

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 22, 2000/Agrahayana 1, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister may now introduce his Minister.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would introduce Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the House.

[English]

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

11.03 hrs.

RE: NOTICES OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 41.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, there is a notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it after the Question Hour. Then, I will give my observation.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir. The Adjournment Motion is something which is considered with utmost seriousness. ...(Interruptions) It is a matter of grave importance which affects the entire length and breadth of this country. If an Adjournment Motion is there, the whole work of the House is supposed to be adjourned. So, we would like to know before the Question Hour what your decision is.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any problem if I give my observation after the Question hour?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: It would be in the propriety of things if you give your decision now.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received 77 notices of Adjournment Motion regarding problems being faced by farmers in the country from the following Members :

1. Shri Devendra Singh Yadav
2. Shri Ramakant Yadav
3. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma
4. Shri P.H. Pandiyan
5. Shri Purno A. Sangma
6. Shri Sharad Pawar
7. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi
8. Shri K.A. Sangtam
9. Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary
10. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit
11. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
12. Shri J.S. Brar
13. Shri Adhir Chowdhary
14. Shri Buta Singh
15. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
16. Shri R.L. Bhatia
17. Shrimati Santosh Chawdhary
18. Shri A.C. Jos
19. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde
20. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
21. Shri P.R. Dasmuni
22. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
23. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev
24. Shri M.O.H. Farook
25. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
26. Shrimati Prabha Rau

27. Shri Rajo Singh
28. Shri Tarun Gogoi
29. Shrimati Margaret Alva
30. Shri P.S. Ghatowar
31. Shri K.H. Muniyappa
32. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
33. Shri G.S. Basavaraj
34. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy
35. Shri Sis Ram Ola
36. Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
37. Shri N. Janardhana Reddy
38. Shri S.C. Shukla
39. Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal
40. Shri Shankersinh Vaghela
41. Shri Ramesh Chennithala
42. Dr. Girija Vyas
43. Shri Madhavrao Scindia
44. Shrimati Preneet Kaur
45. Shri Kamal Nath
46. Shri Saleem Sherwani
47. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh
48. Shri Tufani Saroj
49. Shri Hannan Mollah
50. Shri Subodh Roy
51. Shri Mahboob Zahedi
52. Shri Anil Basu
53. Shrimati Sushila Saroj
54. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
55. Shrimati Rama Pilot
56. Shri Abdul Hamid
57. Prof. I.G. Sanadi
58. Shri Sujana Singh Bundela
59. Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake
60. Shri K.P. Singh deo
61. Shri Khel Sai Singh

62. Shri V.S. Sivakumar
63. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury
64. Shrimati Ranee Narah
65. Shri Balbir Singh
66. Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh
67. Shri Bijoy Handique
68. Shri Golam Osmani
69. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
70. Shrimati Shyama Singh
71. Shri Gurcharan Singh Galib
72. Shrimati Hema Gamang
73. Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel
74. Shri Dinsha Patel
75. Shri K. Karunakaran
76. Shri K. Basavanagoud
77. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik

I give my consent to Shri Sujana Singh Bundela who has secured first place in the ballot to move the motion in the following form :

"Severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices".

Shri Sujana Singh Bundela may now ask for leave of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members belonging to other political parties have given notices in other forms on the same issue and you have to club them. They have given notices in other forms such as Calling Attention, Discussion under Rule 193 ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No please This is a procedural matter. Whose name was there next in the ballot?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, you kindly call the next name in the ballot. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are finding out the next name in the ballot. That is why, I have said that we can take it up immediately after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Mr. Speaker, hon. Member is not present here. This shows how much he is concerned for the farmers.

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, there is no need to move the motion now. it can be moved at 12 o'clock. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It can be moved after the Question Hour.

Now, the House will take up Question Hour. Q. No. 41.

11.08 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Indo-us Joint Working Group, on Terrorism

+
*41. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US after the second meeting of the Joint Working Group have agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation in tackling the menace of international terrorism and extremism based on fundamentalism and drug trafficking;

(b) if so, the details of the measures agreed upon;

(c) the steps since taken thereon;

(d) whether there is any difference of opinion between the two countries concerning the definition of terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the steps proposed to arrive at a mutually agreeable definition ?

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

(b) and (c) In the Second meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, held in New Delhi on 25-26 September 2000, the two sides agreed to share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approaches and action to combat international terrorism.

The Joint Working Group expressed support for India's proposal for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, and agreed to work towards that end. The Group also welcomed the addition of narco-terrorism and drug trafficking to its mandate. The two sides are taking steps, bilaterally and in multilateral forums, including through coordination at the UN in New York, to implement the decisions of the Joint Working Group. Discussion in the Joint Working Group is aimed at strengthening mutual understanding thus enhancing practical cooperation in combating international terrorism.

(d) No, Sir. Following the second meeting of the Group the two sides have issued a joint statement on the subject.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India and U.S.A. after the second meeting of Joint Working Group, have agreed upon taking various steps for mutual co-operation to deal with the menace of international terrorism based on extremism and illegal trafficking of narcotics. My question to the Hon. Minister is that whether any positive results to this effect have come to notice so far ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Hon'ble Member has asked that whether any positive results have come to notice after the second meeting. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that some agreements were signed after the second meeting. The mutual understanding with regard to terrorism has increased. Moreover, talks regarding this started with mutual legal assistance. An extradition treaty has already been executed in this regard.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please state the for as also the measures taken by both the countries to deal with terrorism. Whether the Hon. Minister can give details in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have already told a lot in this regard because constitution of a working group itself is a big thing. Now, efforts are being made to go into such agreements not only with U.S.A. but with other countries also. Agreements may be entered into with those countries which have the same views and opinions as India has regarding making a comprehensive solution to this international problem and are ready to co-operate with India in this regard, this is a very important aspect of this step.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: By what time USA and India would issue a joint memorandum to eradicate terrorism.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The question asked by the Hon. Member is related to 'Convention on Terrorism' by India in the United States. I would like to inform him that

India is getting a lot of support thereon. Its draft is presently at the committee stage in United States. The clause by clause consideration on this draft is going on in the sixth committee.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: We all know that Pakistan sponsored terrorism is often funded by money collected from narcotics. So, there is a phrase called 'narco terrorism'. We know that Afghanistan has become the harbour for this kind of narco terrorism. So, I want to know whether a consensus between India and U.S.A. has been evolved in this fora to link fundamentalistic terrorism with narco terrorism. If not, what progress has been made in this direction? What steps are we taking for preventing narco terrorism by Afghanistan?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know specifically the aspect about whether this Joint Working Group includes narco terrorism. Yes, Sir, it does. The Joint Working Group has, as additionalities, now taken on the question of narco terrorism. Specifically on Afghanistan, I might like to inform the hon. Member that though in the first two Working Groups, terrorism, as emanating from Afghanistan, was considered, it is now being decided that there shall be a separate Working Group between the United States and India on Afghanistan problem as indeed there is a Working Group on Afghanistan. For example, there is also a Working Group on Russia, whose meeting has only recently taken place.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the first meeting of the Joint Working Group, a statement was issued and there, at least two concrete sort of agreements we saw. One was that both the sides would try to bring to book the culprits who were responsible for the IC 814 hijacking.

On that point we have not heard anything more.

The second point was, of course, much more important regarding India's proposal in the United Nations about the Comprehensive Convention on all forms of terrorism. The second meeting was held in September where we find in the answer given by the hon. Minister that the Joint Working Group have again expressed support for India's proposal for this Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the U.N. and agreed to work towards that end.

I would like to know, first of all, what happened to point number one about the hijacking and point number two, apart from expressing support both times had any concrete step been taken so that India's proposal can be taken up in the United Nations?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Member wanted to know two aspects of it. One is specifically about the hijacking of IC 814. The United States of America is fully cooperating through intelligence and other aspects on apprehending the culprits of IC 814. As the hon. Member would know, in regard to that only lately further chargesheets have been filed, that is, we have been receiving full cooperation in that regard.

On Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism, which is under the aegis of the United Nations, as I informed the hon. Member earlier, we have now received the Indian draft on this, and we are receiving more support than ever earlier. We have the support of the United States of America, the G-8 countries, the European Union, Russia as also Japan and the consideration of this draft on Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism is at present in the Committee stage of the United Nations, namely, at the Sixth Committee. The Clause-by-Clause consideration is being carried out. We are receiving total support by not simply the United States but also of the countries and groups of countries that I have mentioned in this regard.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really a matter of great pleasure that the Joint Working Group of India and USA have agreed upon to take steps in co-operating with each other to deal with the international terrorism based on extremism and illegal trafficking of narcotics. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the Government of India that whether both the working groups or both the countries have tried to identify and thus name such nations? Moreover, what is the approach of USA in declaring countries like Pakistan or Afghanistan as terrorist States?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member wants to know that what efforts have been made by this Joint Working Group in declaring other countries as terrorist States? I would like to tell him that every country has its own law and other proceedings, after which it can declare any other country as a terrorist State. The aim of this Joint Working Group is not to declare any other country a terrorist State. So far as Pakistan and Afghanistan are concerned, the Hon. Member knows very well that there is a resolution i.e., U.N.H.C.R.-126 regarding Taliban. We are getting full support from it. Hence, the Joint Working Group does not take any step itself in declaring any other country a terrorist State.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs in his reply to the first supplementary

from Shri P.R. Khunte referred to the Extradition Treaty which was signed with the United States of America about a year ago.

In answer to a question which I put to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in the last Session, I was informed that thus far no lists have been supplied to the United States Government about the people who are to be extradited from the United States to India.

The hon. Minister had also told me in the Winter Session last year that people who commit crime in PoK and who are residents in the United States too could be identified and extradited and the information I have from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is that nobody in this category has even been identified for the information of the United States of America. Obviously, no single person has yet been extradited from the United States of America.

