have said that there are heavy borrowings by all States. I would like to know are they going to repay to the Central Government. The Central Government is not repaying to the foreign banks. They are paying interest.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, all the States are repaying the Central Government loans, they are not defaulting and we are also not defaulting on any of our commitments.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I thank the hon. Minister for the answer. I stand corrected. I am not the Government. We get the information. But how that price hike is there? What is the root cause for that?

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): You should try to check the population growth and rest will be all right.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Because of heavy population we get so many votes. If there is less population, only independent candidates will win and not the parties. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It is because of caste, creed and religion. 'One family, one child up to 2020'.

[Translation]

A law should be passed in this regard. I am sure rest will be fine. But you will not do so.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : First Bill should be introduced in this regard.

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : If they support it, we would bring the Bill. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, now I put a query to the hon. Finance Minister about the EXIM Policy. A classic example is to demonstrate, where the Central Government has notified that the milk and milk products are importable freely without any restrictions and at the same time, indigenous manufacturers are subjected to restrictions, contained in Milk and Milk Products Order 1992.

If this is the position, then the indigenous production of these items will be affected. How will the indigenous manufacturers who are subjected to conditions of MMPO 1992 be able to compete with the importers of these items? I would like to know whether Milk and Milk Products Order 1992 will be abolished or not. What is the policy of this Government?

Now, we are importing milk. We are importing ice creams. I saw this in the newspaper. How will the indigenous manufacturer be able to cope up with these foreign products due to this Exim Policy? I appeal to the Finance Minister to tell whether the Government would revise this Order of Exim Policy, which seriously affects the present economy of the indigenous products.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you were speaking, you referred to the fact that a sum of Rs. 58,000 crore is borrowed by heavy loanees. This has been published by Shri A.B. Bardhan in the CPI journal. It has been listed out there, How are you going to tap that? How are you going to collect it? Under Company law, it is declared as a cognisable offence. Why you do not declare it as a cognisable offence to recover it? So, to cope up with that, a coercive legislation has to be passed by this House.

Then, Mr. Chairman, when you were speaking, you referred to Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. The Constitution says that all the Members should be solvent. Otherwise, the Member will be disqualified. MLAs should be solvent. To what extent the solvency should be there, it is not replied by the Supreme Court or any court. If you have Rs. 100, are you solvent? If you have Rs. 45 lakh, are you solvent or not solvent? If he is undischarged, he is solvent.

Article 102 says: "A person shall be disqualified for being a Member of this House if he is an undischarged insolvent." If you say, 'I do not have money', then you cannot sit here ? How did the Constitution makers frame this rule, this provision of Constitution? So, solvency cannot be equated with the acquisiton of wealth or amassing of wealth, disproportionate to known sources of income. So these are all primary materials for the Central Government to instruct the State Governments as to what extent they should be solvent, to what extent we should be solvent. Some are solvent to the extent of Rs. 58,000 crore, some are solvent to the extent of Rs. 45 lakh. So, I appeal to the Finance Minister to take note of this fact regarding solvency.

Since the matter is related to Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, I am not holding brief. I do not know him. I saw this from the newspapers. It seems that his wife is also arragned.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

There is a privileged communication between wife and husband under the Indian Evidence Act. You can communicate to your wife. That cannot be forcefully asked by somebody, by the Police. If it is during marriage, it is totally a privileged one. Now, the CBI and the other law-enforcing agencies have not gone into this provision, privileged communication. Even we have privileged positions here. No Member is liable to any proceedings if he votes in favour or against. Kindly see the Supreme Court Order.

It is crystal clear that no Member is liable to any proceedings. Why did you not agitate it before any forum for the last two years?. . .*(Interruptions)* They cannot refer it. The Constitution is crystal clear. Then, I will be afraid of talking here. You must say 'absolute freedom'. The Constitution says a Member shall have the freedom of speech subject to the Rules and Procedures of this House. That is all. The Speaker has to maintain order. That is all. I can freely talk anything relevant here.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: You are free to speak but not to steal.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Even for that, our Rule 371 says if a Member has a direct interest or a personal interest or a pecuniary interest, it has to be decided by the Speaker and not by the Supreme Court. Before taking oath, the admissiblity of oath has also to be decided by the Speaker. So, no other Constitutional authority can step in here. If we failed the people, if we failed to discuss the relevant people's issues here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Are you talking of our Constitution or on the Finance Bill ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Since he talked of Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, I am saying this. . .*(Interruptions)* This is for the general information. . .*(Interruptions)* We have another speaker sitting here. . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Therefore, we are expecting better from some other people.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: That is why, I have said that by this Bill, you have performed a Constitutional function. It is not related to any poor man. It has no relevance to the common man. Regarding Income Tax Act, who is paying under the Income Tax Act?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Tell us something about Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Then they all will rise. They will raise that in the Legislature. As regards, Finance Bill, as I said, Constitutionally if we say that once an Appropriation Bill is passed, there ends the matter. This is only an extra Constitutional function. That is all. It need not be even debated. I seize this opportunity of expressing this view. . . .*(Interruptions)* I am not able to follow Hindi. That is the problem. If I follow Hindi, I will rule here. . .*(Interruptions)* It is because of the language, I am sitting here and you are talking. That is the handicap. Now, it is too late to learn. . . .*(Interruptions)* I can catch hold of all the Hindiwallahs. I can rule.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: We are lucky that you do not know Hindi. But has the language helped or not ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: No, they are all my friends.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: This is good.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: We can rule. A day will come when Tamil will rule here. . . .*(Interruptions)* One can rule from jail also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): You are moving in the right direction.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: No, you do not say that. You may be saying it humorously. But anybody can rule. It is a place for common man. It is for proletariates. It is not for rich. It is not for the privileged. It is not for a particular caste, creed or language speaking people or community.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It is for the Indians.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: It is for the Indian. You talk of all religions here. You talk of everything here. I was observing it. I did not show any Supreme Courte decision on that day. There are a number of decisions of the Supreme Court. If you talk of Hinduism here, you can be disqualified. If you talk of Hindustan here, you can be disqualified. Did I ever talk about it? The Supreme Court and the Mumbai High Court have declared a number of elections null and void. If you ask for votes in the name of religion, you will be disqualified.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: It is not only Hindu religion but if anybody talks of any other religion also, he will be disqualified. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The candidates who contested on Hindu plank were disqualified by the Mumbai High Court. It was upheld by the Supreme Court. It is not

my talk. The Sureme Court has said that. When you are talking of something, something opposite to your view may come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : All right, Sir . . . *(Interruptions)* Regarding the States, there is no monitoring mechanism. The States are economically independent.

Financial autonomy is there, but so many States are suffering for want of funds. You are not able to provide water, better transport, housing for poor, work as you promised at the time of elections. So, a monitoring mechanism should be there through article 360. That is the only provision. If the Centre is of the opinion that the State Government is bankrupt; they are not able to pay to the panchayat, municipality, etc. under article 360, their balance sheet should be placed here. So far no balance sheet from any State has been placed before this House. Nobody has asked for it.

Once I moved, under our rule 377, that two States, including Tamil Nadu, were not able to pay to the panchayat, electricity bills, contractors, etc. It was not replied so far. I want a reply. That is all.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Finance Bill. I cannot oppose the Bill constitutionally because I am constitutionally elected and sitting here. It is not a ritual. It is a constitutional convention.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

The Budget and the Finance Bill were introduced in the House on the 29th of February, 2000 and in the last two months, we are seeing the buoyant economy, control on inflation, rise in the growth rate, hike in foreign institutional investments in the capital market, etc., and for such development, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran for the excellent Exim policy, which was well-received by one and all.

However, the impact of the Budget, as announced by the hon. Minister of Finance, is also being felt by the common people and poor farmers. Hike in the issue prices of PDS and also cut in the subsidy of fertilisers resulting in increase in the prices of urea and other fertilisers are hitting the poor masses. Ours is predominantly an agrarian based economy and agriculture is our backbone.

Tamil Nadu is the pioneering State in respect of PDS matter. It has the best-maintained PDS system. Even the kerosene oil, at some places, is being distributed through automatic bunk, without any spillage. The entire PDS is being organised through cooperative institutions, eliminating the middlemen. The State Government has already issued enchanced quantity of rice to the common man, namely, people below the poverty line, even before the Budget is presented here. By this hike in issue price, the State Governments have to bear the additional expenditure. Instead of supporting the pioneering State, which is maintaining the best PDS system, the Centre has chosen to put additional burden on the State. The hon. Minister of Finance while replying to the General Discussion on General Debate in March, 2000, had assured that he would bear in mind the views expressed by the Alliance Parties on the floor of the House.

I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to give relief to the farmers and the poor people by lowering the price of PDS commodities and also by withdrawing the cut in subsidy.

Air India, ITDC, SAIL and such other undertakings are being offloaded with Government stake. While doing so, proper asset valuation needs to be done so that the past mistakes are not repeated. The Salem Steel Plant is very dear to the people of Tamil Nadu. Disinvestment receipts are supposed to meet the expenditure in social sectors, to restructure the public sector undertakings and to retire the public debt. The Finance Minister is on record to say that while closing down the non-viable corporate units, the interests of the workers will be protected. The resources under the National Renewal Fund (NRF) have not been sufficient to meet the cost of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) or Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The Government will have to put in place mechanism to raise resources from the market against the security of these assets, and use these funds to provide adequate safety net to workers and employees.

Now that the insurance sector is open to the private sector, how far is the Government going to activate the subsidised insurance policy schemes? In the name of privatisation and liberalisation, poor people should not suffer. The Government should continue to give them tailor-made subsidiary insurance policies suiting their requirements. The existing insurance companies like LIC, GIC and Oriental Insurance Company should be strengthened and they should be prepared to face the competition.

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister has levied an additional excise duty of eight per cent on the bagasse-based paper products in the guise of rationalisation of duty structure, against which various representations have been made and also a D.O. letter has already been written by our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar to the hon. Prime Minister. I had also raised the same point during the General Discussion on the General Budget in March, 2000 in Lok Sabha. Since it is an eco-friendly project, consuming non-conventional raw materials, thereby saving trees and forests, the hon. Finance Minister should kindly reduce the duty. Instead of helping the industry, indirectly it has been penalised. The Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited is a pioneering industry in this field and it is giving technical expertise to other countries globally. If the duty is not reduced, that would give a severe blow to the bagasse-based paper mills which are to compete with the global market.

The Government has imposed increase in the Dividend Tax and the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT). However, all independent power projects will come into commercial operation only after three to four years from now and then only they will contribute to the Government revenue. I would, therefore, request that the provisions of Dividend Tax and Minimum Alternate Tax being made available to the power sector and the infrastructure projects, may please be reconsidered in the interest of development of the industry and foreign capital investments coming to the industry.

In view of the conspiracy and organised printing of fake currency by ISI agents to weaken the country's economy, the Government must find some foolproof method by which the fake currency could be identified even by ordinary people. They can consider introducing more complicated designs and special emblems to make counterfeiting more difficult. Similary, security currency paper should also be made of special polymer-based paper and special type of ink so that the detection of the counterfeit currency is very easy.

Similarly, intelligence, also should be collected on the source and supply of counterfeit notes. For example, under the scheme of Award to Informers, whenever this type of information is obtained, it can be passed on to the concerned authorities.

Under the one-by-sixth scheme, people have to file income-tax returns and all such cases and salary cases where deduction is from the employers and where there is no prima facie suspicion, the returns should be simply accepted. Otherwise, if the Income-tax authorities start harassing people on petty things, people will not come forward to file their tax returns.

The High Power Committee on Excise duty has recommended for putting all Circulars, Notifications, Resolutions and broad schemes on the Website. I think, the Department should implement this recommendation.

Similarly, there should be arbitration mechanism for redressal of grievances in the area of disputes in customs and excise duties and other related matters. Instead of all matters going to the court and tribunal, some sort of arbitration should be there. The hon. Minister of Finance may consider this point also.

Amendments are being made in the Finance Bill to make tax exemption from capital gains if investment is made in bonds raised by NABARD or National Highway Development Project. It is also heartening to note that the Cabinet has cleared the decision to complete National Highway four-laning of the National Highways comprising the golden quadrilateral connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta by 2003. There is also a proposal to create a separate fund for the development of roads.

With these words, on behalf of the DMK Party, I support the Finance Bill being brought forward by the hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

I am sorry that I am protesting the Finance Bill, not because I am in the Opposition Party but with due respect to the hon. Minister of Finance I want to point out a glaring mistake. The Finance Bill is prepared on the basis of incorrect statistics and misdirection. Before I come to certain items of Department of Revenue, I want to say that I have got here two Xerox copies of Receipts Budgets for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. I will request the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of State for Finance, Shri V. Dhananjay Kumar who is incharge of revenue to find out why this blunder that I am going to point out has not come to their notice.

While preparing my speech – I will say it is a speech because the time is too short now – I had the opportunity to go through the actual figures, not estimated or budgeted figures, in the annexure on page 31. As far as the receipts

from customs and central excise are concerned, the total items of import are 52 and that of export are five and the cess in export is on 70 items. Out of these 70 items I have noticed that the figure of actuals for 1997-98 and the actuals for 1998-99 are the same without a difference of one paisa. Either the officials have misinformed, misdirected or misguided the hon. Minister of Finance as far as the actuals are concerned or it is otherwise.

I will give a few examples. On fruits, both dry and fresh, the figure for 1997-98 is Rs. 187.52 crore and it is the same figure for 1998-99. I will give another example. For organic chemicals the figure for 1997-98 is 471.95 and it is the same for the next year. For organic plastics and others the figure for 1997-98 is 1,571.83 and it is the same figure for 1998-99. I am prepared to give these copies right now to the hon. Minister if the permission is given by the Chair. I will come to the total figures of all the other items. It is Rs. 5,458.60 for 1997-98 and it is the same figure for 1998-99. The total grants on import duties are Rs. 41,479.96 crore. It is the same figure for 1998-99. These are actual figures. The net total import duties during 1997-98 were Rs. 4,00,038.84 crore. It is the same figure for 1998-99.

If the year 1997-98 pertains to Shri P. Chidambaram, the year 1998-99 pertains to the present Minister of Finance. If the present hon. Minister of Finance has copied the figures of actuals from 1997-98 and given to this Parliament and to the nation at large, I want that this Ministry should take action against the Central Board of Central Excise and Customs or the officer incharge who has given these incorrect figures to the Parliament and to the nation.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): A corrigendum has already been issued.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Let us have that. The House may be informed, the nation may be informed about how this mistake crept in. I thank you that you have pointed out that the corrigendum has been issued, but this copy of the Budget was presented in February, 2000. ...*(Interruptions)* You could have informed us. Where is the corrigendum? Kindly give a copy. Let it be produced. ....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the hon. Members should not interrupt. The Finance Minister will reply tomorrow. Let him complete his speech. . . . *(Interruptions)* Allow him to formulate. You can prepare a corrigendum tonight and circulate it tomorrow. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It should be presented before this Parliament before this Finance Bill is discussed. If it is not there, you are going to discuss it tomorrow Anyhow.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, these people are indulging in disruptive activities. You please ask them to desist from such activities.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not involved in such activities.

[English]

I am coming to that point because a Government, which is based on minimum compromising programme, which is supported 24 parties without ideologies, cannot construct; it can only demolish whether it is a mosque or economic policy. You cannot construct or reconstruct; you can only demolish. That is what is reflected in the Indian Budget. Now, I am coming to certain major items. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: What have you constructed?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: We have constructed BHEL, IPCL, IOC, ONGC etc. You dig petrol only because Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Mahavir Tyagi constructed these enterprises. We have done all these things. You give me a single example of public sector undertaking which you have constructed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHANAN: You ruled for 45 years.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Please point out any such activity in which I have been involved for the last three years. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the chair.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : It is good to talk to you because you understand the points.

[English]

Anyhow, with the highest respect to our jawans and our military, I personally protest the 30 per cent increase in the Defence Budget. I have gone through the expenditure of the Defence Ministry during 1996-97. It was Rs. 29,505 crore. The allocation for Defence in this year's Budget is increased to Rs. 58,587 crore. There is a hundred per cent increase in the Defence Budget. For a poor country like ours, it comes to 15 per cent of the total expenditure. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Is this the view of the Congress Party? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let him give his views here. You are the most competent Major-General to defend all the parties in Parliament. Let him speak. Let him formulate his speech. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I say that I protest. Money should be spent for the poor people and on the social sector. . . .*(Interruptions)* Of the total expenditure, 15 per cent goes to Defence and 26 per cent goes to interest payment. What is left for the poor people of this country? That is my question.

Now I am coming to the provisions pertaining to Income Tax and Central Excise Departments. I am once again requesting the hon. Minister to collect and correct the figures of the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and actual receipts of the Revenue Department. I will give you only one example. As far as Department of Revenue is concerned, the shortfall in the year 1998-99 against the Budget Estimates was of Rs. 2,879 crore. I am quoting the figures of both income tax and corporate tax together.

20.00 hrs.

The shortfall in the Revised Estimates is Rs. 3,716 crore. Against the Budget and Revised Estimates, how can we tolerate this type of a shortfall in the Revenue Department? What is the Department doing? On the other side, when it comes to actual collection, as many of my senior colleagues have mentioned, the figure given to the Standing Committee on Finance is that as on 31st January, 2000 the amount in arrears in Revenue Department alone was Rs. 52,000 crore. Out of that, Rs. 41,000 crore and above was in income tax, and Rs. 6,000 crore or Rs. 7,000 crore was in Central Excise.

I have a suggestion. Once an assessment is made and an assessee files an appeal, he must be asked to pay five or ten per cent of the tax. Let there be legislation. First appeal is a matter of right. When the first appeal is decided, if the assessee goes for a second appeal, he must pay 50 per cent of the tax in arrears. In the Income Tax Department, there are four stages of appeal. The first stage is the Commissioner of Income Tax; the second stage is the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal; the third stage is the hon. High Court, and the fourth stage is the hon. Supreme Court. We know as to how many years it takes to decide a case, when it goes to a court. Now, Rs. 52,000 crore is in arrears as on 31st January, 2000. If you collect the figure as on 31st March, 2000, it will be higher; it may be even Rs. 60,000 crore if you take into account the assessments that are pending because they get a time of 30 days or something like that.

On the other side, as far as the income tax structure is concerned, people of this country are requesting simplification of the Act and rationalisation of the tax structure for the last many years. It is true that the previous Government has not done it. But you were there in the bureaucracy and now you are there at the top of the affairs. What I want to say is that let us not go up to 1922. I will request you to go up to 1970, when the highest tax was 82 per cent. I will give the figures also. In 1980, the maximum rate was 72 per cent, that is, 60 per cent tax plus 12 per cent surcharge. In 1990, the maximum rate was 54 per cent, that is, 50 per cent tax plus 4 per cent. surcharge. Now, it has come down to 30 per cent. It is admitted by all that this is the lowest in the world. Has the business community responded to the tax structure given by the present Government or the previous Government?

I have a suggestion. Chapter 6 in the Income Tax Act, which is there for the last 30 years, deals with granting various exemptions, relaxations and deductions to the business community, when the tax was above 80 per cent. Now, when the tax has come down to 30 per cent, are those deductions, exemptions and relaxations justified? I will not say that I want an answer from your goodself, but I will request you to consider this.

Now, you compare a salaried employee with a businessman. When a professional, be it an advocate or a businessman, files a return, he is charged on the net profit. What are the expenditures that are allowed? A return may come for scrutiny once in four years. All sorts of expenditures, like the expenditure incurred on motor-car, travel expenses, expenses on religious ceremonies performed by a businessman at his shop or factory or residence, donation given by the assessee to his friends, relatives and employees at the time of marriage, the telephone expenses, both at factory and residence, are claimed by a businessman as a business expenditure. Only when the return is scrutinised, we are adding part of that as an income. That also does not stand the test in the appeal. On the other side, a salaried employee is given only a standard deduction.

When we say that there should be different limits for salaried employees and businessmen, it is knocked down by court in the name of equality before law. Businessman

is getting allowances like five-year tax holiday for doing business in different remote and backward areas. Salaried employees are also functioning in extremely remote and backward areas. Why is the same benefit not given to the salaried employees belonging to State Government, Panchayats, Municipalities, Corporations or the Central Government, and – one of the most important services – the Armed Forces who are always living and working in difficult areas?

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider the case for increasing the standard deduction for salaried employees all over the country. If the limits cannot be changed, at least the standard deduction can be raised to Rs. 50,000. If this is announced in his reply tomorrow, it will help his Party in winning the corporation elections particularly in urban centres. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Let them win. In case they rule for the full five years, it will be easy to us to come back.

[English]

I have got another point to make and that is regarding subsidy. Much has been said on subsidy that because of economic reforms the Government is compelled to reduce subsidy. In fact the reforms are, in fact, not reforms. These are the conditions and pre-conditions laid down by the IMF and the World Bank. We are simply following them. When the western countries are giving subsidies to their domestic industries, why cannot our poor country afford them? Without going into all commodities, I will give you the example of only milk. Right now somebody has pointed out that we are importing milk from foreign countries as a result of which our poor people who are doing business in milk and who are maintaining and nourishing cattle are facing problems.

In Japan, one of the most progressive countries in the world, the milk subsidy is 82 per cent. In Canada it is 59 per cent. In European Union it is 54 per cent. On the other side this very western world is telling us to reduct subsidies. . . .*(Interruptions)* Some of them have got buffaloes and cows at their residences I hope.

[Translation]

As they call the cow as their mother so they will keep their mother at home.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : The hon. Member should tell the House about the GDP of those countries also.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : I am coming to my next point and that is import duty. Very recently we have imposed a 50 per cent import duty on wheat. The import duty imposed by the United States of America of foodgrains is 214 per cent. That means, if we send our goods there, we are required to pay 214 per cent; and if we bring goods from there, they will pay only 50 per cent. The hon. Finance Minister must be aware of what happened to our cotton industry, leather goods industry, and the readymade garments industry. The import duty imposed by the United States of America on cotton is 52 per cent. On T-Shirts – ordinary clothes but they became popular in foreign countries – the duty is 32 per cent. On footwear it is 58 per cent. As a result of this, we are not able to export. As a result of this, imports from foreign countries become cheaper and cheaper.

You will kindly agree that this country, which is a rural country, cannot survive unless we attach importance to agriculture, cottage industries, small scale industries, and employment-oriented projects so that all educated and uneducated people are employed. I will give you the example of my State of Gujarat. Sixty thousand small-scale industrial units are closed there in the name of environment and child labour. Our carpets became popular in foreign countries. Poor people are weaving them.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Mr. Chairman Sir, please allow me to speak. I am speaking only on revenue.

[English]

Our carpets – woven by minorities in Uttar Pradesh and other States, and by scheduled tribes in South Gujarat – became popular in America.

It was purchased by the rich people and the hotels there. Once they become popular, they sent their representatives here. What was the reason given by them? Do not import carpet from India. Why? Because a child below 14 year is doing this work. Now, the poor man's child who is not able to go to school, as his parents have no sufficient income to live, has to work on carpet weaving.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: If a child is working in Tamil Nadu in a cracker factory like Sivakasi or with some iron or some such things which are dangerous, it can be objected. But a child of 14 year working in carpet industry cannot be objected. But in the name of child labour, in the name of environment 60,000 units in my State are not working, and that may be the position all over the country also.

Now, I want to speak about the top brass.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am just concluding.

You should prepare a legislation for arrears and recovery of bank loans. As we all are aware, Rs. 58,000 crore are in arrears. You must fix the target for the CMDs and the office-bearers of all the nationalised banks to recover the arrears. If they are not able to recover, they should seize their assets which are otherwise kept as security. If there are no assets, then the action should be taken against the bank officials....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : You have been telling that Rs. 58,000 crore are in arrears. Let the House know when was this amount of Rs. 58,000 crore accumulated.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: When was it accumulated? Was it during the last one year, two years, ten years or twenty years?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It is as on 31st March, 2000.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: How much was there during your time? During your time, it was accumulated....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I know, what you want from me.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: During the last two years, not even a single pie has been added to that.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Now, you are in power. You are governing the nation...*(Interruptions)*...If you are not comfortable there, we can exchange. We do not mind.... *(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Then, you will make it from Rs. 58,000 crore to Rs. 68,000 crore... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, a very famous agro-scientist Dr. Swaminathan has gone on record that 'globalisation and liberalisation will increase unemployment, will increase frustration and will increase miseries.' So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister not to follow the new economic reforms blindly. Let there be a realistic approach. Let us look at the poor people, unemployed people and more particularly, people belonging to the weaker sections of society. With these few words I conclude.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Shri P.H. Pandiyan has supported the Finance Bill, what for am I going to oppose it? I fully support the Finance Bill, and I do not want to repeat those issues which have already been discussed in the Budget Speech. The Budget Speech and the Finance Bill are completely two different matters, and I do not want to raise any such matters which have already been discussed in the Budget. At that time also, I raised a few issues but still there are one or two queries which remained unanswered.

Sir, I want to ask that when the whole attempt is going on to make up the fiscal deficit — I raised this pertinent point during the discussion on General Budget also — what steps the Government is going to take about the repayment of debts by the big industrial houses; and why the stern measures are not being taken against those big industrial houses which have defaulted in payment of loans to PSUs, banks and various other financial institutions.

This was the question which I raised repeatedly at the time of discussion of the Budget. It was not answered and I request the hon. Finance Minister to reply when he responds to our queries.

We know the Finance Minister is facing huge odds. We also know his problems and limitations. But we are happy to see that after the Budget was placed, you had not to buy the bullet at least. That was the editorial comment and that was the news that was published in all the leading newspapers of the country. But today the whole country is waiting for the reply from the Finance Minister whether only the prices of PDS in BPL are going to be withdrawn or not, the increase in prices of kerosene and domestic gas is going to be withdrawn or not and increase in price of urea is going to be withdrawn or not.

I was going through the Memorandum explaining the provisions of the Finance Bill which was circulated. We have no hesitation to extend our support to more or less all the proposals. So far as the basic duties are concerned, the duty on agricultural and horticultural items other than cereals has been increased.

So far as continuation of surcharge on imports is concerned, there is increase in basic duty on a few of the items like natural rubber, Demorubicin HCl and Gamma ferric oxide about which the Finance Minister has said something today.

There is increase in Additional Duty of Customs. The other items in the Memorandum are implementation of Indo-US and Indo-EU Agreement on Textiles, and changes regarding adjudication and penalties.

As far as the Telecom sector on page 16 of the Memorandum is concerned, we strongly oppose it. The basic customs duty on the following items of telecommunication sector has been reduced as follows:

"(1) Tax on Cellular phones from 25 per cent to 5 per cent.

(2) Parts on Cellular phones from 20 per cent to 5 per cent; and

(3) Battery packs for cellular phones from 40 per cent to 15 per cent."

These proposals are not being appreciated by the people of our country. On one side, you are cutting the subsidies and increasing the price of essential commodities and, on the other side, you are reducing the Customs duty on cellular phones and parts on cellular phones and battery packs for cellular phones. You clarify on what ground you have taken this decision.

I fully appreciate so far as Information technology sector is concerned. At least in six sectors namely, Micro-processors for Computers, HDD/FDD/CD - ROM drive and other storage devices, Integrated circuits and Micro Assemblies, Data Graphic Display Tubes for Colour Monitors, Deflection components for use in Colour Monitors for computers and CD-ROMs, the basic customs duty has been reduced to zero per cent.