So, my question to the hon. Minister of External Affairs is this—What is the point of your having a Joint Working Group on Terrorism if you are unable—12 months after you signed a Treaty with the United States, about nine months after you received the U.S. President in India, and three months after the Indian Prime Minister has been received in the United States—to extradite even one terrorist out of America into India?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about certain factual aspects of the Extradition Treaty, the Treaty itself was signed in 1997. It was ratified only in September last year. Therefore, for the hon. Member to be asserting about 12 months etc. is factually inaccurate.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: How? Sir, it was the Minister who, a year ago, came to this House, informed that the Treaty has been ratified and become operative. How on earth is it erroneous to say that it came into operation a year ago? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will say it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am sorry I was wrong. It is not 12 months but it is 14 months. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, insofar as the factual inaccuracies are concerned, the hon. Member himself accepts the factual inaccuracy. Insofar as the extradition proper is concerned, of course, the question of who is to be extradited or not extradited really belongs to the Home Ministry and no doubt I will convey your concern to the Home Ministry. But the hon. Member also knows that simply the Treaty is signed does not mean that it is an automatic proceedings. Every extradition request has to go through the legal processes of the country concerned.

It is only then the Treaty becomes a basis whereby such extradition requests are sent. I will convey the hon. Member's concern to my distinguished colleague, the Union Minister of Home Affairs, and no doubt he will inform him of what further steps have been taken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of Shri Clinton's visit to India, some Sikhs were killed during Holi Festival. That was the appropriate time to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state. The entire quantity of narcotics is being spent on terrorists' attacks upon us. Recently, the Hon. Prime Minister has declared that there would be ceasefire during the days of Ramzan. But if terrorists commit attacks upon us, as it happened in Kargil, shall we fire a shot in the air? What would be the policy of the Government at that time? This is a question involving the nation...(*Interruptions*) [*English*] It is linked with you also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, question asked by the Hon. Member, I think, is not related to this question.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: But it is related to the terrorists. The terrorists are using the entire sum of narcotics in creating terrorism.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Hon. Member is right and this question has been asked previously also as to whether narcotics is directly related to terrorism and please don't be under the illusion that the declaration which has been made by hon. Prime Minister right now that our forces will not initiate any action on the pious occasion of Ramzan means that our forces would sit quietly even when any attack is made on them.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will you retaliate?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Certainly, after all we have to save ourselves.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Q. No. 42.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, I have the answer but I beg to submit that this question has come to my Ministry by

mistake. It rightfully belongs to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child. So, I would request you to send it to the correct Ministry, failing which I would attempt to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, but you have given the reply. Your Ministry has replied.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the reply is with me. It is not yet tabled. It is for me to say so.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, it can be postponed to some other day.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, may I say that this question belongs to the Ministry of Personnel of which the Prime Minister is the head. I handled it when I was the Minister in the Ministry of Personnel. This is directly connected with the Ministry of Personnel. The Hon. Prime Minister should rely.

Mr. Speaker: Q. No. 43, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, Why?

MR. SPEAKER: That question has been postponed to some other day.

*42—was postponed.

Brain Fever Deaths

*43. SHRI⁺ N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths that had occurred due to Brain Fever during the last one year in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any assistance has been provided by the Union Government to State Governments in controlling this disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures taken/being taken by the Union Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) State-wise number of deaths due to Brain Fever (Japanese Encephalitis) reported by State Health authorities during the years 1999 and 2000, are as under:

	1999	2000 (Upto 7th November, 2000)
Uttar Pradesh	275	240
Andhra Pradesh	203	42
Karnataka	98	10
Haryana	56	32
West Bengal	27	1
Punjab	6	0
Kerala	4	0
Assam	2	64
Goa	2	3
Manipur	2	0
Tamil Nadu	5	0
Total	680	392

(b) to (d) No separate programme is being implemented for control of Japanese Encephalitis (J.E.). Prevention and control of J.E. are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) closely monitors incidence of J.E. and also provides material assistance (essentially insecticides) as per need to manage and control JE outbreaks. Besides, technical guidance is also provided to the States by the Dte. of NAMP and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) for preventing incidence of JE and managing outbreaks. Further, orientation training on clinical management of JE for Primary Health Centres (PHC)/ District Medical Officers is conducted with the objective of early case detection and prevention of mortality. Government of India also facilitates supply of JE vaccine from its Central Research Institute, Kasauli to States which are in need of such vaccine.

The insecticides supplied by the Directorate of NAMP to JE endemic States during financial year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is given in the Annexure attached.

Annexure**Insecticides Supplied During 1999-2000 & 2000-01 under NAMP**

State	Insecticide	Qty. 99-2000	Qty. 2000-01
Andhra Pradesh	Malathion Tech	5 MTs	5MTs
	Malathion-25%	200 MTs	197 MTs
	DDT	350 MTs	300 MTs
Assam	Malathion Tech	Nil	Nil
	Malathion-25%	Nil	Nil
	DDT	1788 MTs	1695 MTs
UP	Malathion Tech.	5 MTs	5 MTs
	Malathion-25%	418 MTs	380 MTs
	DDT	250 MTs	500 MTs
Haryana	Malathion Tech	Nil	Nil
	Malathion-25%	300 MTs	300 MTs
Kerala	Malathion Tech	Nil	Nil
	Malathion-25%	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	Malathion Tech	2 MTs	1.5 MTs
	Malathion-25%	30 MTs	100 MTs
Maharashtra	Malathion Tech	Nil	Nil
	Malathion-25%	Nil	Nil
Manipur	Malathion Tech	Nil	0.5 MTs
	Malathion-25%	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	Malathion Tech	4 MTs	3.5 MTs
	Malathion-25%	2 MTs	2.0 MTs
West Bengal	Malathion Tech	Nil	1MT
	Malathion-25%	Nil	Nil
Gujarat	Malathion Tech	Nil	Nil
	Malathion 25%	400 MTs	400 MTs

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the Minister was pleased to place a Statement on the Table in which unfortunately Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has the maximum number of deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis. What is the reason? The hon. Minister himself is a doctor. His reply is a bit self-contradictory. He says that there is no separate programme, but at the same time, he is prepared to supply vaccines. Of course, his generous suggestion is that anti-Malaria powder, DDT, through which the menace of mosquitoes is being controlled in the country, is going to be supplied.

Sir, I only ask the Minister this. What is the method through which he wants to control this, at least now? Sir,

in Andhra Pradesh, it was detected in 1981 and you know pretty well, how that disease has taken lives of many children of below 15 years and particularly, every year in-between October and December, it claimed 431 lives in 1981, 638 lives in 1986, 461 lives in 1993 and 294 lives in 1999. For the year 2000, he himself has given the figures. I would like to know from the Minister whether any programme is envisaged, at least now, to meet this dreaded disease.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, first of all I thank you and the hon. Members for taking interest in the health programme because out of 20 Starred Questions, 10 Questions are on health. So, I am really thankful to the

Members. I would request the hon. Members to focus their attention on two focussed programmes of Health Department, that is, AIDS and population stabilisation.

Actually, this brain fever is Japanese Encephalitis. Sir, Japanese Encephalitis actually occurs in some of the rice-growing States of India. Andhra Pradesh is one such State. Then, there is Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. One epidemic occurred in West Bengal also.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Uttar Pradesh is also there.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Yes, it is there is Uttar Pradesh also. One epidemic occurred in Kerala also and some time back, it occurred in Bihar also. ...*(Interruptions)* It is there is Assam, Manipur and Tamil Nadu also.

This Japanese Encephalitis is a viral disease and this is transmitted by a peculiar species of mosquitoes and the main reservoir of it is in pigs. So, the control of this disease actually occurs at three stages. First of all, it can be controlled by improving the living conditions of the poor people who live just by the side of the piggery. Then, there should be separation of piggeries from the house of those poor people who live there. Then, there should be spray of insecticides. We have supplied these two insecticides—DDT and Malathion—to Andhra Pradesh to control this disease.

Then comes the question of vaccine. Sir, three types of vaccines are being produced for control of this disease. India is producing one vaccine in Kasauli and the second is produced in China, which is slightly a different type of vaccine.

For Andhra Pradesh, what the Central Government did for controlling the disease was that we sent one team in March-April this year just for alerting the State Government. Though the incidence this year is less than last year—last year, in Andhra Pradesh, there were 203 deaths; this year, there were 42 deaths, which is less—we alerted the State Government about the programmes which they should take up, like spraying, vaccination etc. At that time, actually, the order for vaccines did not come. Later on, when this outbreak erupted and the order for vaccines came, we sent about 1.65 lakh doses of vaccines from our stock. We have sent these vaccines from Kasauli. When the epidemic starts, there is no use of vaccinating the person. So, after December, we will again take stock of the situation. The actual vaccination should start from December-January.

Then, a letter came from the hon. Chief Minister who wants to import vaccines from China and Japan. We studied that letter and took it up with the WHO which

suggested that the Japanese vaccines could be imported but not the Chinese one because the effectiveness of the Chinese vaccine has not been fully studied. The Chinese vaccine is being marketed by a Korean Company, and it has been used in Nepal. The WHO suggested that the Chinese vaccine has not still reached a very matured stage that we could import the vaccine. All the studies have not yet been completed. We are ready to control this epidemic with vaccination and mosquito control programmes.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, it was published and we know, pretty well that the Chief Minister has recently visited China and Japan, though not for this purpose. Incidentally, he might have learned that there is a vaccine. The Minister has explained that there are two types of vaccines, that is, the Japanese vaccine and the Chinese vaccine. But I do not know how he has come to the conclusion that the Chinese vaccine is a better one, and he is in touch with the Chinese embassy, here in Delhi. The Director-General of Drug Control has not so far given any clearance. So, I would request the Minister to speak to the State Government and do whatever is best to control this disease. The Minister is satisfied that only 42 deaths have occurred this year. The period through which this will occur is from October to December end. So, we have to go a long way in this matter. It is not that we want more deaths, but the situation is bad. What sort of assistance is the Government of India giving to the State Government to control this dreaded disease?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: As regards giving permission by the Central Government or the Drug Controller to import those vaccines, we have taken steps, and there is no problem with the Japanese vaccine as it can be imported from anywhere. The only problem is with the Chinese vaccine because WHO says that the effectiveness of the Chinese vaccine has not been fully studied and, therefore, it should not be imported. So, we are ready to import the Japanese vaccine. We will also increase our capacity in Kasauli next year. The actual vaccination programme will start from January and not during the epidemic; it will start from January-February. We will do everything to provide adequate vaccines to the Andhra Pradesh Government.

[Translation]

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister right now said that people are suffering from this disease in Bihar also. The Hon. Minister hails from Bihar. I want to know that when will you start spraying etc. in Bihar on warfooting from village to town and then in the entire State of Bihar, so that it may be freed from the clutches of disease.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I have personally made a study of two-three academies in Bihar. One is near Muzaffernagar and the other is near Patna. This disease often occurs in Motihari area which is the Hon. Member's constituency adjoining Nepal. So, whenever this would be required or whenever State Government would send requisition for vaccination, we would provide it.

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we hail from the area bordering Nepal. The people from every place, viz Ghoda, Sahan, Dagania are suffering from this disease. The Hon. Minister may clearly tell as to when he would start it in Nepal border area and Motihari and whether hon. Members would be included in it or not?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Whenever vaccination Programme would be initiated, it would be started in the areas suggested by Hon. Members only.

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE: By what time you will start this programme?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Its period would start after February.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, details regarding Madhya Pradesh have not been given therein ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Kanungo, and not you.

[*English*]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, the hon. Minister has, not collected information about brain fever from the State of Orissa. The incidence of brain fever is rampant in the Nalkangiri and Kandhmal districts where hundreds of deaths are taking place every year.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the mosquito eradication programme under NMEP has been taken up in right earnest or not. Anti-larval is the best measure for eradication of mosquitoes. I would also like to know whether anti-larval measures have been taken up or not and what steps have been taken to initiate anti-larval measures so that the incidence of this disease could be reduced, particularly, in the State of Orissa.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, this question pertains to Japanese encephalitis. We could take up this subject in the House some other day.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears from the datas received by the Government of India regarding Japanese encephalitis that datas relating to big States like Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh etc. are not included in it. I am not at all ready to accept that there have been no Japanese encephalitis related deaths in these big States. Sir, through you, I would like to urge hon'ble Minister to get a survey conducted in Bihar, where often diseases are reported, to find out details about this disease and whether the Government would like to take preventive measures? Meanwhile, it has been clearly mentioned in Question No. 47 that:

[*English*]

"The Central Government also provides assistance to control the burden of communicable diseases affecting the common man through the various Centrally-sponsored schemes like National Anti-Malaria Programme, National TB Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme. The Provision made for these programmes in the Ninth Five Year Plan is annexed in which Rs. 1030 crore has been provided for National Anti-Malaria Programme including Kalazar, Fileria and JE Control Programme."

[*Translation*]

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the manner of State-wise allocation of adequate funds provided for National Leprosy Eradication Programme and National TB Control Programme etc. and especially how much money has been provided to the State of Bihar for this purpose?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: No case relating to Japanese encephalitis has been reported from the State of Bihar during this year. If we get any information in this regard we will get it investigated and also inform this august House about it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Just now hon'ble Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) has told about three cases. And now he says that no such case is reported. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Now Japanese encephalitis can be diagnosed, it can be confirmed also. But when people die of Malaria, often it is said that encephalitis has caused the deaths. As and when we get any report about it we will get it investigated. In addition, I would also provide details about proposed allocation of funds to various States, to hon'ble Members.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 200 people have died of Malaria in my Constituency, but there is no mention about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Andhra Pradesh is very alarming today, and the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare has rightly said that he had sent some materials to the State Governments but at the same time, he had also said that it is the duty of the State Governments to control this disease.

But the point is that monetarily the States are very weak and they are unable to cope up with these diseases and take control measures. Basically, this is occurring in places where unhygienic conditions are prevailing. These diseases are occurring mainly due to impure drinking water along with insecticides. These diseases, including brain fever, are mostly occurring in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh but the medicines are not reaching them. There is no drinking water for them. Vaccination will help to prevent this disease only to some extent. But firstly, we have to create hygienic conditions. To create hygienic conditions, there should be a nation-wide programme for brain fever. Brain fever is occurring every year in Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Minister has mentioned 43 deaths in Andhra Pradesh. The figure is up to 7th November, and till the end of December, it will be much more.

So, is there any plan to have a comprehensive programme in the coming year to control the brain fever?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking for a comprehensive programme for eradicating brain fever.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, we will take stock of the situation and do it. About drinking water and unhygienic conditions, we will talk to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and also plan for improving the conditions.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the answer to this question is related to malaria eradication also. If we see the Annexure on the supply of insecticides, it is quite obvious that the sudden spurt of this contagious disease is mainly because of the mosquitoes and other things. By supply of insecticides, we had successfully eradicated malaria in Sixties and Seventies. Maybe because of our successes, we have slowed down a bit and the mosquitoes have started growing.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos, this question relates to brain fever.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Even though he has given an answer also but it is related to brain fever.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he has mentioned that the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme has been empowered to supply insecticides. Manufacture of DDT as well as malathion has been slowed down. There were four companies in India manufacturing DDT. They have closed down the one which was manufacturing DDT in Delhi. One company functioning in Kerala is also not being looked after properly.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. Will he kindly check it up and enhance the production of DDT and malathion at Cochin, Kalamassery and Delhi-based companies so that there is enough supply of insecticides throughout the country and effective control measures are taken to eradicate the diseases spread by mosquitoes?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, I will do that. Though this production part does not come under our Ministry but I will do that.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this list does not contain name of Madhya Pradesh. I hail from Balaghat. During last week 290 people were suffering from Brain Fever under three Panchayats. Second example I would like to quote of Chogan which is in Mandla district. Our Union Minister of State represents that area. He has requested the Government of Madhya Pradesh. 18 people belonging to Bega caste died of this disease in a village. Deaths are also reported from Lanji, Balaghat, Mandala and Betul. Our area is paddy cultivating area and I do agree with hon'ble Union Minister that such disease become contagious in areas where paddy is cultivated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: There are two-three adjoining areas to one Gram Panchayat which are regularly affected. ...*(Interruptions)* Under my Parliamentary constituency there is one assembly segment called Kantaki where 290 people are affected under three panchayats. People did in Lanji and Dindori also, the area represented by our hon. Union Minister of State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Which report you would accept. State Government is not furnishing you complete information. I would like to know whether you would take action on the report of a people's representative. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: People have died in Uttar Pradesh and you have sent a Central Team over there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

[*English*]

This is not the right procedure to raise a question during Question Hour. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Hon. Member is asking about Madhya Pradesh. In this connection I would like to say that though we sent a team to Madhya Pradesh, but deaths in Madhya Pradesh were caused by cerebral malaria and not by brain fever. There is no doubt about it that cerebral malaria has extensively spread over there.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: The problem of brain fever is very much prevalent in tribal areas of Rajasthan. Sir, I request you to give me an opportunity to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 44.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, you have called my name.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I called your name, but you were not in the House at that time.

Lifting of ban on Consumption of non-iodised Salt

*45. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the ban on the manufacture and sale of Non-iodised salt in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether UNICEF has expressed its serious concern on the decision of the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a), (b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Through Central notification under the PFA Act, restriction had been placed on sale of salt for direct human consumption w.e.f. 27.5.1998, which has since been lifted w.e.f. 30.9.2000. Similar restriction, however, continues to be valid in most States/UTs through notifications issued by them under the powers given to States in this regard.

The restriction on sale of non-iodised salt for direct human consumption was imposed to promote the use of iodised salt for combating Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD). However, the Central notification was opposed by many segments of the population for a variety of reasons. The restriction was finally removed to provide for a system that allows adequate flexibility to accommodate those who believe that there should be no compulsion in matters relating to public health, and that the use of iodised salt to combat IDD should ideally be promoted through creation of greater awareness, by monitoring the accessibility, availability and affordability of this product.

The need for a statutory compulsion for sale of iodised salt is contingent upon the local social conditions, dietary habits and state of the economy. This aspect is best judged by the State Governments who are better aware of local conditions, and who can enforce the ban in such areas where the need is perceived. It was felt by the Central Government that the decision—whether or not to place a ban on sale of non-iodised salt, and if yes, in which areas—should be left to the State Governments. Consequent upon that, the Central Government withdrew its notification in this regard.

Compulsory iodisation is not the sole strategy available of promoting the use of iodised salt for combating IDD. Creation of greater awareness through IEC and increasing availability, affordability and accessibility are key factors in this regard, and Government proposes to focus on these aspects to achieve the same objective.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is amazing to see the kind of answer that I have got from the hon. Minister regarding the use of non-iodised salt in the country. There has been a large scale debate as to whether iodine is good for the development of brain and other important aspects of human life.

The answer that I was given was that it is up to the State Government to decide whether salt is good for individuals or not. Is it possible for the individuals of the two States of Bihar and U.P. where literacy is very low, to decide whether iodine is good for them or not? So, it is for the State agencies to ensure that people get iodine so that they do not run short of iodine and they combat IDD, that is, Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Will the Minister be kind enough to tell me whether it is compulsory to take iodised salt and whether it is a must for the intake of every child and woman especially in the States of Bihar and U.P.?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, the ban on use of non-iodised salt was prevalent in most of the States in India since the 80s. But the Central Government imposed the ban only in May 1998 and then it was removed on 30th September 2000. Actually most of the States are going ahead with the ban and the use of iodised salt. There are many other methods for providing iodised salt to the users and we are doing them. We have increased or stepped up those activities so that more and more people know about use of iodised salt and that there is no shortage of iodised salt in this country.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I would like to ask another question. Since the North-east is totally deficient of iodine properties in the individuals, what action the Government is taking to ensure that all of them in that area get iodised salt?