It is really an encouragement so far as the infotech sector is concerned. Mr. Bill Clinton, the US President, during his last visit to our country had also appreciated and had to admit that India is proceeding towards infotech sector with high speed and can give leadership to the world today or tomorrow.

We appreciate that you have your vision. I personally admire you. You have command over the subject; you have command over the economy.

When there was an apprehension that the whole Budget was going to be anti-poor, we did not agree with that. Certainly, many positive proposals were announced at the time of your Budget speech. It categorically included an allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore for rural infrastructure development; Rs. 5,000 for the new Pradhan Mantri Gramodyog Yojana and Rs. 1,700 crore more for education, health and drinking water and Kisan credit cards for additional five lakh farmers. These proposals are pro-people and they genuinely give benefits to the poor. I do not deny that. I fully endorse the views expressed by Shri Vaiko that our Prime Minister has certainly selected a perfect person to lead the Finance portfolio at this juncture on behalf of the NDA Government.

I would like to raise another issue regarding the much-publicised Kar Vivad Samadhan scheme. It was discussed in this House also. As per reports that are coming out, this scheme is not really benefiting people and many complaints are coming. I would like to know whether there is any such information with the Government and what steps the Government is taking so far as those complaints are concerned.

I want to seek clarifications on one or two points. You have very nicely changed the excise structure of eight per cent excise duty on medicinal grade oxygen, medicinal grade hydrogen-peroxide, anaesthesia and many other medical items. So, on whichever items there is an eight per cent excise duty, sixteen per cent CENVAT will be charged with a partial exemption on a few items like kerosene, LPG, laundry soap, cotton yarn and diesel engines up to 10 H.P. I just want to know what this 'partial exemption' means. In page 17, where Central Excise duties have been dealt with, in para (b), it has been very categorically said that eight per cent excise duty will not be charged but a sixteen per cent CENVAT will be charged and some partial exemption will be applied to some items. What does this partial exemption means? We do not oppose your excise duty increase on cigarettes. One paragraph is meant for that. There are certain industry-specific changes regarding which you have mentioned. You have also explained the MRP-based assessment of excise, the change in the pattern of payment of excise duty, the

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

changes regarding adjudication, penalties and so on. We would rather say on behalf of our party, the Trinamool Congress, that we appreciate it and extend our support. The alliance parties are certainly the backbone of this Government but we also have to face the people on certain occasions. I said the other day that just after coming into power if we increased the prices of certain items, at a time, what could be the people's reaction.

If such types of announcements are made, people may come up with some adverse reactions. We would apeal to you not to rollback the prices as such. I would never ask you to do so. But certainly I would say that you should reconsider these decisions at least in the case of PDS items for the people below the poverty line. You should at least reconsider the increase in the price of kerosene since it is a day-to-day item of consumption and the people have to suffer because of this increase.

In the meantime, the allies of this Government, met you in person and also met the Prime Minister. We submitted our memoranda on different occasions. On different occasions – whether it is the meeting of the CII or the Press Conference or briefing to the electronic media – you have very categorically said that you were not going to reconsider the decision and that you would stick to whatever announcements that have been made. But still I approached your goodself, considering the demands of the allies. The allies have extended their fullest support to this Government and they are getting the opinion of the people of their respective States. Everyone has requested us to communicate the feelings to you. We fully believe that all these appeals and proposals will not go in vain.

Certainly we firmly believe that a person like you who has the heart, the vision, the managerial efficiency, the outlook will take care of all these things and will do something to reconsider that.

I fully support this Finance Bill.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Finance Bill. This has been the major achievement of those who have run the administration of the country for 53 years after independence that Rs. 6,000 per capita foreign debts is outstanding. I have not hesitation in saying that the credit for this achievement goes not to the parties in power at present, rather those who have been in power during the last 53 years are definitely responsible for this mismanagement and poor economic condition of the country. It is a matter of marathon discussion as to what extent this foreign debt has affected the progress of the country. This foreign debt has further widened the gap between the rich and poor. If the people in power at present do not pay attention towards the foreign debt and if they pledge the future of our country to the foreigners, it will be not good for our country.

With utmost regard, I would like to say that for repayment of the foreign debt the Prime Minister, the ministers and the members of the Parliament should take initiatives. Being a responsible citizen, every individual should make efforts for servicing for Rs. 8000 per capita foreign debt.

On the pretext of increasing budget deficit and fiscal deficit, subsidy for the agriculture sector is being withdrawn. Subsidy on fertilizers has been withdrawn. Subsidy on Diesel and kerosene has been reduced. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister that at the one end the farmer is the largest producer of the agricultural produces and at the other end he is the largest consumer of the other products. Today farmers are the most affected by this price rise. The agricultural yield has become stagnant due to this price rise it is declining further. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister that if he wants to meet the budget deficit and fiscal deficit, then he should make efforts to bring out the ever increasing black money. The skyscrapers in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras, Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna and other state capitals are a big challenge for our set up. Our income tax system is also a big challenge for us. You should be determined and resolute to bring out the said black money. Today black money has taken a shape of parallel economy in the country. This challenge is a matter of concern. If you do not take on this challenge, then the future generation and history of the country will not forgive you. You will also be put in the same bracket with people who are responsible for the present state of affairs in the country.

With due respect, I would like to say that you should make efforts to recover the Rs. 58,000 crores outstanding as loan against the capitalists of the country. Hon'ble Finance Minister Sir, you should go to the rural areas to see as to what sort of treatment is being meted out to the

farmers and labourers in the name of recovery of loan. You should also see the stinking prison cell of the Tehsil in which the person against whom a loan of Rs. 500 is outstanding is lodged by the attachment officer.

The government have no time to make the recovery of loan from the industrialists against whom crores of rupees are outstanding. Perhaps the government are unaware of the disregard and agony of the layman, a poor fellow under the loan policy of the nationalised banks. Today when a young farmer and a labourer goes to bank to seek agricultural loan under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana and I.R.D.P., he has to pay a certain amount as bribe to get his loan sanctioned. He has to go from pillar to post to get the loan. His entire energy and enthusiam is lost in getting the loan and in this age of commercial competition, that young fellow is unable to repay the loan sanctioned to him. When enthusiasm of a person is lost then how he will tread on the path of progress? The hon'ble Finance Minister can realise this himself.

Due to wrong policies of the government, today the farmers and the labourers are on the verge of ruining. The government have slashed the subsidy on Diesel, Fertilizers, kerosene and cooking gas due to which middle and lower classes have certainly been affected. I would like to request you that if you want to meet the budget deficit then you should go through the earlier articles of the Planning and Programme Implementation Minister Shri Arun Shourieji in which he has stated as to how we can check the extravagancy and what quantum of money of the country we can save by checking the extravagancy. With all humility I would like to say that today the farmers and labourers of this country are not only contributing to strengthen the economy of the country by putting in hard work and by their honesty but they are also contributing a lot in progress of the country through their sincere efforts. Therefore, please do not try to burden them.

You should also review the programmes which are being implemented. You have provided crores of rupees to he states under the Assured Employment Scheme. In that you have prescribed certain criteria that forty percent will be spent on material and sixty percent will be given to the beneficiaries. I would like to state categorically that if the Assured Employment Scheme is reviewed in the national perspective you will find that less than fifty percent of the amount is being utilised properly and more than fifty percent amount is being misutilised. This scheme has been implemented to provide employment to the labourers but it should be seen in the states as upto what extent employment is available to the labourers under this scheme. This money is going into the pockets of the officers and the contractors. Lot of money can be saved by conducting review of these schemes and by giving practical shape to these schemes. Attention should also be paid towards the discrepancy prevailing in the field of education. Some days back the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development said in the House that the national average literacy rate is 52.2 percent and in it too there is a discrepancy that the states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are lagging behind in achieving this average literacy rate of 52.2 percent. I would like to request the hon'ble minister that food, cloth, shelter, health care facility and education are the basic things and every person should have access to these things. You will have to take concrete initiative in this regard. Though the government are formulating new policies and programmes and those programmes are also being shown as implemented on papers but the government should also adopt the practical approach to see as to whether these programmes are being implemented properly or not. By withdrawing the subsidy on kerosene the government have deprived the poor people of their only source of light. If it is not possible to restore subsidy on other items, the subsidy on kerosene should certainly be restored. In the end, I would like to conclude my speech by reciting a couplet by Shri Dushyant Kumarji which goes like this:-

"Kahan to tay tha chirangan harek
ghar ke liya
Kahan chirag mayassar nahin hai sahar ke liye."

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to participate in the discussion on the budget. Everybody knows that the budget presented every year reflects the policies of the government.

The budget not only reflects the performance of the government but helps every citizen of the country to assess as to how balanced is the budget and upto what extent it is going to benefit the country. Though, our party, the Indian National Lok Dal is an ally of the government, we fully support the budget presented by the government but it is our moral duty to highlight the points or lapses in the budget which are against the interest of the layman, poor, labourer and the farmers. I would like to draw the attention of the government particularly the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards some such lapses or shortcomings in the budget.

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

The hon'ble Finance Minister has said in the House that we will bring down the budget deficit by certainly the government expenditure in one way or the other. But having a look on the figures of the last year, we find that there is an increase in the salary head this year. On going through the salary head of the government employees, one will find that during 1999 Rs. 37,45,664 crores were spent under this head whereas Rs. 38,26,665 crores have been spent this year under this head. Sir, during the year 2000-2001 total expenditure of Rs. 3,38,487 crores has been estimated out of which Rs. 88,100 crores are proposed to be the plan expenditure and non-plan expenditure is proposed to be Rs. 2,50,387 crores which means that one fourth is the plan expenditure and three forth of the expenditure is the non-plan expenditure. If we are really serious about bringing improvement in our economy, then we will have to curtail the non-plan expenditure.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is difficult to keep the figures on finger tips, so I will read out the written figures. During the year 1999-2000, Rs. 8,000 crores more were spent under the revised plan expenditure and Rs. 26,000 crores more were spent under the non-plan expenditure. On the one hand, we are reducing subsidy on the facilities for the farmers and reducing the subsidy on foodgrain and on the other hand such expenditure is increasing. I want to tell the Finance Minister that subsidy is given to the farmers because they produce foodgrain for the country and are backbone of the nation. Everybody is dependent on the farmers in one way or the other, be it traders, employees or labourer. Ours is an agriculture based country and we cannot ignore the farmers. The figures for the post independence period reveal that the gross domestic production from the agriculture sector has slipped from 55 percent to 24-25 percent at present whereas it is a well known fact that 60 to 70 percent of our population is dependent on agriculture. Most often it is said that the subsidy meant for the farmers has been withdrawn because the benefit of subsidy was going to the industrialists instead of the farmers.

Sir, I would like to ask from the hon'ble Finance Minister whether instead of withdrawing subsidy, there was no other way out of solving this problem. It would have been better to devise some other method so that the benefit of the subsidy could reach the farmers and the farmers could be able to increase the production of foodgrains and could contribute in prosperity and progress of the country. Similarly issue of subsidy on foodgrain is raised frequently. We have provided relief to the poor and the labourers by curtailing subsidy. Suppose a family needs 30 kg of foodgrain. Earlier a poor fellow was incurring an expenditure of Rs. 170 on purchasing the foodgrain required for his family but today he will have to spend Rs. 210 on purchasing the required quantity of foodgrains. The government say that it has provided relief to the poor but it is evident from these figures that his expenditure has increased by Rs. 30 to 35. The hon'ble minister has said that we have increased the subsidy but in real terms the economic cost is increasing due to maintenance cost of the Food Corporation of India. I would like to say that kerosene is used by the poor. The government have withdrawn subsidy on fertilizers. Earlier the farmers were incurring an expenditure of Rs. 4000 per tonne and after withdrawing the subsidy on fertilizers he has to pay Rs. 600 more for the same quantum of fertilizer and it is an unnecessary burden on the farmers. I hope that the hon'ble Finance Minister will take these things into account and he will concentrate on providing relief to the poor people and consider all this sympathetically.

Sir, we are an ally of the government and it is our responsibility to bring the facts to the notice of the government. I agree that we have adequate buffer stock of foodgrains and the government have also said this so many times. Our foreign exchange reserve is increasing and this can be said as upto what extent our foreign exchange reserve has increased by making camparison between rupee and dollar.

Today the value of our rupee is much less in comparison to that of dollar. Similarly we say that we have adequate buffer stock of foodgrains. But it will be of no use if there is no buyer of this foodgrains stock. Today also lakhs of tonnes of foodgrain is getting wasted due to lack of maintenance. I am of the view that a layman, poor and the farmer should get the benefit. Though the hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to present the best possible budget but there are also some lapses in it. He should try to remove those lapses and he should also take remedial steps so that our country could tread on the path of progress and could become a prosperous country. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you gave me for speaking. Actually, I speak to express my opposition to the finance bill on behalf of my party, the RSP, because the expectations that we had from the bill, were not fulfilled. It is primarily the Government's responsibility to raise the living standard of the people living below the poverty line.

And we don't think that the policies being followed by the Governments, and the decisions it has taken will make them successful in bringing the gap between the rich and the poor and giving impetus to the development of the people living below poverty line. For example, the Government has increased the prices of foodgrains which were distributed among the people living below poverty line through the Public Distribution System. Thus reduction in subsidy on these foodgrains has resulted in the increase of prices of foodgrains and these people are unable to buy those foodgrains, whereas earlier they used to buy the foodgrains from fair price shops.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask whether this policy is in favour of the poor. I am opposing it because I am in the opposition party. The constituent parties of the NDA Government, especially, hon'ble Member Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay requested the hon'ble Finance Minister to reconsider his decision of increasing the prices of the foodgrains distributed through ration shops.