The second part of that question is this. When the Government is depending on other back up systems to replenish deficiencies in the human body, what is it that they are planning to replace it with?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Regarding the first part of the question, we are ensuring that iodised salt is supplied to each and every State. We have instituted another study after lifting of the ban to find out what are the areas in this country which require it. It is not the whole State that is involved. If there is a deficiency, we will try to step up the supply of iodised salt to that area.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister as to what might have been the changes that would have taken place between 27th May 1998 and the day when this restriction was lifted, that is, 30th September 2000? It has been said that the restriction

was finally removed to provide for a system that allows adequate flexibility to accommodate those who believe that there should be no compulsion. Who are those people who believe so?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually many organisations came and said that they should have the choice to select the salt of their liking. But on that score, we thought that it is better to leave it to them. Kerala is one of the States which said that there should not be any ban, that they are doing everything on their own, and that there should be no compulsion in eating habits, etc. Many people from different organisations came and said that this system was working very nicely before the imposition of ban by the Central Government in 1998. They said that the State Governments are doing nicely.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It has come in the Press that pressure has been mounted on the Government by certain sections of the dealers of salt.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The most significant aspect of the answer is that the UNICEF has protested against the decision of the Government of India. When the Prime Minister took the view that the ban was not necessary, the Minister was not holding this portfolio. When he took over the portfolio he, as a doctor, was frank enough to make a public statement that this ban was necessary. What is that force that has compelled the Government to lift this ban in spite of the opinion of the UNICEF, in spite of the opinion of experts, like Dr. Ramalingaswamy and you? What was that force superior to the Health Minister? I would like to know that.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Many people came and objected that there should not be an element of compulsion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Who are those people?
...(Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, for example, in population stabilisation, we took a decision, and everybody agreed to it, that there should not be an element of coercion in population stabilisation. The issue of salt came after that.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: They said that there should not be any coercion. They said that liberty should be there to choose the salt.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Liberty is not the same as licence.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have this problem in my constituency. The same august House has discussed this point elaborately on lifting the ban. The previous Government has imposed the ban due to some forces. That is why we have made this request. Major political parties supported the decision to lift the ban. We are continuously monitoring the lifting of the ban. I have written so many letters. In Srikakulam, we are producing high grade salt. Poor people are using that salt for hundreds of years. But there is no instance of any disease like goitre disease. Then, why should the Government impose this ban? We fought for it and got the ban lifted. So, I am supporting the decision of the Government.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I wish to reiterate that it was detailed studies and expert reports which led the Government to insist that iodised salt be supplied in the country. I would like to tell him that there are areas where lack of iodine is leading to the problem of mental retardation and other problems among children. It might be that for hundreds of years these facts were not brought out. But a lot of studies are now coming out which are available to you and to the Government.

It is unfortunate that because of the pressure of one or two of your States, you have reversed that programme which has been universally welcomed in this country. I would like to ask the Minister whether he would, instead of starting new studies and creating confusion, reconsider his decision and not let the children of this country suffer simply because some political pressure has been brought on you which is totally against the medical opinion and international studies which have established these facts.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: In most of the countries, the ban is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Then, what is the cause for increase in the number of children who are mentally retarded and handicapped? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. The hon. Minister is present here and he would reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I assure the House that if we come across any deficiency of iodised salt in any corner of the country, iodised salt will be delivered to that area. I can assure that to the House.

Sea Erosion

*46. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several coastal States in the country are facing sea erosions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to prevent sea erosions in those States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, all the coastal States are facing problem of sea erosions in certain reaches. The Union Government had earlier given Central loan assistance amounting to Rs. 52.00 crore and Rs. 0.92 crore upto March 1992 to the critically affected States of Kerala and Karnataka respectively for taking up anti-sea-erosion works. Providing Central loan assistance was discontinued beyond 1991-92 as a process of decentralization, as per the decision taken in the 43rd meeting of National Development Council held in December 1991. However in February, 1995 the Government of Kerala sought special Central assistance for emergent conservation of sea coast in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Trissur at a cost of Rs. 5.99 crore. The Planning Commission accepted the proposal for investment clearance and also sanctioned Rs. 3 crore in February, 1996 as special central assistance as a one time measure for completing the execution of anti-sea-erosion works in Kerala by June, 1996.

Proposal have been received from the Maritime States to control coastal erosion under the following two programmes:

- (i) National Coastal Protection Project (NCPPI).
- (ii) Central assistance for critical anti erosion works in Coastal and other than Ganga basin States.

NCPPI is under formulation stage in association with the maritime States.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for providing Central assistance to coastal and other than Ganga basin States has been proposed during the Ninth Five year Plan to prevent sea and river erosion in these States.

Being a new scheme, approval of the full Planning Commission is required for sanctioning any Central assistance.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have large sea-shore on three sides of our country. It has abundant benefits but land erosion caused by sea-water causes loss to agriculture in rural areas. In case of bigger cities, corporation and State Government carry out embankment but neither the State Government nor Central Government has cared to bother about rural areas. I would like to ask hon. Minister as to whether Central Government have evolved any plan to provide for embankment in case of Maharashtra which has a large sea-shore and where erosion causes great loss to rural land and the crops as well, as has been done in case of Kerala and Karnataka. I would like to know when the Government is going to implement such plan?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Coastal erosion of sea is really a serious problem. Different State Governments take steps to protect sea erosion. Whenever a scheme comes from the State Government, the Centre considers it and provides fund under Central Loan Assistance to different States. Recently, a number of State Governments like, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, have forwarded schemes to the Centre and the Government has identified some critical areas which need immediate protection. As per the decision of the Government, we have sent proposals to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission in principle has approved the projects worth Rs. 20 crore. For the protection of seacost, and Rs. 10 crore have been provided for protection of river banks erosions in critical areas. In principle, both the Planning Commission as well as IFC have approved of the project. The moment the full Planning Commission approves the project, it will be implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Particularly have you received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been answered.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Have you received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Yes, it has been received from Maharashtra also.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from which of coastal States proposals have been received with regard to controlling shore-erosion? Secondly, how much funds have been earmarked for National Coastal Protection Plan and serious plan related to shore-erosion meant for States other than coastal States situated on Ganges basin. Since ten or twenty crore rupees are proposed to be allotted during 9th Five Years Plan, how would we be able to help the States in the year 2001-2002. Kindly provide details in this regard.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: We have received proposals from Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The funding pattern for the rest of the period of the Ninth Plan will be, the Centre will provide 75 per cent of the amount and the States will bear 25 per cent. Thus, Rs. 30 crore will be spent during the remaining period of the Ninth Five year plan; providing protection to the critical erosions of both sea and rivers.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: How much money has been earmarked for Maharashtra?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: We will provide Rs. 3.20 crore to Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his answer. What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to complete his answer.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I will provide detailed information to the hon. Members. We are having a very ambitious plan in the Tenth Five Year Plan. So, in the Tenth Five year Plan, Rs. 1700 crore will be provided for National Coastal Protection Project. All the State Governments have submitted their proposals. We have asked them to submit compliance reports. As and when they are available, it will be finalised, and it will be posed for external funding in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ummareddy, only half a minute is there. You can ask the question and the Minister can send the reply later.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the specific question is that Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which has a good length of coastal area. It has sent a lot of suggestions. The question is that it is not the loan amount that has to be given but it is the grant that should be given.

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

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I will write to the Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bonded Labour

[English]

*44. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anti Slavery International has asked the Government to undertake a comprehensive national survey as recommended by the International Labour Organisation to identify the total number of bonded labourers in the country;

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

(c) the total number of bonded labourers estimated till the year 2000, consisting the adults and children?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its 88th session held in June, 2000 examined the issue of bonded labour in India through its Committee on Application of Standards, on the basis of representations made by several interest groups, including Anti Slavery International which urged the Government of India to undertake a comprehensive and authoritative survey to identify the total number of bonded labourers in the country.

The process of identification of bonded labour forms part of the functions vested upon the District Magistrates under sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 (which had earlier been promulgated as an Ordinance on 24.10.1975). The Act authorises the State Governments to confer powers on the District Magistrates to perform all or any of the functions which are required to be performed for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour. It further provides for constitution of Vigilance Committees at District and Sub-Divisional levels with representation from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, social workers, rural development agencies and financial and credit

institutions. The process of identification of bonded labour is, therefore, an on-going one.

The Government have also implemented, since 1978, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded labourers. This scheme has been revised since May, 2000 enhancing the scales of benefits and providing for various new interventions to make it more effective. Under the recently revised scheme, provision has been made to grant to the State Governments at the rate of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per bonded labour-prone district for conducting surveys of bonded labourers once in three years and also for conducting evaluatory studies annually in five sensitive districts in each State.

In addition, the Supreme Court of India in the case of People's Union for Civil Liberties Vs Government of Tamil Nadu and Others also appointed Commissioners in 1995 in 13 States to conduct surveys. After examining the reports, the Supreme Court has requested the National Human Rights Commission to monitor the case.

At present, on the basis of surveys conducted by the State Governments from time to time, 2,80,411 bonded labourers have been identified and released as on 31.3.2000.

Health Insurance Scheme

*47. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy burden of medical expenses on the common people;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide health coverage to all citizens especially those with inadequate means under any of the health insurance schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject and State Governments make provision for the health care of the common man through different schemes and programmes. The Central Government also provides assistance to control the burden of communicable diseases affecting the common man through various centrally-sponsored schemes like National Anti Malaria Programme, National TB Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme. The provision made for these programmes in the Ninth Five Year Plan is given in the statement attached.

Certain schemes of health insurance run by Indian Insurance Companies, are currently available. With the opening of the insurance sector to foreign investment, more health insurance products are likely to become available in the country.

Statement

Approved outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for Major National Health Programmes

S.No.	Name of the Programme	Total Outlay (Rs. in Crores)
1.	(a) National Anti Malaria Programme including Kala-Azar, Filaria and J.E. Control Programmes	1030.00
	(b) National Dengue Control Programme	
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	301.00
3.	National Tuberculosis Control Programme	450.00
4.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	448.00
5.	National AIDS Control Programme including Blood Safety measures and National S.T.D. Control Programme	760.00

CBI Unearths Drug Racket

*48. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that CBI has recently unearthed a scam in the purchase of medicines at higher rates by CGHS authorities in collusion with the drug/medicines suppliers as reported in the 'Dainik Jagaran', dated November 3, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the cases are available in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(c) As and when the CBI submits the final report, Government will take further necessary action.

Statement

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Anti Corruption Branch, New Delhi

Sub. Lok Sabha Admitted Starred Question No. 48 relating to investigation process of CBI Unearths Drug Racket.

1. RC-63(A)/2000-DLI dt. 31.10.2000 u/s 120B, r/w Sec 420, IPC and Sec. 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 has been registered against Sh. Saranjit Deb, the then CMO, S.S. Khatri, the then Pharmacist, Gole Market Dispensary (CGHS) and M/s Oberoi Medical & General Store, Channa Market, Karol Bagh, New Delhi on the allegation that they entered into a criminal conspiracy with the object to cheat and cause undue pecuniary advantage to themselves and the firm in the matter of local purchase of medicines by abusing their official positions as public servants.

In pursuance of the said conspiracy M/s Oberoi Medical & General Store raised bills against the supply of medicines to CGHS Dispensary, Gole Market New Delhi by inflating the bills, showing excess amount of rates of items than their actual market rates and also charging excess rates of sale tax/local levies. These inflated bills were passed and payment made to the supplier.

2. RC-64(A)/2000-DLI dt. 31.10.2000 u/s 120B, r/w Sec. 420, IPC and Sec. 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 has been registered against Dr. P.C. Prasad, the then I/C CGHS Dispensary, Sh. Karan Singh, Pharmacist, Chitra Gupta Road, Dr. (Mrs.) Usha Chawla, the I/C CGHS Dispensary, Sh. Arun Kumar Sharma, Pharmacist, Minto Road, Dr. (Mrs.) B.C. Thamboli, the then I/C CGHS Dispensary, Sh. B.S. Barwa, the then Pharmacist, President Estate & M/s. Rishabh Enterprises, Paharganj, New Delhi on the allegation that they entered into a criminal conspiracy with the object to cheat CGHS administration, and to cause undue pecuniary advantage to themselves and the firm in the matter of local purchase of medicines by abusing their official position as public servants.

In pursuance of the said conspiracy, M/s Rishabh Enterprises raised highly inflated bills against the supply of medicines to CGHS dispensaries at Chitra Gupta Road, Minto Road and Presidents Estate, New Delhi, showing excess amount of rates of items than their actual rates and also by charging excess rates of sales tax/local tax etc. Respective Medical Officers incharge and Pharmacists, named above posted at Chitra Gupta Road, Minto Road, President Estate dispensaries during the

relevant period, instead of rejecting such bills, recommended the same for payment causing large wrongful loss to the CGHS dispensary's administration and corresponding gain to M/s Rishabh Enterprises and/or to themselves.

Both the cases are under investigation.

[*Translation*]

Primary Health Centres

*49. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Primary Health Centres/Swasthya Raksha Kendras in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the criteria fixed for setting up of Primary Health Centres in the villages;

(d) the number of such Centres likely to be set up in each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Union Government have received proposals from States for funds for effective improvement in the condition of secondary level hospitals and Primary Health Centres during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details of each proposal alongwith the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b). There is overall shortage of Primary Health Care Centres in the country. The establishment of Primary Health Care Centres has lagged behind in some States. In the year 2000, the estimated shortage of Sub-Centres is 20, 332, of PHCs 3,861 and of CHCs 3,414.

However, it is also true that some States/UTs have no shortages in respect of Primary Health Care Centres. The position regarding shortfall is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Primary Health Care Centres are established by State Governments as per population norms prescribed by the Planning Commission. A Sub-Centre is established for a population of 5000.; a PHC for 30,000 and a CHC for about 1.2 Lakh people. The norms are relaxed for tribal, hilly and other backward areas. In these areas a

Sub-Centre is established for a population of 3,000, a PHC for 20,000 and CHC for 80,000.

(d) The 9th Plan (1997-2002) goals for establishment of additional Sub-Centre is 7686, for Primary Health Centres is 1521 and the target for Community Health Centres is 290.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir, In pursuance of proposals received from the State Governments, the primary health care infrastructure is being strengthened through the following schemes—

Major/minor civil works:-Rs. 49.00 crore have already been released to the States from 1997 to 1999 for Minor Civil Works and Rs. 54.62 crore has been released to the States during 1998-2000 for Major Civil Works.

To ensure improved delivery services, the medical and paramedical staff is appointed on contract basis by State Governments with financial support from Central Government.

Additional honorarium is provided as an incentive to encourage staff to participate in providing 24 hours delivery services at PHCs and CHCs.

Sub-centres are provided with drug kits A & B, PHC and CHCs are provided with emergency obstetric drug kits through Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

Dai Training has been revitalized. During 2000-2001, it is being implemented in 142 districts spread over the 17 States of the country.

Referral transport will assist women from indigent families in 25% Sub-Centres in obstetric emergency.

A Border District Cluster Project has been launched in 47 identified districts, aimed at bringing about reductions in the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate by 50% over a 4 year period.

ISM Practitioners are being trained for improving awareness and availability of ISM remedies. NGOs are being assisted to raise nurseries of medicinal plants. Appropriate research in Contraceptive technology is being supported.

Under the State Health System Project CHCs and District Hospitals are being upgraded to provide quality health services to the people in rural areas.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, the Primary Health Care Infrastructure will be strengthened

by increased provisioning of drugs, essential consumables, contingencies for travel cost per ANMs, repair of essential equipment and furniture. Additionally, priority will be given for putting in place facilities for potable water supply and adequate toilet facilities in the Sub-centres and PHCs.

Area Projects are in progress in 14 States to meet the needs of specified geographic areas for strengthening infrastructure facilities, increased training facilities, and for need based procurement of goods, equipment, drugs & furniture.

Statement

Sub Centres, PHCs and CHCs Required as per Projected Population 2000 and in position as on 30.06.1999.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Sub Centres			Primary Health Centres			Community Health Centres		
		R	P	S	R	P	S	R	P	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11081	10568	513	1847	1636	211	462	238	224
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	272	245	27	45	45	0	11	9	2
3.	Assam	5030	5280	*	838	619	219	210	105	105
4.	Bihar	17933	14799	3134	2989	2209	780	747	148	599
5.	Goa	154	172	*	26	17	9	6	5	1
6.	Gujarat	6889	7274	*	1148	967	181	287	206	81
7.	Haryana	2886	2299	587	481	401	80	120	64	56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1249	2069	*	208	312	*	52	55	*
9.	J&K	1470	1700	*	245	337	*	61	53	8
10.	Karnataka	7135	8143	*	1189	1676	*	297	249	48
11.	Kerala	4516	5094	*	753	962	*	188	80	108
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13977	11947	2030	2329	1690	639	582	342	240
13.	Maharashtra	11479	9725	1754	1913	1699	214	478	308	170
14.	Manipur	410	420	*	68	69	-	17	16	1
15.	Meghalaya	626	377	249	104	85	19	26	13	13
16.	Mizoram	105	336	*	17	55	*	4	6	*
17.	Nagaland	415	245	170	69	33	36	17	5	12
18.	Orissa	6957	5927	1030	1160	1352	*	290	157	133
19.	Punjab	3215	2852	363	536	484	52	134	105	29
20.	Rajasthan	836	9851	*	1473	1662	*	368	263	105
21.	Sikkim	114	147	*	19	24	*	5	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Tamil Nadu	7907	8682	*	1318	1436	*	329	72	257
23.	Tripura	769	537	232	128	58	70	32	11	21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	26445	20153	6292	4407	3808	599	1102	310	792
25.	West Bengal	11854	8126	3728	1976	1262	714	494	99	395
26.	A&N Islands	60	97	*	10	17	*	2	4	*
27.	Chandigarh	14	13	*	2	—	2	1	1	—
28.	D&N Haveli	53	36	17	9	6	3	2	1	1
29.	Daman & Diu	15	21	*	3	3	—	1	1	—
30.	Delhi	248	42	206	41	8	33	10	—	10
31.	Lakshadweep	8	14	*	1	4	*	0	3	*
32.	Pondicherry	54	80	*	9	39	*	2	4	*
All India		152176	137271	20332	25361	22975	3861	6337	2935	3414

(Figures are provisional).

— : Nil.

R : Required.

P: In Position.

S: Shortfall.

* : Surplus Infrastructure.

\$: Ignoring the States With Surplus (*) infrastructure.

Note : Required number has been estimated by applying the existing norms for population

Coverage on the projected population of 2000 A.D., assuming the % rural tribal population in each State being the same as was in 1991 census.

*[English]***Operation Theatres in Delhi Hospitals**

*50. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the operation theatres in the Hospitals of Delhi are not following the rules to make operation theatres infection free before operation;

(b) whether patients are forced to bring operation gloves and stitching thread from outside due to which apprehension of getting infection remains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) In the three Central

Government Hospitals of Delhi, precautions are taken to minimize the chances of hospital acquired infection and postoperative infection. There is a Hospital Infection Control Committee in each Hospital, which monitors bacterial flora of operation theatres regularly. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has intimated that in all the Operation Theatres at AIIMS Hospital, precautions are taken to minimize the chances of hospital-occurred infections and post operative wound infections. NDMC has informed that the hospital theatres of its hospitals are regularly dis-infected and infection rate of the hospital is very low. MCD has informed that its Hospitals are following the rules to make operation theatres infection free before carrying out operation. As such, no possibilities remain of infection during operation. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also intimated that in regard to hospitals in Delhi also no such report/complaints is available.

(b) and (c): Gloves/sutures are available in AIIMS, Central Government, NDMC, MCD and Government of NCT of Delhi run hospitals. Even in those cases where

patients bring their own gloves and stitching thread, they are used only when they are packed in aseptic condition.

(d) It is the endeavour of the Central Government to make available all consumable items to indoor patients.

[Translation]

India's Candidature for Security Council

*51 KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's candidature for a permanent membership in the UN Security Council was raised during the 55th Session of the UN General Assembly in September, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the stand taken by USA thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee reiterated, during the UN Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000, that "India has let it be known for some years that we believe ourselves qualified by objective criteria for responsibilities of permanent membership" and that, "as the world's largest democracy, enormous potential, a rapidly growing economic power and a major contributor to peacekeeping operations, India has a natural claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council". At the Plenary of the 55th UN General Assembly, I reaffirmed India's willingness to take on the responsibilities of permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

The Government has, on various occasions, conveyed its views on Security Council restructuring to the US and to other countries. US officials have, in public statements, acknowledged that India is a very strong contender for Permanent Membership of the Security Council and that its size, its role in the world, its economy, its contribution to UN Peacekeeping, make India a very serious and strong contender.

[English]

Diabetic Cases

*52 SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diabetic cases including juvenile diabetes are increasing in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the eradication of the disease in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes, particularly in the urban areas of the country. However, there is no evidence suggesting that juvenile diabetes is also increasing.

Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. There are also around 100 Government Medical Colleges in the country, besides premier institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which are providing both secondary and tertiary diabetes management facilities. A Pilot Project on "Strengthening of Bio-Chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance" was initiated in 1999-2000 in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Punjab.