The price of Kerosene has also been increased which is an article of consumption of college and school students living in villages and hostels. They study in the light of Kerosene lamps. I donot think that it is an act of generosity. The coalition partners of the ruling party have opposed your decision. I also oppose this decision. You are not giving priority to education. You have not helped the light of education reach villages which can be done through the construction of school buildings, arrangements of teachers, but you have ignored all these aspects. You are focusing more on the rich classes. You are giving attention to earning money through cellular phones, which proves that you are catering more to the rich. It is the responsibility of the Government to improve the conditions of the poor by giving them financial assistance, but you don't want to shoulder this responsibility. You have ignored the poor sections of the society and given facilities to the big entrepreneurs. It will increase their profits. Therefore, I cannot support this bill. I strongly oppose your anti-poor decisions.

As I have already said there should be proper management in the education sector so that the people belonging to backward regions, backward castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes get maximum facilities. Hon'ble Finance Minister ought to provide maximum facilities to those who remain backward till today. It will facilitate their coming in the mainstream and they would also be able to compete. As long as, this situation is not created, the gap between the poor and the rich cannot be abridged in the society. You can bring the country on the path of progress only when you fulfil your responsibility of improving the condition of the poor. Your conscience should be clear. In your decision making, or in your efforts to bring the country on the path of progress, ensure that arrangements for drinking water, shelter and health care of the backward classes are made. Proper decisions should be made and they should be provided the facility of house, food and medical care, only then the country will progress. If you fail to improve the conditions of the backward their condition will remain the same, irrespective of the merits of your budget. If programmes meant for them are not implemented, there will not be any real benefit. I don't see any difference between the governments of the Congress and the BJP. During the period of Congress Government, every budget used to announce that poverty will be eliminated. My question is why poverty remains at the same level even when so many years have elapsed since independence.

I want to ask this Government why the poor could not be raised above the poverty line? Do you propose to do so by reducing the subsidy to the poor or do you want to assist them by increasing the prices of foodgrains and kerosene sold through Ration shops? Do you want to cater to the requirements of multinational companies or you want to provide more benefits to the big industrialists. Therefore I find unable to support the proposals made in this finance bill and I express my strong opposition to this bill.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, since, hon. Shri Vaiko, Shri Kirit Somaiya, Dr. B.B. Ramaiah and others have already enumerated the tax proposals in detail and it is already going to be 9 o'clock, I will not repeat those things. But when the debate was initiated by hon. Shri Narain Datt Tiwari, he said that everything must be done for the poor. That was the essence of his speech. When Shri Pravin Rashtrapal also from the Congress Party ended his speech, he also said that Rs. 13,000 crore were spent for the Defence Forces this year. Then he questioned: "How is it that the poor are being benefited by this?"

Everybody in this House projects his speech in a manner that it is the poor people in this country who have been neglected and the Government is looking after only the multinationals and the rich people. My question is: "Suppose the Pakistani Army attacks India and that Army defeats the Indian Army, will it only kill the rich people?" Is it not a fact that the Indian Army is also protecting the poor? Are the expenses for the Defence Forces only for the rich people?

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Hon. Members raised the question: "Why was the customs duty on cellular telephones reduced?" Is it a luxury item? Every economist knows that one per cent increase in the tele-density increases the GDP by one per cent. It is not a luxury item. It is not like an air-conditioner or an air-conditioned car. So, it is a sheer part of infrastructure. It brings about growth. A country like India can only attain some level of economic stability if it has a sustainable growth of seven to eight per cent for some continuous years. How do we get it for growth? Let us say about the infrastructure, that is the construction of the four-lane 7,000 kilometre corridor from Kolkatta to Chennai to Mumbai to Delhi and then to Kolkatta.

21.00 hrs.

If it is built within two to three years, how many mandays will it create? How much of concrete, cement and steel it will require? Will it not benefit the poor? It will benefit the poor and for that you require money. From where do you get the money? You get the money by revenue earnings, by collection from capital expenditure, by reducing the loan burden on this country, by reducing payment of interest on the foreign loan. For that matter, let me tell you that projecting poverty as a virtue and affluence as a scene does not lead the country anywhere.

Poverty is never a virtue. We say that that Government is good which provides the poor people free water, free electricity, free rice, free kersene and all that. But then from where do you get the money? Everybody says, tax the rich, as if the rich people are sitting with boxes full of money. Any moment you tax them, they will come and deposit it with you.

The other day when the price rise debate was going on in the House, Shri Shanker Prasad Jaiswal, asked the hon. Members to agree for the reduction in the subsidy provided in the MPs Canteen. The House was stunned. Nobody said a single word about that. Under what stretch of imagination, can you say that the MPs are poorly paid? But nobody wants to give up one's privilege. Just like that, it is human tendency, everybody wants to get everything. The rich people do not want to pay, the poor people also do not want to pay.

But I fully appreciate our hon. Finance Minister that in spite of so many accusations, that he is a friend of CII, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, and that he is friend of the rich that he is always moving with them, he has taken very strong and bold measures for the last three years. By which now the tax collection figures in the year 1999-2000 have gone up by 19.27 per cent. In absolute terms the tax collection is Rs. 1,70,118 crore. The indirect taxes have gone up by 16.77 per cent; excise duty collection has gone up by 17.3 per cent; direct tax is up by 24.48 per cent; income tax has gone up by 25.84 per cent; and corporation tax has gone up by 25.78 per cent. These are the figures of 1999-2000. It has gone up percentage wise as well as income tax wise.

Now, I will give you another figures also. The external debt in 1998-99 was Rs. 1920 crore. It was up by 76 per cent in comparison to the year before. But in the year, 1999-2000, the external debt has been reduced to Rs. 906 crore only. Just like that, the market loan was up by 112 per cent in 1998-99 and last year it was up by only 12 per cent. Repayment of external debt was increased by 19.6 per cent last year, that is 1998-99 and in 1999-2000, it was only 7.59 per cent. It is like this that the loan is being reduced by the different policies of the hon. Finance Minister and the tax has been collected in a proper way.

Now, everybody is asking about Rs. 58,000 crore which were not collected. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to explain in this House the position with regard to the NPA. Let him explain when it accumulate? Did it accumulate within the last two years or did it accumulate during the last 45 years?

We do not know about it. Even in the Standing Committee on Finance, when we asked the officers, they said, "We do not have these figures. We will give it to you later." They must have given these figures and the hon. Finance Minister must have known about those figures. So, let him explain in this House during whose time and during which year, these 58,000 crores of rupees were accumulated.

I will make two or three suggestions. One suggestion is with regard to MPLADS because the funds released under MPLADS are utilised for ushering in the path of growth. Now, the rule is that the funds are to be utilised for creation of durable assets. Can we not utilise the funds for creation of job opportunities? I would request the hon. Finance Minister to think over this matter. Can we not run a co-operative organisation by which we can employ some people also? So, creation of job opportunity, I think, should be allowed.

My next suggestion is with regard to education. We pay a very less amount of money as monthly fee. In Colleges, everywhere in India, monthly fee is less. I would

request the hon. Finance Minister to impose education tax. Why not? If any person in India could send his children to an English medium school by spending Rs. 1,000 per month per child, why can he pay Rs. 100/- or Rs. 200/- to the Government of India for the sake of education and for the sake of the poor? The hon. Finance Minister should think over it and he should see that education tax is levied on the people of India, especially on those who can afford to pay so that the standard of education in this country can improve.

Sir, the Government of India has already set up Export Promotion Zones. I thank the Government of India for that. Last but not least is that there are four BIMARU States like U.P., Bihar, M.P., Rasjasthan, and Orissa. They are very poor economically. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that he should put all the resources for these BIMARU States and Orissa so that they will be able to come up. Unless they come up and unless they compete with the comparatively richer States like Punjab, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, India, as a whole, will not be able to become a super power in the next century to come.

With these words, I commend the Finance Bill.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. Though I limit myself to the Finance Bill, yet I am afraid that the Government's concern for the development of the North-Eastern Region always tend to end up as a pious wish. When the matter comes to the crunch at the time of reckoning, these concerns are as fragile as the house of cards.

Sir, it appears that the Finance Bill puts a finale to the Government's indifference towards the development of the Region as demonstrated in the General Budget, on which, of course, many of us from this Region had already put across our views. A number of provisions in the Finance Bill are harsh on the prospect of much talked about industrialisation of this Region.

The pattern is the same. While exercising his "most unkindest cut" on food subsidy, the hon. Finance Minister attacked the poor and not poverty. Similarly, in the Finance Bill, he attacked the under-developed rather than under-development. Sir, during Dr. Manmohan Singh's time, in his tenure as the Finance Minister and in the first part of 90s. it was for the first time that a 10-year tax holiday was announced. Though it was then hailed with great enthusiasm in this region, yet many of us were sceptical because such a tax benefit cannot achieve much since there is no infrastructure in the North-Eastern region. So, we suggested not just a tax holiday alone but its continuance till such time when this infrasturcture has attained the level for sustained industrial growth. Sir, this constraint is, however, due to the backwardness of the region arising out of accumulated historical reasons. So, this region could not avail itself of the tax benefits and tax concessions as was fully availed of by the comparatively advanced States of our country. The case of export-oriented undertaking obtaining 100 per cent tax benefits under Section 10B is an instance in point. There is no doubt that it gave a major boost to exports, particularly, software exports. Or take the case of Section 10A extending 10 years tax exemption to manufacturing units in any Free Trade Zone after the first day of April, 1981. Or in any Electronic Hardware Technology Park or Software Technology Park enjoying total exemption for 10 years after 1st April, 1994 under Section 105JA without even the intrusion of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) But the North-East lacks the basic infrastructure in the form of Free Trade Zone, Hardware Parks, Software Parks and Exports Processing Zones. Only in the recent times, such infrastructure is being created in the form of Software Technology Park at Guwahati and Export Promotion Industrial Park at Guwahati, and Bamihat in Meghalaya. And by the time the infrastructure has been made ready, these tax benefits are withdrawn! So, how can the region attract investment from the rest of the country or even foreign investors for a singnificant breakthrough in the industrial development of the region? And small software firms and export-oriented undertakings that are now expected to come up in the region will enjoy no tax exemption. There is another constraint arising out of the imposition of MAT. Income tax exemptions are available at Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres and Industrial Growth Centres located in the North-Eastern Region under Section 10A. Tax exemption is also available for specified industries anywhere in the region under Section 80IB. Unfortunately, these exemptions are now being diluted by the imposition of MAT, under Section 115JAA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Please give me some time, let me at least make my point.

While MAT will not be applicable software technology park, Export Processing Zone, export-orintented undertakings, and export income, it is irrational and apathetic to the region since no such exemption from MAT has been extended to the industries of the North-East. Even at this stage, it is never too late, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to review these points with realistic thinking and if he really desires development in the region, Section 10A and Section 10B should be continued for minimum of five years in the region.

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

While we are discussing the industrialisation in the North-Eastern Region, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minster of Finance to the small-scale industrial units in the region. Small-scale industrial units have to be revived with adequate funds. In the absence of SSI units effectively functioning and industrialisation worth the name, and no jobs or earning opportunities being created, this region will have no peace. The economic salvation of this region lies in the resurgence of the small-scale industrial units entering into the map of lakhs of unemployed young men and women. The small-scale entrepreneurs now handicapped by bureaucratic bungling, and moulded by unsympathetic banks and financial institutions are now demanding interest holiday. May I repeat Mr. Minister? The SSI entrepreneure of the North-Eastern Region are demanding interest holiday.

Sir, due to law and order situation in the last 20 years, these units have suffered a lot, for which most of the industries–about 18,000 units—turned sick or closed. The interests, accumulated in the banks and financial institutions, need to be waived so that the viable units could be rehabilitated, particularly units declared sick by SLIIC (State Level Inter-Institutional Committee), by the Reserve Bank of India and Assam Relief Undertaking Act. They should be rehabilitated with soft loan from the banks and the banks should be instructed to fulfil their social commitment.

Last but not least, the recommendations of various Expert Committees' reports, particularly the latest Kapoor Committee Report in respect of SSI units in the North-Eastern Region, need to be implemented without delay and a High-Power. Task Force needs to be formed for formulating an effective revival package.

Sir, the Government is also unkind to the only viable and flourishing industry in the North-Eastern Region, namely, tea. It is being one of the largest foreign exhange earners. It needs Government's more cautious and rational handling. Reimposition of exise duty which was abolished by Dr. Mohanmohan Singh, when he was the Minister of Finance, has hit the already over-taxed industry. Unless the cost of manufacturing is reduced, there cannot be a competitive price without which the auction market cannot be stablished. With stabilisation in the auction market, there is also another crucial issue allied with this problem. In the North-Eastern Region, lakhs of young men have taken to small tea-farming, and have thus at least partly met the unemployment situation themselves. Tea being a highly labour-intensive industry and largely an agriculture-based industry, uncertainty always dogs it. Weather vagaries are also there. The recent phenomenon in this sector is that the price of the green leaves of the small tea growers is coming down because the auction market is not stable and because the tea industry cannot meet the cost. The re-imposition of excise duty has made the situation worse. Particularly, this instability, I am afraid, will not only affect the small tea farming of the unemployed young men, but will give rise to socio-political uncertainties.

Lastly I would ask the Government, what is the point in importing tea when we are in surplus? The Government is really not kind to the tea industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Holkhomang Haokip.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : B.J.P.'s turn came after the Congress and thereafter it should be the turn of Shiv Sena. Two Members of B.J.P. have spoken after the Congress, now it should be the turn of the Shiv Sena *(Interuptions).* I have to sit, but it does not Mean.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

After BJP, it was the turn of Shiv Sena. But again you called the Congress Member and now again you are calling another Member from those benches. We are sitting here for the last two hours. Only one Member has spoken from my party.

[Translation]

MR. CHARIMAN: Nobody has spoke from his party.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I don't have anyting to do with that.

[English]

What has been going on in the House is that after the BJP, the Shiv Sena Member has been speaking. The first Member from my party spoke after the BJP Member.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you will be given the opportunity.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : There should be some fixed rules so that we can adjust our activities accordingly.

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. My speech will be very brief and to the point. I neither nor support this Bill. I just want to focus on important issues which are affecting some of the States, especially the North-Eastern States.

I want the hon. Finance minister to evolve a comprehensive policy to solve the problem of financial deficit in some of the States, especially in the North-Eastern States. Unfortunately, many States are falling deep into the trap. If the trend persists, the system will collapse. I shall highlight and focus on some of the States in the North-East about which I know. My State, Manipur, has not been able to pay three months, salary to its employees. Earlier, Nagaland could not pay for four or five months. Assam is also falling in line and Tripura also is falling in line. The only well-behaving States are Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. The position is so bad. The Government employees are observing bandhs, strikes and sit-ins. This is due to the indiscriminate creation of so many unnecessary posts and then paying the employees extravagantly. If we are borrowing money regularly and if we indulge in populist measures, then certainly we are leading towards bankruptcy. One after another, the States, big or small, are falling deeper and deeper into the deficit trap. Their spendings are running far ahead of their incomes. Now we are very much in a regime of deficits.

The most immediate cause of the present financial crisis in some of the States is obviously the implementation of the new pay-scales. In fact, the new pay-scales are responsible for half of the revenue deficit of all the North-Eastern States.

Therefore, I make some suggestions and some points. We have not been able to pay the salaries of our staff and they are shouting daily. They are not attending the works. Apart from the salary hike, the States themselves are to be blamed for their plight. We do not blame the Central Government. A combination of many populist measures and financial mismanagement have eroded the economic viability of the States for years.

The North-Eastern States are receiving huge funds from the Centre. But the irony is that the money does not reach the people. The money disappears. Nobody knows where it goes. The North-Eastern States enjoy a special status under the Consititution. As per the Constitutional provisions these States are getting huge grants and funds. These financial privileges are not without reason. Most of these States do not have enough resources. Some of them do not even impose sales tax. In my State, in the hill section, they do not impose any income-tax even. This is because most products in these States are already costlier than in the rest of the country because of the transportation. Our materials are lifted by trucks for long distances. Infrastructural bottlenecks are there. North-Eastern States used to earn substantial revenues from forestry. But, now felling of forest trees is also regulated. So, there is no source of income in most of the States.

Sir, even after 53 years of Independence, the North-East still remains economically very backward. So far the North-Eastern States cannot bring themselves at par with the rest of the country. The actual per capita income of all the North-Eastern States is lower than the country's average.

Now, I want to tell you about my State, Manipur. We are facing 16 militant and secessionist underground groups. We are helpless. We have not been able to do development works. Movement is so much restricted.

There is a grave financial crisis. Some of the States in the North-East deserve to be imposed the financial emergency and dealt with a strong hand, without populist measures. Then only they can bring back the financial position to a sound footing. If the Minister of Finance under the leadership of our hon. Minister of Finance does not evolve a comprehensive policy to control the finance system in these small, small income-less, revenue-less States, I think we are going to dogs very soon.

The financial situation of the States is so bad that they always come to the Central Government with a begging bowl–give us money, give us money. Without producing any revenues.

I am not happy with it. I was in the Assembly and a Minister for eight times. These people never have any financial discipline. If we can have good finacial discipline, I think we can advance and develop better than the other States. Unfortunately, in our North-East we should not forget that our place is sensitive and volatile. I firmly believe that economic development will bring peace and tranquility in the region, peace and financial control.

Lastly, I want to once again draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the fact that some measures, some steps should be worked out to control the finances of the North-East. It is the need of the hour. One after the other they are falling. There is no end. It must be met with a stop. They should stop misbehaving in financial matters.

[Shri Holkhomang Haokip]

With these words I wants to draw attention once again to the point and request you to kindly look to the needs of the North-East and pay attention to us.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am standing in support of the Finance Bill. With my past experience of three terms, I have to say something which will be paining to all the Members of this august House.

Sir, I have come to the conclusion, and I am sorry to say this, that we, the elected Members, who are the policy-makers for this nation, are becoming puppets in the hands of the bureaucracy. When I say that, I can give a number of examples also, but I am narrating only two or three examples to highlight how bureaucracy is asking us to bend every now and then, though we make the policy-decisions.

Sir, I am narrating an incident. I hope, the hon. Finance Minister must be listening to me. Sir, three years back, you said :

[Translation]

We will end the iron-rule.

[English]

I am going to narrate an incident from my constituency. The Additional Income Tax Commissioner, who has got powers to review and not to raid, for the last three years has been harassing the cooperative banks, sending them demand notices to pay the income tax on the interest earned by them which is below Rs.10,000. Sir, Section 194A(3) of the Act says that interest paid on savings bank account, interest paid on recurring deposits, interest paid to those declared under section 15(H), interest paid to the shareholders, interest paid to other banks and interest paid to members of the bank is exempted. Despite this section, the officer has sent notices. I apprached the Finance Secretary in this regard. This morning, I met the Chairman of CBDT also. I have given a written complaint asking them to withdraw these illegal demand notices sent by this officer. The reply I got is:

[Translation]

There is no provision in law for the withdrawal of demand notice, hearings will have to be done and rest will be seen latest.

[English]

The officer, knowing full well that he cannot issue such demand notices to the banks which are doing business for the last 10 years, is sending such notices and harassing them. There is one more kind of harassment. The officer has got every right to ask for account-holders' information in certain cases, but he is asking the banks to send names, addresses etc. of all the account-holders. He is having a staff strength of 10 to 15 people and he wants to check accounts of four lakh people. No Act says that he can ask for detailed information from the banks. There is a secrecy clause. The bank is not supposed to give information of the bank account holders unless and until the Officer is asking it for some specific reason.

You know that on Shivaratri day, the consumption of milk is much more. The same officer surveyed two milk traders in my constituency. One milk trader is hardly 10 feet away from my residence. He surveyed it and called the milk trader along with his Chartered Accountant to his office and said.

[Translation]

What are you doing? They asked what they are to do? He told them to hand him over Rs. two lakhs and go away otherwise he would serve them notice for Rs. 15 lakh fine.

[English]

I have given this in writing to your Secretary.

[Translation]

Give me Rs. two lakh or face the notice for Rs. 15 lakh. Notice was averted with the payment of Rs. two lakhs. What a benefit to the country.

[English]

The same officer surveyed one builder in my constituency and one day, he collected Rs. 1 crore from that builder though the officer does not have power to search but only to survey. He is collecting money in such a fashion.

Sir, the income tax payers are expecting something good from this NDA Government and that too a man of your nature. Where do you control your danda raj? That is why, I have come to the conclusion and am demanding that you must think seriously to do away with Income Tax. Let the entire money flow into the market, without any distinction of white money and black money. I am stating this with figures. Last year, I appointed one agency to find out how much this brueaucracy earns by way of corruption. These officers are earning five times the tax which you are collecting. After deducting the administrative expenses

from whatever tax you collect, 47 per cent is your net income. How many people are paying Income Tax? Only one per cent people are paying Income Tax. For those one per cent people, you have got 65,000 employees. Therefore, you should abolish the Income Tax and transfer the entire staff to Excise Department, Customs Department, Sales Tax Department and other Department where you can improve your revenue.

Shri N. Vittal has given a very nice suggestion, that is, at least for four years, we should cancel all the exemptions under all the taxes. These exemptions are giving an opportunity to the officers to show the way to the client., that is, how he can pay less to the nation. These people are telling the clients as to how they could save. They are saying that if the client is saving one crore rupees.

[Translation]

Give us Rs. 25 lakh and keep the rest Rs. 75 lakh.

[English]

Are they working for the nation? Are they working to reduce the deficit in the Budget that you always talk about?

Again I am repeating what I said, that is, people in this country are expecting that the common man will get justice from you, Sir, and from the NDA Government. I will be happy if you can immediately issue a suspension order to this Additionel Income Tax Commissioner pending inquiry. All the industrialists from my constituency will celebreate a special day in your name. They will cut a cake in your name, as if it is your birthday.

All these things are happening in this nation. At the same time, I will say that we, the elected Members, are also responsible for this. When Congress is ruling, the B.J.P. will criticise; if the B.J.P is ruling, the Congress will criticise; and if the Janata Dal is ruling, both of us will criticise. We are wasting our precious time in this august House in criticising each other politically rather than discussing the national issues; and the bureaucracy wants the same thing.

[Translation]

You keep on quarrelling and we will go on pocketing.

[English]

That is why, we are losing control.

I will give you one more example. For the last six months, the Bank Agreement is on. We has a meeting in your chamber and, while giving the details, we had requested you that one more option for pension should be given to the bank employees. We are not meeting you every now and then, but the bureaucrats meet you. The two officers are giving some calculations and telling you that if you give one more option, there would be load on the bank's finances. But when a loan of Rs. 58,000 crore is outstanding, what are these officers doing? Are you going to work for the benefit of lakhs of employees or are you going to work for the benefit of some bureaucrats who meet you often and give you the figures, which are never correct?

21.37 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

My appeal to you is that if you announce in your reply tomorrow that one more option to lakhs of banks employees is being given for pension, then all the bank employees will be happy.

Secondly, there is a lot of discussion of disinvestment. All these public sector companies were started with a monopoly item. They were making profits, but now they are making losses. So, there is a suggestion, साहब, प्राइवटाइजेशन कर डालो। Why? It is my request to you that please verify all the purchases of these public sector companies through a special agency. What is the trick of the trade? The estimated cost for purchasing is always shown three times more. If a particular item is costing Rs. 5 lakh, they will say that is costs Rs. 15 lakh, and they will call a tender. One person will quote a rate of Rs. 15.20 lakh, another Rs. 15.05 lakh, and the third person will quote Rs. 14.95 lakh, which is the lowest and to whom the tender is given. It is my challenge to you. For the last seven years, please check all the purchases of these public sector companies by tender, by quotation or the direct purchases. The estimated cost shown by them would be three times more.

I have got a number of examples, but I am quoting only one. One company did a particular work for Rs. 70 lakh. For doing the same kind of job, of course, with double the capacity, another public sector company should have spent at the most Rs. 1.4 crore, but they had spent Rs. 4 crore. When I wrote to them, they said that the work was a package deal and that they have not taken the estimated figure individual item-wise. So, I told them, "When I arranged the marriage of my son, I had asked a contractor to make the necessary arrangements. After the marriage, he came and submitted a Bill for Rs. 5 lakh." Then, my wife said,

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

[Translation]

"Ask him about the segregated expenses over breakfast, lunch, dinner and over gifts? The contractor said – we have not kept segregated accounts. We had lumpsum package deal, and thus we should be given the lumpsum amount of Rs. 5 lakhs.

[English]

The reason for that is, we are not united on the national issues. If we are united on the national issues, I am sure you could have a good command over the bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is taking advantage of our political quarrels. Yes, we can fight politically at the time of elections, but not in this august House.

Everybody spoke about price rise. I had even interrupted Shri Pandeya asking if this House will unanimously pass a Resolution to the effect that at least for another 20 years one family will be having only one child irrespective of caste, creed and religion. If this is done, we can put an end to all these problems of price rise and subsidies. But because of votes, no political party will show the guts to do so. I would request the Government to bring such a Bill. I would request the people and the leaders to help in bringing a Bill saying that irrespective of caste, creed and religion one family will have only one child for a minimum of the next 20 years. The whole issue of demand and supply is a simple economic principle. If we observe it, we can control the price rise.

Last but not least, in accountancy it is said that money saved is money earned. Day before yesterday I read in the newspaper what was said by a Member of Parliament.

[Translation]

Stop subsidising canteens, Rs. two crore will be saved.

[English]

I go a little further and say that for the coming five years we should stop all the foreign tours by elected representatives as well as by the bureaucrats. Only the Prime Minister and the President, if required, will go on a foreign tour. Just see how much money we have spend on foreign tours so far and what benefits my nation has got out of it! You have got the media now.

[Translation]

Computerisation has been done and networking is also done. Bring paper and send papers.

[English]

No foreign tours should be allowed to anybody for the next five years. No Department, no bureaucrat and at the same time no political personality also should be allowed to go on a foreign tour. By doing this, you will save money. If you stop this unwanted expenditure, you will save a lot of money. Such financial discipline is expected by the common man, the common taxpayer from the hon. Finance Minister because he has got the experience on two angles. He was a good IAS officer and now he is a good political leader. If we are not able to fulfil the common man's expectations, if the same bad practices started by the Congress Party are repeated in NDA Government's tenure how would the common man differentiate between the two?

[Translation]

Nothing has changed from the past, only figures have changed.

[English]

They want some constructive change. I will say that justice should be done to the legal taxpayer. That is why I request you, Sir.

[Translation]

Bold steps need to be taken. Our hon'ble Prime Minister says that strong action is to be taken.

[English]

We are doing kathor karyavahi, but we are taxing a common man who is legally earning his bread and butter.

[Translation]

Strong action should be taken against the corrupt.

[English]

If the Government shows the guts, I am sure under the leadership of the Prime Minister and under the leadership of a person like hon. Finance Minister, the common taxpayer will definitely get justice.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I rise to express my views on Finance Bill. BJP Government's coming to power can be equated to return of Shri Rama to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile which made poor people happy.

Though the Finance Minister made a valiant effort and crores of rupees were allocated in this budget but nothing has been done for welfare of poor. The Government has not made any provision for farmers, labourers, slum dwellers and people belonging to backward classes. It seems that Government do not want to improve their standard of living.