[Translation]

Bringing Down the Poverty Line

*53. Dr. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed to bring down the poverty line (B.P.L.) during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the target fixed for the purpose has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the efforts made/being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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 Ninth Five Year Plan has projected the percentage of people living below the

poverty line to decline from an assumed level of 29.18% in the base year (1996-97) to 17.98% in the terminal year (2001-02) of the Ninth Plan.

(b) to (d) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure collected by the National Sample Survey Organisation. These surveys are conducted once in approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. Data from the latest large sample survey i.e., 55th survey (1999-2000) is expected to become available by the end of the year. As such, the estimates of poverty are not available after 1993-94 and no conclusion can be made about the realization of the targeted reduction of poverty as projected in the Ninth Plan.

[*English*]

Subsidy to KVIC

*54. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subsidy to Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been withdrawn by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the amount of subsidy given to K.V.I.C. every year;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to give more subsidy to Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in Lijjat Papad Industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the criteria laid down by the Government for involving NGOs in such 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.

(c) The details of funds released to the KVIC during the last three years and the budget provision for the current financial year are as under :

	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Plan	44078	34623	20193	32000
Non-Plan	31816	32006	7870	7797
Total	75894	66629	28063	39797

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The Government does not give any subsidy to NGOs directly. However, the NGOs intending to engage in KVI Programme under the purview of the KVIC should register themselves with the KVIC by adopting the model Bye-laws/Memorandum of Association, as prescribed by the KVIC.

[*Translation*]

Recovery of Provident Fund

*55. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deduction made by the Hindustan Newspaper, New Delhi from the salaries of the employees has not been deposited in the provident fund account;

(b) if so, the estimated outstanding contributions as on date;

(c) the steps taken to recover the outstanding amount from the said agency;

(d) the number of cases filed against the management of the Hindustan Newspaper for recovery of provident fund; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) There is no establishment covered under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 in the name and style of 'Hindustan Newspaper, New Delhi'. However, a newspaper namely 'Hindustan Times Ltd. is depositing Provident Fund Contributions on regular basis and as such the question of taking any action against the establishment in this regard does not arise.

*[English]***Indo-Iraq ties**

*56 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Iraq in terms of strengthening bilateral ties including petroleum for foodgrain agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of India so far to support Iraq's demand with regard to lifting of UN sponsored sanctions against that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) the main focus of the visit of MOS (EA) to Iraq was to strengthen senior level political contacts and endeavour to increase India's share under the oil for food programme. A 35 member Business delegation accompanied MOS (EA). Meetings with President Saddam Hussein, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadhan, Dr. Sadoun Hamadi, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers for Trade, Oil, Transport, Health and Industry were held.

(c) India has called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Government of India has been consistently drawing the attention of the world community to the sufferings of the people of Iraq resulting from sanctions and continues to advocate a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues involved.

IDA Aided Programme for Eradication of Polio

*57. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Agency (IDA) has sanctioned funds for States to implement polio eradication and strengthening of routine immunisation in some States;

(b) if so, the name of the States where these IDA aided programmes are being implemented and the main component of these programmes;

(c) whether these programmes are launched in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated so far ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) IDA has sanctioned a nation-wide project at a total cost of US\$ 142.6 million for implementing polio eradication and strengthening of routine immunization activities throughout the country. The components of the IDA assistance include (i) polio eradication (ii) strengthening of routine immunization programme which includes assistance for supply and replacement of cold chain and injection safety equipment, training of immunization programme managers and cold chain handlers and the strategy of programme monitoring and supervision, and (iii) development of strategic framework.

Orissa is also included as one of the beneficiary States under this IDA assistance.

(d) No funds have been allocated yet.

Infertility in women due to Bhopal Gas Tragedy

*58. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that women affected in Bhopal Gas Tragedy have developed infertility;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether women and men in gas affected areas have been medically examined by the Government;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether any scheme has been prepared by the Government for extending medical help to the affected persons; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f) Studies carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) did not show any adverse effect of gas exposure on the fertility of women. However, the study indicated higher abortion rates in subsequent pregnancies in women from the exposed areas, as compared to women from the unexposed areas. No study has been carried out for ascertaining infertility amongst males who were exposed to gas leaks in Bhopal.

A Five Year Action Plan for medical, economic, social and environmental rehabilitation of the gas victims in the affected areas was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 163.10 crores in 1990, which was later increased to Rs. 258 crores to be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between Central and State Governments. The measures under medical rehabilitation include:

1. Focus on establishing new hospitals/dispensaries and augmenting existing facilities in affected areas.

2. Providing 755 beds by constructing 4 new hospitals, in addition to 275 bed capacity already existing in Bhopal.

The Central Government has released its share of Rs. 193.50 crores.

In addition, construction of a 290 bedded specialty hospital is under construction as part of implementation of the Supreme Court orders dated 03.10.91. This hospital will have facilities for treating respiratory diseases, cardiology, neurosciences, gastro-enterology, ophthalmology, etc. The construction of this hospital is monitored by a trust under the Chairmanship of the former Chief Justice of India, Shri A.M. Ahmadi.

NGOs

*59. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) functioning under her Ministry;

(b) whether all of them are registered organizations;

(c) the Government funds disbursed to these NGOs during the last three years;

(d) the mechanism being adopted to ensure proper utilization of the funds by them;

(e) whether there is any supervision on the NGOs on their receiving foreign funds and their utilization;

(f) whether there is any report of monetary mismanagement/diversion of funds against these NGOs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is presently assisting 2347 NGOs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Amounts released to NGOs are as given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	59.62
1998-99	113.58
1999-2000	153.48

(d) The working of the NGOs assisted by this Ministry is monitored and evaluated from time to time. These Organisations are inspected by representatives of the State Governments and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and where it is found that the delivery of services is not commensurate with the funds released by the Ministry, the NGO is warned to improve its working. In case of failure to improve or clear defalcation of funds by NGO, further release of grant-in-aid is suspended and the NGO is blacklisted after following the prescribed procedure and process initiated for recovering the misutilised grant.

(e) NGOs are permitted to receive funding from foreign sources only if they are registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. The registration is granted by Ministry of Home Affairs only after satisfying itself about the bonafides of the NGO. The monitoring of foreign contribution is done by Ministry of Home Affairs through the annual reports and returns submitted by the registered Organisations as well as inspection of accounts or records or audit books as deemed necessary.

(f) and (g) As a result of inspection of the NGOs by representatives of this Ministry, some instances have come to light where the working of the NGO is unsatisfactory or there is misutilisation of funds. In such cases, further grant-in-aid has been suspended and showcause notice issued to the NGOs. In cases where the explanation of the organization is unsatisfactory, the organization is blacklisted and action taken to recover the grants released earlier and seize the assets created out of the Government's funds with the help of State Governments/district authorities.

Medical Treatment to Late Shri P.R. Kumaramanglam

*60. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Government to go into the treatment provided to the late Shri P.R. Kumaramanglam, Minister of Power at the Apollo Hospital has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The significant observations contained in the report, and the inferences drawn by the Government, were :

- (i) Shri Kumaramangalam was empirically prescribed a course of medicines for malaria at the Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd. (Apollo Hospital) at Delhi, even though his blood samples did not show malarial parasites. It was noted that such practice is not unusual in India.
- (ii) Examination of the Minister also indicated a patch in his right lung as revealed in the chest X-ray and Urine Culture revealed E coli infection. Further investigations for this lung patch ruled out the presence of cancer cells and tuberculosis.
- (iii) In view of the urinary tract infection and suspected, atypical pneumonia, antibiotics were administered to the late Minister. Since the fever showed a tendency of settling down, and because the patient was keen to attend the Parliament Session, he was discharged from the hospital. He was also advised that he would be required to be checked-up at frequent intervals if the symptoms persisted.
- (iv) Between the date of his discharge from the Apollo Hospital on 23.04.2000 and his admission to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on 14.08.2000, the late Minister returned for follow-up only once on 8th May, 2000, when he did not meet the treating Physician, but had his chest X-ray and blood sample taken from the office of the Chairman of the Hospital.
- (v) In the period mentioned at (iv) above, the former Minister undertook some anti-tuberculosis treatment, but the records of same are not available.
- (vi) On the basis of the test results showing an inadequate polymorphonuclear leucocyte response to sepsis by the bone marrow, the

Enquiry Committee has observed that consultation with a clinical Haematologist was warranted to evaluate the Immuno-haematological status of the patient. Whether a bone marrow test was indicated during this period of hospitalization has been considered debatable in the report.

- (vii) It was noted that the late Minister was occasionally using Wysolone (Steroid), which had not been mentioned to the treating Physician in the hospital. This may have had the effect of altering the clinical symptomology and may have diverted the attending Physician from pursuing a different course of investigation and treatment.
- (viii) In sum, government has concluded on the basis of the enquiry report that, on account of intermittent treatment and non-specific general clinical presentation, the line of diagnosis adopted by the Apollo Hospital did not cover the immune status of the patient.

The public discussion relating to the circumstances of the illness of the late Minister have thrown-up several important issues relating to the health care in secondary and tertiary hospitals in the country. In response to this, Government has reviewed the entire gamut of monitoring and mandatory provisions, relating to such healthcare and decided to adopt three major initiatives;

(a) to make a mandatory provision that the patient or their attendants can, if desired, obtain a certified copy of their medical records from the concerned hospital whether government or private;

(b) re-registration every five years, after undergoing 30 hours of continuing medical education for constant updating the knowledge of doctors, by suitable amendment to the Indian Medical Council Act; and

(c) notification of minimum standards of physical infrastructure and manpower in all hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centers offering medical services.

Minimum Wage

455. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small and tiny units contribute 85 per cent of the revenue to Delhi Government as a result Delhi has the highest per capita income in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that in these mushroom growths of these industrial units the

workers are not paid the minimum wages and other facilities as per laws of the land; and

(c) If so, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Small and tiny units do contribute significantly to the revenue of Delhi Government though information on their exact contribution is not available.

(b) and (c) The workers engaged in the small industrial units in Delhi are being paid the minimum wages fixed by the Government of Delhi from time to time under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. However, as and when any complaint regarding non-payment/less payment is received the same is looked into and efforts are made to ensure that the workers are paid the minimum wages. In case the Management fails to comply with the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, necessary legal action as provided under the Act is taken against the defaulting managements.