Sir, poor are always treated badly. They do not get education and respect from others. They face discrimination in every field.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a saying in Marathi 'Kharbar hai andari karti kan Shodhyate jaati, pari anti nirash hoti, puv kar hi te sourtil sadnala, gangout jas apnala" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, mice do not get foodgrain in the house of poor people and leave their houses in same way as relatives and other acquaintances desert the poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has not include poultry industry either under agricultural sector or any other sector. It has been burdened with 40 per cent of income tax. Birla and Tata have established big industries and they should be thanked for it. They have spend huge funds for it but poor people could not get much employment opportunities in the industries set up by them whereas poultry farms provide employment to 2 crore persons. It is not proper to ruin this industry.

U.S. throws its surplus poultry in sea but in our country this industry is on the verge of closure and about 2 crore people will be rendered jobless....*(Interruptions)* GATT Agreement is going to boost import and export but I would like to say that the Government should not impose more taxes which is going to ruin industries of this country.

My village is reputed for its Handloom industry but now in absence of necessary inputs, weavers are sitting idle, unemployment is increaseing in this area and this industry is also on verge of closure. There is a region Mukhara Jawar in my Parliamentary Constituency, where per capita income is just 38 paise. I request the hon. Minister to send a parliamentary Committee there to review the situation. You can imagine very well that in such a meager amount how they will afford to get education and food. I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Finane Bill. On behalf of opposition, while making speech on the Finance Bill the senior and respected Member of this House, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari mentioned that the Government of India owes a debt of Rs. 8.50 crore. He also mentioned the policy of 'Rinam Kritwa ghritam pibet'. But he has not stated that this loan of Rs. 8.50 crore has been taken by the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He admitted the fact that this loan was taken by previous Government. Policy of 'Rinam Kritwa ghritam pibet' is noit followed by this Government but this debt is pending since long from the period of previous Government and tha: is a different matter. In this budget the Finance Minister has stressed upon strengthening the rural economy. In comparison to last year, the agricultural loan given by commercial banks, cooperative banks, regional rural banks and other institutions has increased by 30 per cent and from Rs. 41800 crore it has increased to Rs. 51500 crore.

In the same manner, funds for Gramin Aadhar Suvidha Vikas Nigam has bee raised up to Rs. 4500 crore. It has been decided to reduce half per cent interest on the loans provided by this Nigam. Similarly he has decided to maintain the annual growth rate of economy up to 7 to 8 per cent. He has taken historical and effective steps for strengthening rural economy. He laid emphasis on strengthening development potential of knowledge based industries, modernising texiles, leather, food processing industries removing obstacles in creating infrastructure giving top priority to human resource development boosting exports strengthening our position in the world economy investment and efficient loan management and maintaining financial discipline. All this was done at such a juncture when our country was facing several challenges. Today, the whole nation admits this fact that under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha has taken effective and far reaching steps to bring the economy on right track. It was done during a period when 50 day long Kargil war was fought and there was Super Cyclone in Orissa, political uncertainty and weak monsoon in some regions, slow implementation of global economic reforms and three fold increase in prices of oil. In spite of imposition of sanctions by big nation like U.S. the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister have bravely taken bold and concrete steps to bring the economy on the right track. The Government did not care much for the sanctions imposed by U.S. and firmly continued the implementation of its policies to improve the condition of the country.

The Government has introduced Farmer Credit Scheme in this budget. About 50 lakh people have been benefited under this scheme. A provision has been made to bring 75 lakh farmers under this scheme by March 2001.

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

It is not the policy of 'Rinam Kritwa ghritam pibet'. I have high regard for Tiwariji and I am happy that he had given a balanced speech here. Broadly speaking he has supported the policies of the Finance Minister. It is but natural. He is a senior and respected leader of this House. I am happy that in the end of his speech our Finance Minister himself responded by thumping the desk. It is a good convention. We have learnt a lot from the speech delivered by Tiwariji. From our side, Shri Vaiko has explained each and every point regarding the policies of the Finance Minister.

This Government is trying to develop the country by proper implementation of economic policies. Under Prime Minister Gramodyog Yojana Rs. 5000 crore have been allocated for primary education, health facility, drinking water facility, housing and rural roads. Out of it Rs. 2500 crore have been allocated for rural roads. Including some old schemes, in total a provision of Rs. 13 thousand crore has been made in this budget for providing five basic facilities. I would like to know from opposition as to why 52 years after independence, million of people are pining for drinking water in villages. Previous governments are responsible for it. While presenting budget for the year 2000-2001 our Finance Minister has promised to provide drinking water in villages in next five years. A target of providing drinking water to 60 thosand habitations and 30 thousand schools have been fixed. The amount for it has been increased from Rs. 1807 crore to Rs. 2000 crore. It is not the policy of 'Rinam Kritva ghritam pibet' but policy for upliftment of villages and farmers. The ceiling of loan for small scale industries which are playing an important role in increasing industrial production, creating employment opportunities and boosting exports has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. The country and this House welcome it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the initative taken by the Finance Minister to open a specialised bank branch in each district and small scale industrial area should be welcomed. Prime Minister's National Highway Development Project is a multi-dimentional scheme which will cost Rs. 54,000 crores. For this purpose a cess of Rs. One per litre on Petrol and Diesel has been levied and no sensible person will oppose it. National Highways in our country need improvement.

Likewise, subsidy was also discussed here. I am not so much opposed to subsidy. I am an old socialist, but today I would like to say that even 52 years after independence we have followed the principle of 'Rinam Kritva Ghritam Pitbet' instead of making people self-dependent. Though, even today there is a compulsion in some fields, people get foodgrains at subsidised rates. Our Finance Minister is giving some subsidy on fertilisers. Had he desired, he would have continued this relaxation. People have to face some difficulties. Even some opposition has to be faced. But the Prime Minister, Vajpayeeji and the Finance Minister are facing criticism. It is natural, even some people from our party are not happy. But to bring the nation on right path the politics of subsidy is good only for the poor class. But in the field where it is misused, there is a necessity to check it. And he took a right step in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the field of electricity there is a need of improvement in the whole nation. Half-an-hour back when I went home, I saw that the light had gone. The situation in Madhya Pradesh is such that farmers are not getting electricity and electricity offices are locked. But to speak of Madhya Pradesh, electricity has not been generated in the country during last 6 years. In this connection, hon'ble Finance Minister has initiated a scheme, that provides for renovation and modernisation of power plants for which State Electricity Boards will be granted financial aid. Under this scheme States and Union Territories will be provided an aid of Rs. 1000 crore. Hon'ble Tiwariji has stated that the number of unemployed persons in 1993 was 2 crores and 47 lakh, which is a matter of concern. The Government is formulating schemes in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say that hon'ble Finance Minister made a mention of fiscal management in his speech, which is very important for the nation. Just three days ago I had moved a private Member's Resolution in this House.

22.00 hrs.

I have stated in that resolution that most of the states do not utilise the amount granted to them as an aid. Only 57 per cent Central Aid gets spent in the whole country and the rest of the amount gets lapsed. I would like to tell hon'ble Finance Minister that fiscal management is not the responsibility of Central Government alone, unless the States manage it properly the country cannot progress. As Shri Narayan Datt Twariji has indicated, Uttar Pradesh takes loan of Rs. 4800 crore for disbursing salary to its employees. Establishment expenditure of Madhya Pradesh is 91 per cent and their Chelf Minister has spent Rs. 2 crores 67 lakhs on his air travel in four months. It is as good as taking loan and making merry. Now the time has

come when hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister should convene a meeting of Chief Ministers and Finance Secretaries to tell them that the State Government should realise their responsibility otherwise this burden comes on the Centre. Ultimately Union Government will be accountable for the entire loans which the State Government keeps on taking. The Centre will have to pay for the wrongs done by the States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of State for Rural Development had said that Members of parliament would be made Chairmen of DRDA. I don't know what is he going to do. But I would like to tell you one thing, states are misusing the funds granted under Rural Development Schemes, and they are not utilising it, you may check up the figures from the library. Now the time has come that the Members elected from a particular State should be made accountable for the funds released to that area so that they can look after whether the funds are used properly or not. Until and unless they are made Chairmen, things cannot be set right. Today our condition is such that if Budget of Madhya Pradesh meets with failure then cars allotted to Members of Parliament were withdrawn. How can we visit three thousand village of a legislative Assembly consiti-tutency. Even if we spend our full salary we can't visit these villages. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, if all these schemes are to be implemented then the Centre should provide us vehicle. Lot of money is being spent here and there. You, yourself decide some of the states are ruled by the opposition parties and they don't want to provide vehicles to MPs belonging to other parties. BJP MP's in Madhya Pradesh are not getting vehicles whereas other get it on one or the other pretext. Therefore, I would like to tell you that unless the states cooperate, their management cannot be proper and this federal system cannot succeed. Hence I would like to tell you that howsoever good Budget you may present, howsoever good your policies may be, unless the State Governments do not cooperate and unless you have a control over their spending and you keep allowing to do whatever they want on the pretext of autonomy then ultimately the burden of debt on the nation will keep on increasing and it will weaken the country. Therefore, I urge you to take the States also with you in fiscal management process. Then only our policy will succeed. With these words, I support the Finance Bill moved by hon'ble Finance Minister.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir please give me also an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes. But if you threaten me, rather I will not be in a position to call you!

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I am humbly requesting you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You wil get your chance, Shri Bwiswmuthiary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to strongly oppose the Finance Bill. I am from the opposition and therefore it can be said that traditionally I should oppose this. But the fact is that all the allies of the ruling coalition have opposed it meekly. It may be their compulsion since they cannot oppose it openly.

Let it be a compulsion that they cannot raise their voice so loudly in opposing the Finance Bill and the Government, as it should have done. But the fact is, as one or two Members of ruling party also have said, that even they differ on some basic issues. We may be from any party but the fact is that we have been elected from our constituencies and have the confidence of those poor people who voted for us. We assure them that we will raise our voice on their behalf in Parliment and provide them relief and will bring new schemes for them. People get tied up in ruling party. They know that how they will show their face to the poor people. They have their limitations with regard to opposition. We have no compulsions... *(Interruptions)* I did not interrupt you.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj): Please tell us, what did you do in last 50 years.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : If you speak, then you should develop the habit of listening also.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that I have stood up very late to speak. Therefore, you would not give me much time. But through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Finance Minister that the way they have reduced subsidy, our party also is not in favour of continuing it indefinitely. Our Government also effected subsidy cut and in principle we agree that a time should come when subsidy should be totally withdrawn, but such time has not yet come. Sir, I would like to request you that in a country where even today 45 per cent people live below poverty line how subsidy can be cut so drastically? If the Government had formulated

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

a time bound programme to withdraw subsidy completely within 20-25 or 30 years, reducing every year some per cent subsidy, then at least 20 years should have been fixed. And every year it should have been monitored as to how much percentage of the people living below poverty line has declined. As the percentage of people living below poverty line gets reduced, same way we should have kept on reducing subsidy. If it had been handle in this manner, there would not have been additional burden on the poor people and subsidy could have been done away with in a longer period. We will have to accept problem of our country, problem of structure of our society even if we may have to face great loss and our plans are disrupted because of these. Infact we provide reservation to S.C.'s and S.T.'s on this principle only. Suppose we have a weak, or handicaped person in our society, we give him assistance untill he becauses fully self-dependant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this prinicple should be applied on subsidy also. Though the subsidy should be stopped, yet principally we have to agree that even today 45 percent population of country lives below poverty line. Had we prepared a time bound programme and if our hon'ble Fianance Minister had presented such a plan so as to bring the people below poverty line at par with the people above poverty line within 20 years, we could have reduced subsidy in same proportion and then perhaps your proposal would have brought you popularity and you would not have had to face opposition from your allied parties or your own people also may have opposed it inside the House who have opposed it outside.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise another point that the people from middle income group or salaried class, who were expecting that they will get some relief in this budget have been disappointed so much. Everyone was expecting that perhaps the Government would increase the ceiling of rebate in income tax this time. But the Government paid no attention towards this issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of parallel black-money economy is the biggest problem in our country. A parallel economy is running in this country. One economy is being run by the Parliament and another economy is being run from behind the scene. Sometimes we talk of subsidy but sometime we talk of imposing taxes and sometimes we talk of increasing excise-duty. The main reason behind this is that we want to make available maximum resources and sources of income for ourselves. But the Government never thought of checking black money, otherwise that could have become biggest source of our income. Today, the sitution is such that neither any plan has been formulated to check black money nor any plan to unearth black money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that instead of carrying out changes in the income tax slabs – one year it is reduced and next year it is increased, why the Government donot link it with inflation so that there is no complication at all. If the rates of income tax are linked with inflation than taxing will be a very easy method for the public and the Government as well. The fact is that the rupee depreciates every year and price index rises whereas the rates of income tax almost remain same. Sometimes the rates are nominally reduced, sometimes nominally increased. Sometimes if the rates are reduced, the Government neutralises it by imposing surcharge within six months. The taxpayers do not get relief how much it gets reduced by same rate it gets increased by virtue of surcharge. Therefore, through you, I would like to request hon'ble Finance Minister that if the rate of income tax is linked with inflation then perhaps the Government as well as taxpayers would be immensely benefitted. Also I would like to tell you that shareholders are not taxed in our country.

The dividend paid by the companies has been increased from 10 percent to 20 percent. What is the logic behind it? Ultimately, share holders will be loser because percentage of the divident being paid by the companies to shareholders will be reduced indirectly. Because of this common share holders will suffer loss. You may increase it from 10 to 20 percent but fact is that in a country like ours it has been the tradition of companies, capitalists and rich people that they will try to compensate the loss by hook or by crook and finally that loss is passed on to the small investers.

Similarly, the Government has declared income from exports taxable. The companies exporting their 100 percent merchandise and who are not registered as EOU will have to pay tax. *(Interruptions)* I am concluding my speech within two minutes.

My second point is that export of software also has been taxed. Perhaps, hon'ble Finance Minister got tempted by the boom is software export during last two - three years and he imposed income tax. The fact is that during last century entire world went through Industrial Revolution but we lagged behind in that sector. It is our good luck that our country is taking a lead in information technology revolution the world over. Software industry is a sunrise industry for the whole world. Let us not be so much over enthusiatic over it so soon. This industry has to flourish in our country even if it is heavily taxed. Therefore, through you, I would like to request hon'ble Finance Minister to reconsider whether the tax imposed on export is logical or not. In addition to this there are many issues . . .*(Interrptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Finally I will conclude my speech by telling one more thing. Capital market of a country reflects economic condition of that country. Hundreds of companies in our country fled with the money raised from small investors. During Budget speech for the year 1999 Hon'ble Finance Minister has declared that he will constitute a joint Committee comprising of SEBI and Department of Company Affairs. That committee will look into this matter to find out which are those companies who have made off with investor's money. With great difficulty the committee prepared a list of such companies. Previously, during FICCI's conference in Oct. 1998, Hon'ble Prime Minister had said that to make capital market attractive and to regain the confidence of investors, Finance Ministry and other related ministries are going to taken stern action against the promoters of such companies who have fled with the investment money of the investors. Some action may be going on and the file may be moving in Finance Ministry but not a single investor has got money back so far.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you conclude.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Though it is important but other are also to speak.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : How we would make the Capital Market attractive. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now you coclude.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request that the common investors should get their money back. . .There are 80 such companies wherein 50 lakh investors have invested over Rs. 10 thousand crores. This entire amount has sunk. Director and Managing Director of all those companies are present in the country only and no action has been taken against them so far. I would like to say that if the Govt. nab such frauds and cheaters then the investors would definitely get their 25-50 percent amount back though the may not their entire money back. Consequently, the investors would get their money back and people would get attracted towards Capital Market with an assurance that this Govt. is committed to keep the captial Market alive.

With these word, I strongly oppose this Finance Bill. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill, but before that I would say one important thing that even after 50 years of Independence, when we go to the villages, we find that still there are no roads, no electricity and no water, and for such a condition we really feel pity. If during these fifty years, the people in power and those in the government had selected, five villages in each block every year for development purposes, then we would presently not have been left with and work. But these people did not make proper use of the money, and remained in power by mis-guiding the people with false slogan and thus befoolling them. They gave the slogan for eradicating poverty but they could bring no smile on the faces of the poor. These Congress people, merely did side business by establishing various social service organisations and N.G.Os. They ran N.G.Os. merely on papers. If proper appropriation of money had been done, then the country which was once called a 'golden bird' would not have stood on the vage of economic crisis. Today each child in this country is born with a debt of Rs. 9000/-, who has lead us to such a state? I would like an answer from the Congress party friends. Due to such a state of affairs, India really has to bow down its head before the world.

Japan had been virtually ruined the second World War, but today Japan has make itself fully self-reliant. Not only that it is giving loan to the entire world. Each person in Japan has a nationalistic feeling but in our country, Congress culture came into play, which deveoped the concept make money and let others make money. The

[Shri Ramshakal]

Prime Minister of the country had to face the court of law in a scam case. Moreover if Narasimha Rao's Government it called a 'government of scams,' then it would not be an exaggeration. There was a time when a leader was seen with high esteem. But today, if anyone addresses us as Netaji, we feel that he is abusing us, so Congress government has dragged the country backwards, and has left the economy of the country in shambles and thereby deceiving the people of the country. It is due to such actions only that the Congress party is in the opposition today. I would like to say that although we have not completed full two years, but all these people of the opposition had said in the 12th Lok Sabha that this government would not be able to present the next Budget, but the way our hon. finance minister has presented this Budget, all the opposition Members have started feeling that if BJP government keeps on achieving successes in this manner, then their political standing would take a nosedive. These opposition parties started making manipulations and toppled this government which was working in the interest of the country. And crores of rupees of the people were spent in elections which were forced on the people by the opposition parties.

We are basically from villages, our government has taken two-three important decisions in this regard. The government has taken a decision about giving credit cards to the farmers. We were agriculturists. If we needed fertiliser or diesel, we sold our foodgrain in the market at cheaper rates or used to take loan from the money lender to buy our imputs. So, this step of the government to providing credit cards to the farmers is really a gift to them. A farmer cultivating nine acres of land would get a credit card to the amount of one lakh rupees and a person cultivating three acres of land would get a card worth Rs. 25,000. So, in this way we can buy fertiliser and diesel from this card after paying money in two to three instalments.

Our government has effected increase in the defence budget and I have say that it is due to the effort of this government that the country finds itself among the selected nuclear states. It is only our government which has exposed the notorious activities of Pakistan, this is a achievement of this government. So, with all these steps, our government has tried to stabilise the economy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some important suggestions to hon. Finance Minister. Today, even of youngster are wondering here and there without employment. They have strength to work, but have no work to do. If we provide work to our youth through the cooperative then it would be a big achievement. Farmer are the backbone of our country. If they stop cultivating the land, then we would come to know their importance. I can say this without any doubt that until and unless we strengthen the position of our farmers, take up the incomplete projects of irrigation, provide all types of facilities to our farmers and give agriculture, the status of small scale Industry, the farmers would not be prosperous. So, we shall have to come forward in order to strengthen the base of our farmers. We shall have to benefit them though the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Corruption in this country has spread like blood cancer in the human body. Corruption has creeped so much into our system that if a common man gets money for some work, such money is not properly utilised. If the government genuinely wished to combat corruption, then a survey regarding new colonies booming up in big metropolitan cities going detail of purchase of plots, and construction of houses should be done and it should be investigated as to what is the source of income of these people so a campaign a 'Jehad' against such corrupt person should be initiated. To whatever extent we may present an excellent budget keeping in mind the economy of the country, but the country would definitely lag behind if we do not control the growing population of the country and evolve a policy to check population. So, we shall have to take some concrete steps and evolve policies pertaining to population control as also implement them strictly.

If the hon. Finance Minister pays some attention to these suggestion then I am sure that we shall march towards the path of progress. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the finance Bill. I would try to speak in Hindi. I, support this bill half heartedly and oppose it half heartedly, I am opposing the Bill half heartedly besause during the Budget Session of Lok Sabha i.e., 12th Lok Sabha, I had requested hon. Finance Minister in my speech that tribal people and the people living in hilly areas in the north-eastern region of

India should be exempted from the Income Tax. But, it is very surprising and distressing to note that these tribal people of plain areas of Assam have not been given any exemption.

Therefore, I request that a policy should be formulated to exempt the tribals living in plain areas as well.

[English]

Becasue the tribal people living in hilly areas of North-Eastern Region are getting exemption from the payment of Income Tax, whereas the tribal people living in the plains of Assam are not getting that sort of an economic justice. Why should there be two meanings of the word 'justice' in India? 'Justice' should have equal standard for all tribals of North-Eastern Region. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, particularly, the Union Finance Minister to provide Income Tax exemption to the tribal people living in the plains district of Assam also.

[Translation]

My second demand is that custom duty on the products produced in the Handloom, Handicraft, carpet and Textiles Industry, belonging to the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe, should be exempted from custom duty.

[English]

On all the handloom, handicraft and textile based products produced by tribals, Scheducled Castes and Backward Communities, central taxes, either in the form of customs duty or in the form excise duty should not be imposed.

[Translation]

One more thing I want to say in that the Government of India has given a Tax-holiday facility to the big capitalists for development of north-eastern region, I feel that development will not take place merely by giving the facility of tax holiday to the industries set up in this region.

[English]

Instead of giving tax holiday to the private investors and industrialists and the big business houses, the Government of India itself should set up some industires and provide some projects directly for the benefit, well being and development of the entire North-Eastern Region.

[Translation]

The Government has increased the prices of kerosene, diesel, LPG and commodities being sold through PDS. These prices should be brought down. The subsidy on urea should be brought down. The subsidy on urea should be reviewed. It is surprising that in the name of insurgency, the branches of nationalised banks are being closed in the Bodoland areas. I would like to put forward a demand to the Government of India in this regard.

[English]

I would like to appeal to the Government of India, particularly the Union Finance Minister, to direct the conerned authorities of the concerned nationalised banks to take back all those branches of the various banks to the respective areas and places within the Bodoland. Here again, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up one regional rural bank with the name and style of Bodoland Rural Bank for the well being and development of that deprived and neglected Bodoland territory.

[Translation]

The Government should also set up Bodoland Housing Bank for the development of that area and provide it Rs. 1000 crore because the Government of India is not providing us that much amount which it provides to Government of Assam.

The Government of India should provide atleast Rs. 1000 crore for the Bodoland area as it remains very backward for the last 50 years. Therefore, the Government should provide atleast Rs. 5000 crore to Bodoland territory for development of infrastructure such as roads and bridges, irrigation and dam projects, flood management and control and river erosion problem, drinking water supply, construction of hospitals, dispensaries, medical centres, Bodoland Central University, Central Agricultural University, IIT, ITI, Engineering College, Medical College, Polytechnic Institute and School buildings, and for the development of Information Technology and Institute of Information Technology and Computer Science and for rural electrification, employment assurance scheme, and for construction of cultural complex, market complex and cold storages.

The funds allocated under Article 275 of our constitution should be directly given to Bodoland territory.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

In India, such system is prevailing in Maharashtra. In Maharashra, the funds are directly sent to Tribal Development Department.

[English]

That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to send the money, which is now being sent to the State Government of Assam under article 275, to the Welfare of Plains Tribal Department and not to the State Government of Assam.

[Translation]

I demand for the facility of common people that in one month atleast 100 kgs. of rice and wheat should be provided to each SC, ST and backward family under BPL category through PDS system. At present, only 20 kg. is being given, which is not sufficient. One bio-fertilizer plant should be set up in Bodoland territory. Every year Rs. 2 crore is provided to every member under MP Local Area Development Scheme. I request that every member from north-eastern region should be given Rs. 10 crore because my Kokrajhar constituency as well as several other constituencies are very backward.

[English]

Over the last 52 years, nothing has been done in the backward tribal areas. So, a minimum of Rs. 10 crore should be earmarked for each and every parliamentary constituency, which is reserved for SCs and STs.

[Translation]

Free trade industrial zone and growth centre should be set up in Bodoland area.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude your speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I would like to mention a very serious issue in the interest of our country. I demand that a separate national scheduled tribes fincance development corporation should be set up. I request that the scholarship which is being provided to the students belonging to SCs/STs should be increased according to the present price index.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you will have to conclude your speech now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Finally, I would like to appeal to the Government of India that the long-standing demand for a separate State of Bodoland should be considered immediately for the welfare and development of the Bodo people and the like other backward communities living within the proposed Bodoland State territory.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill. I attentively listened to the speeches of the members belonging to opposition parties. All of them are concerned about poverty. All people belonging to poor, rich and middle class families caste their votes. Among 15 debtor countires, India ranks eighth in the world. This is the consequence of those previous rulers who took loans in the name of removing poverty. The previous Governments have always increased the taxes whenever they presented the budget. Whenever budget is presented every state puts up demand for funds. We have observed that after 50 years of independence, the people who were ruling the country have left only loan for us and in addition they have left subsidy as their legacy.

The step which our Finance Minister has taken to give new direction to our country is a proper step. Just now I was listening to one of the senior leader of congress who said that what was the necessity of increasing the defence budget so much, I was surprised to hear this. They are talking only about Kargil. I would like to say that defence budget does not relate to Kargil only. The previous Governments have left patholes on our way and our Government is repairing those patholes. The previous Governments did the same thing in respect of two islands of Andaman and Nicobar-Coco Island smaller and greater. In 1948, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru gifted two islands of India to Burma. He did not even notice whether Burma is near to Andaman or not. Today what are its consequences? Consequently the Government of India have to allocate more funds in defence budget for the security of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is because Burma has leased those islands to China and now China is putting pressure on Burma and is keeping surveillance on coco Island and is

fitting rocket launchers over there. We have come to know through BBC that China is fitting rocket launchers in coco island because from there New Delhi can be hit by Atom bomb within five minutes. The Andaman and Nicobar inland is 50-60 kms. away from coco island. Today our colleagues from West Bengal are not present here. If America does something they make hue and cry. Today China is threatening us with Atom bomb. The distance of West Bengal from coco island is 800 kms. and the distance of Delhi from coco island is 5000 kms. If it takes five minutes time in reaching Delhi then you can yourself imagine as to how much time it will take in reaching West Bengal. Hence, an allocation of Rs. 13000 crores, in defence budget is an appropriate step. I would like to quote one example from Kautilya's Arthashastra in this regard. "I did not believe that peace could be maintained forever. As per his views, the person who is strong would like to go to war. Power compells both rulers to maintain peace".

We have seen that two powerful rulers always try to maintain peace. When our Government was in power for 13 months at that time we conducted nuclear test. After this incident, the President of USA Shri Bill Clinton visited India and today he is talking of peace. Hence, I would like to say that the programmes which have been formulated under defence budget are correct. I fully support these steps.

Some votes were taken in the name of poverty alleviation and to fulfil the dreams of Gandhiji but these votes were misused. I would like to quote the instance of Andaman and Nicobar Island. The plan and non-plan expenditure is very less there. The Municipal Council exists in ward No. 18 of Port Blair, which is the capital city. An amount of Rs. 20 to 30 crore is needed for every ward. In Andaman and Nicobar Island, Rs. 3000 to 4000 crore is needed to provide basic facilities like water, roads, bridges but the state of Andaman gets only Rs. 400 crore under plan expenditure. In this year's budget this amount has been further reduced and only Rs. 321 crore has been allocated under plan expenditure. I will come to this point later on. The hon. Finance Minister has started many schemes for poverty alleviation and rural development. Credit Scheme has also been introduced for the farmers. He has also launched Prime Minister's Gramodyog scheme, Husing Scheme, rural roads, drinking water and rural housing scheme. As regards subsidy, I would say that today the hon. Finance Minister is not much concerned about subsidy whereas Shri Manmohan Singhji thought seriously about it. In 1991-92, Shri Manmohan Singhji had said something about subsidy on fertilizers, which I would like to quote:

[English]

> "The economic rationale for an increase in the prices of fertilisers is so obvious that it does not need to be stated."