The workmen who are not being paid minimum wages can file their claims before the Authorities appointed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 i.e. the officers of the Labour Department.

Indo-Australia Joint Venture

456. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia and India have signed an agreement in IT Sector recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where the cooperation is likely to be between the two countries; and

(d) the total quantum of software estimated to be exported to Australia by Indian exporters during the current financial year and up to 2003?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to promote bilateral cooperation as well as bilateral trade, in the area of Information Technology and related sectors, an MOU has been signed on 18th October, 2000. The areas of common interest are:

- Software and multimedia content development
- Advanced communication technologies;
- Electronic commerce and information industries security; and Internet applications.

(d) Total software export to Australia during the year 1999-2000 is estimated to be Rs. 88 crores. During the current financial year, it is estimated that the export to Australia is likely to register a growth of approximately 40%.

Short Term Courses in Ayurveda

457. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur propose to introduce short term courses in Ayurveda for foreign nationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to popularize Ayurveda system in the country as well as abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A proposal to introduce a short term course has been discussed but details have not been worked out.

(c) Various steps have been taken to popularise Ayurveda in the country as well as abroad. The Department has participated in fairs and conferences abroad and deputed experts for the purpose. The visits of interested groups from abroad have been facilitated. MOU have also entered into with the Govt. of Russian Federation covering specific therapies and applications of Ayurveda.

Gujarat Ayurveda University has received requests from institutes in Australia, Japan, Argentina and Netherlands for recognition and affiliation of their Institutes.

The Department is popularising Ayurveda in the country by participating in Conferences and Fairs, Distribution of pamphlets and literature has been undertaken to make people aware of the systems and their efficacy.

Assistance is being provided to Institutes for holding conferences and seminars to propagate the Indian System of Medicine.

Indian Medical System and Medical Colleges in Maharashtra

458. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Allopathic, Ayurvedic and other Indian medical systems, medical and dental colleges established in Maharashtra and estimated number of doctors completed their training during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of colleges approved by their respective Apex Organisations;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government to these institutions and steps taken to ensure minimum requisite infrastructure and teaching facilities for quality education;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposals from the State Governments for opening new colleges, upgradation of existing facilities, enhancement of intake capacity and action taken thereon; and

(e) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) and (b)

	No. of colleges	Recognised/ Approved
(1) Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy Colleges	94	94
(2) Medical Colleges	34	34
(3) Dental Colleges	16	16

The figure regarding the number of students passing out are not maintained in this Department.

(c) The grant-in-aid provided by the Central Govt. during last three years is given in the statement I. The respective Council carried out periodical inspections from time to time to assess the facilities available to ensure quality education.

(d) The Govt. have received following proposal under Section 10 (A) of IMC Act:—

I. Opening of new medical college

- (1) New Medical College at Kolhapur by Govt. of Maharashtra.

- (2) New Medical College at Anantapur by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

- (3) New Medical College at Vellore by Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

- (4) New Medical College at Safdarjung Hospital by Central Govt.

II. Increase in admission capacity in MBBS

- (1) Govt. Medical College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

- (2) Govt. Medical College, Surat, Gujarat.

- (3) B.S. Medical College, Bankura, West Bengal.

- (4) North Bengal Medical College, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

- (5) Goa Medical College, Goa.

- (6) Kamataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli.

III. Increase in BDS seats

(e) The proposals have been referred to the respective Councils for evaluation. The clearance of these proposals depends upon the infrastructural facilities available and the recommendations of the Councils thereon.

Statement I

Grant-in-aid to Maharashtra under the scheme for strengthening of the existing undergraduate colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Gramina Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Patur, Distt. Akola (Pvt.)	10.00
2.	Kaka Saheb Mhaske Homoeo Medical College, Ahmednagar (Pvt.)	10.00
3.	Ayurveda Prasarak Mandal's Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Sion, Mumbai (Pvt.)	20.00
4.	Sonajirao Kshirsagar Homoeo Medical College, Beed. (Pvt.)	10.00
5.	Tilak Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pune. (Pvt.)	10.00

1	2	3
6.	Smt. Kanchanbai Babulaji Abad Homoeo Medical College, Chandwad, Nashik (Pvt.)	10.00
7.	Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Nashik (Pvt.)	7.00
8.	Gangadhar Shastri Gune Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Ahmednagar (Pvt.)	10.00
9.	Assisting Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pune (Pvt.)	10.00
10.	Dapoli Homeopathic Medical College, Ratnagiri (Pvt.)	7,97,730
11.	Y. M. T. Ayurveda Medical College, Mumbai (Pvt.)	10.00
12.	Shri Bhagwan Homeo Medical & Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Aurangabad (Pvt.)	10.00
13.	Al-Jamaiyatul Mohammadia Al-Khairiah's Mohammadia Tibbia College, Malegaon, Nashik (Pvt.)	5.89
Total		1,30,86,730/-

Grant-in-aid to Maharashtra under the scheme for strengthening of the existing undergraduate colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs) 1998-99
1	2	3
1.	Ganga Education's Society's Ayurveda College, Kolhapur (Pvt.)	10.00
2.	L.M.F.'s Homoeo Medical College, Pune (Pvt.)	5.00
3.	Yashwant Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Kondali (Pvt.)	2.41
4.	Y.M.T. Ayurveda Medical College, Mumbai (Pvt.)	20.00
5.	D.M.M. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Yavatmal (Govt. aided)	10.36
6.	R.J.V.S. Bhai Sahib Sawant Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Sawantwadi (pvt.)	10.00
7.	Gulabrao Patil Homoeo Medical College, Sangli (Pvt.)	10.00
8.	Shri Bhagwan Homoeo Medical College & Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Aurangabad (Pvt.)	10.00

1	2	3
9.	Seth Govindji Raoji Ayurveda Med. College, Solar (Govt. aided)	10.00
10.	Panchasheel Homoeo Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Homoeo Med. College & Hosp., Khamgaon (Pvt.)	10.00
11.	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute of Homoeo Sciences, Amravati (Pvt.)	10.00
Total		107.77

Grant-in-aid to Maharashtra under the scheme for strengthening of the existing undergraduate colleges of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) 1999-2000
1	2	3
1.	Gulabrao Patil H.M.C. Sangli, (Pvt.)	10.00
2.	Ashtang Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Pune (Pvt.)	10.00
3.	Seth Govindji Raoji, Ayurvedic Medical College, Sholapur, M.S. (Govt. aided)	10.00
4.	Gangadhar Shastri Gune AY. Mah., Ahmad Ngr. M.S. (Pvt.)	10.00
5.	Smt. Kanchanbai Babulaji Abad Homoeo Med. College, Chandanwad, Nasik, (Pvt.)	10.00
6.	Kishan Duyanoby Monda Gudhe Sanchalit Homoeo Medical College & Hosp., Sirpur, Dhule, M.S.(Pvt.)	10.00
7.	Venutai Yashwantrao Chauhan, Homoeo Medical College, Kolhapur (Pvt.)	10.00
8.	Ayurveda Prasarak Mandal's Seth Chandanmai Muth Aryangla Vaidyak Mahavidyalaya, Satara, M.S.(Pvt.)	10.00
9.	Gondia Homoeo Education Society's Homoeo Medical College & Hosp., Gondia, M.S. (Pvt.)	10.00
10.	Dada Saheb Surup Singh Naik Ayu. College, Dhule, (Pvt.)	10.00
11.	Homoeo Medical College & Hosp., Sangamner, Ahmednagar (Pvt.)	10.00
12.	College of Ay. And Research Centre, Akhurdi, Pradhanikaran, Pune (Pvt.)	10.00
13.	Takhatmal Srivallabh HMC & Hosp., Amravati, (Pvt.)	11.70
14.	Shri Bhagwan HMC, CIDCO, Aurangabad, (Pvt.)	12.00

1	2	3
15.	Govt. Ayu. College, Nagpur, (Govt.)	27.00
16.	R.A. Podar Ayu. Mahavidyalaya, Mumbai, (Govt.)	12.00
17.	Govt. Ayu. College, Nanded	27.00
18.	Govt. Ayu. College, Osmanabad	10.90
Total		220.60

1997-98 1998-99 1999-2000
Rupees in Thousands

(1) Grant-in-aid to Kasturba Health Society's Medical College, Sewagram, Wardha towards 50% share of Central Govt. for running the Medical College & Hospital.	46750	66000	8000
	(Budget Provision)		

Charter of Rights and Duties for Medical Personnel and Patients

459. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a charter of rights and duties for medical personnel and patients in the country in order to salvage the deteriorating relationship between medical personnel and patients in public as well as in private practice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the charter is likely to be promulgated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India has brought out the Code of Medical Ethics with the approval of Central Government wherein the duties of Physician to their patients has been prescribed. Besides, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prepared a 'Model Citizens Charter for Government Hospitals' and circulated to all States/Union Territories with the request to consider the charter for adoption in the Hospitals under the administrative control of State/Union Territory Governments. This Charter seeks to provide a framework which enables citizens to know what services are available, the quality of services they are entitled to and to inform them about the means through which complaints

regarding denial or poor quality of service will be addressed. The Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, New Delhi have already brought out the Charter.

[Translation]

Admission of SCs/STs In Medical Courses

460. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 24, 2000 to Unstarred Question No. 94 and state:

(a) whether the said information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The requisite information has been collected from most of the Institutes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare but is still awaited from some of them who are continuously being reminded.

(d) It may not be possible to indicate any specific time in this regard but all efforts are being made to lay the same on the Table of the House as early as possible.

[English]

National Programme for Control of Blindness

461. SHRI G. MALLIK ARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Programme for Control of Blindness sponsored by the Union Government has made an allocation of Rs. 103.20 lakhs for the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount has been released to the State Government till now;

(c) whether the State Government has already used the released amount long back;

(d) whether the State Government has urged the Union Government for the release of balance funds; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) An allocation of Rs. 103.20 lakhs has been made for the State of Karnataka under National Programme for Control of Blindness during the year 2000-01. Funds are released on a quarterly basis. Till now, Rs. 79.90 lakhs have already been released to the State. The State has sent a statement of expenditure of Rs. 20.40 lakhs up to Sept. 2000. Remaining funds for the fourth quarter will be released in January 2001.