[Translation]

He favoured reduction in subsidy on fertilizers. Hon. Finance Minister has not increased the prices of urea. Its prices were increased in 1986-87, 1991-92 and 1997-98, our Finance Minister also says the same thing which Shri Manmohan Singhji had said that since we have to increase the minimum support price every year therefore the farmers also have to bear its burden. The urea produced by fertilizer plants is used by small fraction of farmers, Rich people produce urea in big farmhouses by setting up commercial ventures. This is why subsidy on urea is being reduced. Farmers are not going to be burdened by the increase in its prices. I have brought those figure with me.

Finance Minister has not increased the prices. During the period 1980-85 to 1998-99 prices of foodgrain were raised by Rs. 208 to Rs. 244 per quintal. Thereafter on four occasions in 1991 and 1995-96 also prices of foodgrains were raised. In the same manner prices of wheat were also increased. This Government has provided several benefits to poor. In view of providing more foodgrain to poor, the quantity of foodgrains has been raised from 10 ks. to 20 kg.

A provision of more food subsidy has been made for BPL. I would like to make a point regarding Andaman and Nicobar. I agree with what has been stated by my friend from Bodoland. This demand was raised by him.

In Andaman and Nicobar, there are two district–one is Andaman and the other is Nicobar. Nicobar is predominantly a scheduled Tribe district, where people should be given relief in income tax. There is also an island called Lakshadweep in our country where people belonging to scheduled tribes live in traditional way. They should also be given relief in income tax.

[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

I request the Minister of Finance that some pressing demands of Andaman should be fulfilled. Fifty years after independence for the first time a member of BJP has won from there you should not curtail allocation for it. For the plan of 1999-2000 an allocation of Rs. 400 crore was made for Andaman but now for the year 2000-2001, it has been reduced to Rs. 321 crore. It should be increased. The reason for it is that people living in far flung areas in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep mainly depend on Central assistance, it is really a matter of concern. Every year Rs. 148 crore is spent by Andaman Nicobar for purchasing vegetables pulses and foodgrains from Chennai and Bengal, so plan allocation should be increased. There are total of 577 islands in Andaman and Nicobar, out of which only 38 Islands are inhabitated and other are lying Vacant Two islands John Lawrence and Henry Lawrence have limited forest cover. The Government should take steps for habitation of those island so that this land could be used for agriculture. This would save Rs. 150 crore presently given by the Central Government to Andaman Nicobar for foodgrains subsidy. So allocation of funds should be made for settlement of people in this Island.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, tourism has made progress in Andaman Nicobar, I request you to pay attention towards it. In this budget a provision of Rs. 698 crore has been made for plan and non-plan expenditure whereas during 1999-2000 around Rs. 755 crore were allocated for it. I request the Finance Minister to increase it to Rs. 900 crore.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

The Finance Bill presented by Shri Yashwant Sinha, the hon. Finance Minister, is nothing but an accountant's budget, having no specific direction.

In other words, it is anti-poor, anti-farmer and anti-unemployment Budget. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this Bill in toto.

Sir, this Budget is characterised as backward looking. This is with sufficient justification. It goes without saying that the Budget has a built-in inflationary bias. This is evident from the fact that after the presentation of the Budget, the inflation rate has assumed an upward trend. This upward trend is sure to continue making the lives of the poor and the middle class miserable. The talk of poverty alleviation is an empty rhetoric. In fact, poverty is bound to increase with every rise in the inflation rate causing a fall in real income. This is because of the rise in the prices of food articles, cooking gas, kerosene and other commodities used mostly by the people below the poverty line.

The fiscal deficit envisaged in the Budget is 5 per cent of GDP. The hon. Minister of Finance claims credit for the figure on the ground that it is brought down from 5.8 per cent to 5 per cent. This reduction in the fiscal deficit is due to the realisation of revenue of the order of Rs. 5,000 crore from disinvestment. The reduction in fiscal deficit is caused by the reduction in expenditure because of the reduction of subsidies and also reduction in capital expenditure. The former is bound to raise the inflation rate while the latter is bound to affect the rate of economic growth. Quite apart from this, there is the question of saleability of the public sector shares. Over the years, the sale proceeds are far less than the anticipated receipts.

There is one more factor which escalates the inflationary process. This is the rise in the prices of petroleum, kerosene and cooking gas. Besides this, the subsidy has been reduced on food products. All these factors in their collectivity will cause a rise in the rate of inflation. The planned reduction of fiscal deficit may cause a fall in the price level but the reduction of food subsidies will cause a rise in food prices. In the Indian context it is the food prices that govern the general price index. When the food prices raise, the general price level raises and this raises the rate of inflation. In this sense, the Budget can be said to be inflationary.

At the time of inflation the income of the people rises. Therefore, the exemption limit has to be reduced in order to bring in more people into the tax net and thus to increase the tax revenue. But this has not been done.

It is unfortunate that the Budget has sidelined agriculture and the related activities. Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy accounting for 60–65 per cent of national income. It supplies food for the growing population and raw materials for the export sector. But the relative neglect of agriculture will cause a fall in food output

and a fall in the exportable products. This will add to inflation and will aggravate the trade gap though the gap can be financed by drawing down foreign exchange reserves. This calls for strengthening the agricultural sector as this is a sovereign remedy for most of nation's economic ills.

In this regard, I want to quote from the report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals.

23.00 hrs.

I would like to refer to an article 'Farm Subsidy Lowest in India : Panel' from Delhi Star of 27.4.2000. It says:

> "While the incidence of total farm subsidies in India is much lower than that in the developed European countires, USA, Japan and Canada.... However, the level of farm subsidies is the lowest in India in terms of per capita and per hectare of arable land when compared to these countries which represent the developed nations".

Apart from that, the farm subsidy they are giving in India is very low. It is Rs. 17.8 per hectare. This is very low.

Sir, there is a shortfall of Rs. 7,000 crore in gross tax revenue. The target of Rs. 10,000 crore from disinvestment cannot be realised. These two factors are bound to raise the fiscal deficit above the targeted 5 per cent and this is bound to generate inflationary forces and these forces will add to the inflationary potential built into the Budget.

The Finance Minister has not been able to control the Non-Plan expenditure. Of the total increase in expenditure contemplated for 2000-2001 of about Rs. 35,000 crore, about 75 per cent of it relates to Non-Plan expenditure. Interest claim on debt would claim an additional Rs. 10,000 crore. The total interest payment would amount to Rs. 1,01,266 crore. This is bound to land the economy in the debt trap from which easy escape is not possible.

Sir, the Finance Minister characterised the Budget as a responsible Budget, which would give a thrust to all round development. The Prime Minister also characterised the Budget as reform-oriented and forward-looking. Last year, the fiscal deficit went up from 4 per cent to 5.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. This year, it is bound to go up to about 7 per cent for the Budget is shrouded in uncertainty. As the savings rate has fallen to a record low level and as there are no incentives for investment, the rate of economic growth is bound to suffer occasioning more unemployment and more poverty. The Budget proposals are likely to worsen the economic situation.

India has been described as a soft State, a State in which the corruption rules the roost. Corruption is the basis of black-money. In India, black-money is of the order of Rs. 1.70 crore. This is an under-estimate. According to a Reserve Bank estimate, the black-money held by Indian politicians, civil servants and businessmen in foreign banks is of the order of Rs. 500,000 crore. If this money is withdrawn by the Government, there is no need for India to borrow from the World Bank and other financial agencies. India money to the developed countries. But the Budget is silent on this all-important issue.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, though the hon'ble Finance Minister tried to achieve progress while presenting the Budget and Finance Bill in the House but I am unable to supoort it. For the last many years we have been discussing the issue of improving the state of economy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have been unable to correct the economy to the desired extent. The reason for it is that the Government of the country depends on bureaucracy and bureaucracy is not allowing Govt. to function properly. I am not saying that administration is bad because good persons are also there in the adminstration but 75 per cent people are not working properly. They do not have spirit of patriotism. Black money is being generated in our country because our own people are involved in it. There is a need to increase the income of the country for the development of economy. Poverty cannot be alleviated by increasing wealth of few persons. I feel for poverty alleviation in our country, black money of selected rich people will have to be unearthed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, every year presentation of budget results in increase in poverty. Every year Rs. 10-

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

15 thousand crore are increased in budget outlay and number of people living below poverty line also increases. They are not getting proper food, clothing and shelter. Jhuggi-Jhonpris of slum dwellers are demolished and they are evicted from that land.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir there is no use of coming to this House if we do not raise issue concerning poor people. The members sitting in front of us are supporting this budget. They are terming it a good budget. They have to do so because they will not get ticket in the next election if they oppose this budget. Hence they are under compulsion to praise the budget. Their position will be similar to Khuranaji if they oppose this budget.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is really shameful that even 50 or 52 years after independence we have not been able to bring economic equality in the society. We shall have to nationalize land resource of the country and education for bringing economic equality. There is a need to do justice and provide employment to dalits and poor. Your budget cannot provide employment to them on the contrary it is going to increase unemployment. It cannot provide houses to Jhuggi-Jhonpri dwellers and will lead to increase in population.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Pramod Mahajanji is present here. I would like to tell that at present the pupulation of Maharashtra is 10 crore we are not lagging behind in matter of population growth, though we lag behind in all other fields. We have to control population if we really want to compete in this world. I would like to give a suggestion to the hon'ble Minister that the Government should give a new slogan of 'one family one child' because your old slogan of 'one family, three children' has brought pupulation growth to this extent. Our country has a phenomenal population growth rate. So it is necessary to give a slogan of 'one family one child'. There will be food shortage if population is not controlled. You should plan for population control. But you did not formulate any such plan for fear of displeasing people and losing their votes I request you to draw a plan for population control.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I know that this Government will remain in power for five years because the Government feels that poverty has been alleviated, unemployed persons have got employment and black-money has become white. You have no such worry. Sir, corruption and the prevailing bribery called 'percentage system' should be done away with. I was in London recently. Roads are in very good condition.

In our country roads are not in good condition except in Delhi. I would like to say that Government should pay attention towards road technology contractors complain that they have to pay 5, 4 or 2 percent as bribe. When we ask these contractors how much amount they have spent on this, they say out of the amount given to us, we have spent 40 percent on construction of roads. When we ask them where was the rest of the 60 percent money spent they start making excuses by saying that we have given this much of amount to this person or that person. But they have not given anything to us. So there is a need to provide training to the contractors.

Shri Yashwant Sinhaji, if you want to become a popular Finance Minister, then try to give them training, and you can call me for this purpose. I mean to say that as Shri Prakash Paranjpeji has said that in order to eradicate the black-money of this country, the officers say that deposit of Rs. 15 lakh should asked for. If the contractor does not want to deposit the security money, he pays Rs. 2 lakhs, or 3 lakhs or 5 lakhs under the table because he also feels that it is better to give Rs. 5 lakhs without receipt instead of depositing Rs. 15 lakhs and in this way get rid of every problem, so the work goes on. If you really want to provide justice to the poor of this country then a provision of 22.5 percent in the budget should be made for them. The constitution envisages that provision should be made in proportion to the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by every Department but there is no such provision in the Budget. I wish to say that kindly ponder upon this matter in the next Budget. You are going to be in power for four years because we are not going to come there. What I want to say that you ramain in power for four years, or five years, or ten years or for whatever period you wish to be there, but please think something for the welfare of the country also. You should think about removing poverty of the poor, and reduce the disparity between rich and poor. Government which makes rich, richer does not remain in power for a long time, so try to improve the economic condition of the poor and make them rich. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Shri Ram Shakalji, your face does not resemble with Lord Rama, but my face resembles with him. It is good that your name is Ram Shakal. *(Interruptions)* He is Ram

Shakal, but I am Ramdas. Since I am not on the ruling side, so you please don't try to make Rama temple in Ayodhya. When Rama is himself here, then why do you make temple in Ayodhya? If you really want to make a temple when please make it in your hearts. Hon. Finance Minister should think over this. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : You are not thinking anything about this.

Qadam To Aap Utha Rahe Ho,
Magar Garibon Ko Aap Mita Rahe Ho,
Qadam To Aap Utha Rahe Ho,
Magar Janata Ko Hi Aap Luta Rahe Ho.

You are not taking the desired step that is why we are going to remove your Government after sometime. You have done nothing about economic reforms, you are merely ruining the economy. If your performance continues to be like this, then I am afraid that you will be in trouble. So, if you really wish to do something good, then think about the welfare of dalits. With these words, we oppose the Bill introduced here. Earlier, you believed in the ideologies of Lohia, but now you have changed. So I feel that if you really want the economy to prosper then you should adopt the ideologies of Shri Lohia again. You are a supporter of the Lohia ideology and thought, but you have also gone to that side. All this mess is due to this change from this side to the other side.

I oppose the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 4th May, 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

23.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, May 4, 2000/ Vaisakha 14, 1922 (Saka)

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Wednesday, May 3, 2000/Vaisakha 13, 1922 (Saka)

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Col./line	For	Read
10/25	Mr. Speker	Mr. Speaker
81-82/12 (from below)	2889	2869
157/1 (from below)	163.92	153.92
159-160/16	9.63	9.53
161-162/8	391.69	891.69
176/24	(c)	(e)
192/3	412	41.2
299/12	5889	5899
412/18	SHRI SUBUDH MOHITE	SHRI SUBODH MOHITE

PLS. 40. VI. 28/2000
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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033.