Construction of Indo-Iranian Gas Pipe Line

462 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Iranian Joint Committee has been set up to examine all the aspects of constructing a pipe line in order to transport natural gas from Iran to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) During the visit of EAM to Iran in May, 2000, it was decided by the two countries to set up a Joint Working Committee to go into the transfer of Iranian gas to India. The mandate of the Committee is to examine all aspects relating to the supply of Iranian gas to India, including different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues. The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held in Tehran on August 19-20, 2000.

(d) (i) During the course of the first meeting of the Joint Committee, different possible modes of transfer of Iranian gas to India were examined. These included pipelines as well as liquefied natural gas. It was agreed the mode of transfer should be long-term, cost-effective and secure.

(ii) The second meeting of the Joint Working Committee is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 22-23 November, 2000 during which further deliberations will be held on the issue.

Ban on Gutka and Tobacco

463. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government to ban 'Gutka and Tobacco' in view of increasing number of cases of oral cancer caused by the use of pan masala and gutka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Requests have been received from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat for considering ban on the sale of chewing tobacco products including Gutka by Central notification under the relevant rules of the PFA Act 1954.

(c) Since a decision to ban the manufacture and sale of such products involves consideration of a number of aspects, in addition to the health aspect, an inter-ministerial consensus has to be reached before Govt. takes necessary action in this regard. For this, a request has been made to constitute a Group of Ministers to discuss this issue comprehensively. Meanwhile efforts are being made to reduce demand for all tobacco products, by inter-alia formulating a comprehensive ban on advertising of such products and also in making more visible the warning on the containers of chewing tobacco products. Some States, including Maharashtra, have already restricted the sale of chewing tobacco products in certain areas under the powers vested in them under the PFA Act, 1954.

Growth of Herbs and Herbal Medicines

464. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the natural growth of herbs and herbal medicines in the country have been opened to the foreign companies and their investments have been started in India including the Multi-national Corporations;

(b) whether domestic industry engaged in herbal medicines are suffering from un-cooperative approach of the World Health Organisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to protect domestic medicine industries for self-sufficient development of the country; and

(e) the details of actual involvement of foreign investments in medicine production in the country and trade including the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Foreign technical and financial collaborations are being permitted in this sector.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, there is need for opening ISM Wing in the offices of WHO in South East Asia Regional Office and elsewhere to highlight the strength of these systems and efficacy of drugs.

(d) Steps have been taken to augment supply of raw materials. Central schemes of Medicinal Plants Garden. Agro-techniques are under implementation. Medicinal Plant Board is being set up to develop this sector. Good Manufacturing Practices have been notified to ensure compliance which will enhance acceptability of drugs. Laboratory facilities are also being augmented. Export related procedures are being simplified.

(e) A list indicating the foreign collaboration approval granted is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Indian Firm	Name of foreign collaborator	Nature of collaboration (% Equity) Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	RKS Agrotech Limited, Calcutta	Natex Prozesstekhnogogies, Austria	150.00 17.94 %
2.	Indo Euro Oleotech Limited, New Delhi	Natex Process Technologies GMBH, Austria	130.00 13.63%
3.	Aditi Agriculture & Drugs Limited, Patna	Natex Process Technologies, Austria	120.00 16.64%
4.	Basil Chemicals & Additives Ltd., Luknow	Natex Process Technologies, Austria	650.00 40.12%
5.	Krishira Impex Ltd., Tiruchirapalli	Natex Process technologies GESBH, Austria	100.00 13.79%
6.	Tanjor German Bio Tech Ltd., New Delhi	Natex Process Technologies, GMBH, Austria	100.00 13.31%
7.	Willmar Schwabe GMBH Nangal Raya, New Delhi	Dr. Willmar Schwabe GMBH & Co., Germany	425.00% 85.00%
8.	Grace Extracts Private. Ltd., New Delhi (Manufacture of spice, herbal extractives including essential oils, oleoresins, phytochemicals & medicinal compounds)	Mr. Ostoja Gnjatovic, Germany	95.60 33.33%
9.	Grace Extracts Private Ltd. New Delhi	Ostoja Gnjatovic, Germany	193.30% 66.66%
10.	VST Natural Products Ltd., Hyderabad	M/s Gail Engg. Ltd., Israel	Technical case
11.	Herbomin Himalayas Ltd., Delhi	Masaru Yamaguchi (Mr.), Japan	30.00 60.00%
12.	Maruthua Herbals & Farm Products, Bangalore	Mr. R.K. Kutty, NRI	65.00 87.00%
13.	M/s H&D Greens International Private Ltd., Jaipur	Hubertus Francis Maria, Van Daara, Netherlands	Technical case

1.	2.	3.	4.
14.	GFE Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Delhi	Elena Salman (Mrs.), Romania	10.00 20.00%
15.	Sami Chemicals & Extracts Private Ltd., Bangalore	Sabinsa Corporation, U.S.A.	Technical case
16.		M/s Herbalife International, U.S.A.	3990.00 100.00%
17.		Surinder International, U.S.A.	11825.00 100.00%
18.	Dhanvantari Botanicals Private Ltd., Bangalore	Renaissance Herbs Incorporation, U.S.A.	50.00 100.00%
19.	Surinder India Private Ltd., Delhi 29.02.2000	Surinder International, U.S.A.	100.00%
20.	Surinder India Private Ltd., Delhi (9/6/2000)	Surinder International, U.S.A.	100.00%

Medical Waste Poses Eco Risk

465. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Medical Waste Poses Eco Risk" appearing in the *Times of India* dated October 13, 2000:

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

(c) whether only 20% Delhi Hospitals are doing good segregation but 60% are still not following basic segregation of medical waste;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken against the defaulting hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following was reported in the news-item.

(i) Slight improvement in the waste management practices of the Delhi Hospitals as compared to last year.

(ii) 20% of the Incinerators were being run properly and were not producing Dioxins.

(iii) 20% of the hospitals are doing good segregation and 60% of the hospitals were not following basic segregation.

(iv) Hospitals do not have sharp management policy.

(v) Handling of sharp and needles is being done properly by 60% of the hospitals

(vi) Non-availability of centralized facilities to dispose waste.

(vii) Many hospitals which did not/initiate segregation had to dump their waste in the Municipal dumps.

(c) and (d) In the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi i.e. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, the segregation treatment and disposal of bio-medical waste is carried as per the provision of Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 1998. The hospitals are equipped with incinerators. Government of NCT of Delhi and NDMC informed that the position of segregation of bio-medical waste in the hospitals under their control is quite satisfactory.

(e) Action against the defaulting hospital is to be taken by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

Blood Policy

466. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the Draft National Blood Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure hurdle free supply of blood to the needy persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A draft National Blood Transfusion policy has been formulated after wide consultation and is awaiting approval.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure that blood is made available to needy persons without hardship the Government of India have taken a number of steps for generating enough blood through Voluntary Blood Donation Programmes such as:

1. A campaign has been launched through Television by special TV spots, telecast through Doordarshan at suitable intervals during Prime Time, for motivating people to donate blood voluntarily.
2. Messages on Voluntary donation are broadcast Times FM channel in one of their music programmes.
3. NACO with the help of the Central Health Education Bureau have developed prototype IEC material for one to one communication on voluntary blood donation programme in the form of folders, posters and the same have been given to various States and UTs for use and reproduction in the vernacular languages.
4. The National Council of Science and Technology Communication (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) have initiated a pilot intervention project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities, with a view to fill the gap between demand and availability of blood.
5. Blood Banks have been asked to maintain database of Voluntary Donors so that they are kept in regular touch and can be contacted in emergency, in addition to recognising and honouring them by awards, certificates, badges etc.
6. Every year, 1st October is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, Special campaigns to educate the masses and special camps for blood collection are organised. Messages from the Minister of Health and Family Welfare with appeals for voluntary blood donation are widely disseminated through various Media.

Corruption Charges Against Public Servants

467. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public servants in Delhi and outside arrested during the last three years on account of owning assets dis-proportionate to their sources of income and on account of corruption charges; and

(b) the number out of them convicted so far and the reasons for the delay in the finalisation of other cases?

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) According to the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation, during the last three years i.e. 1997, 1998, 1999 and upto September, 2000, 379 public servants were arrested of which 3 were on account of owning assets disproportionate to their known sources of income and 376 on account of corruption charges. Out of the above, 20 public servants have been convicted so far. The cases pertaining to assets disproportionate to the known sources of income and other corruption charges are based on large number of documents which are required to be collected from different places and witnesses examined with reference to these documents. Further, in a number of cases investigation is required to be carried out abroad. Investigation in these cases is, therefore, time consuming and it takes a long time. This apart, after finalisation of investigation either a charge sheet is filed in the Court or the case referred for Departmental action. If a charge sheet is filed in the Court, the trial takes a long time to conclude. In many cases, the accused also adopt dilatory tactics by filing petitions/revisions in superior Courts to delay the trial.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Irrigation Projects

468. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has sought additional Central assistance for the implementation of some irrigation projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State Government of Maharashtra for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The details of Central Loans Assistance (CLA) provided to Government of Maharashtra under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for ongoing major/medium irrigation projects since 1996-97 is as under:—

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No	Name of Project	CLA released during					
		1996-97	1997-99	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1.	Gosikhurd	10.000	0.000	6.110	3.170	4.500	23.780
2.	Surya	2.000	5.000	0.000	3.910	1.320	12.320
3.	Waghur	2.000	5.000	10.000	0.000	10.000	27.000
4.	Bhima	0.000	12.500	19.750	12.255	—	44.505
5.	Upper Tapi	0.000	2.500	0.000	3.800	-	6.300
6.	Upper Wardha	0.000	30.000	0.000	20.000	17.665	67.655
7.	Wan	0.000	0.000	15.000	6.740	8.620	30.360
8.	Jayakwadi	—	—	—	—	4.460	4.460
9.	Vishnupuri	—	—	—	—	4.000	4.000
10.	Bahula	—	—	—	—	4.410	4.410
Total		14.000	55.000	50.860	49.875	54.965	224.700

[English]

E-Commerce

469 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made by the Government for expanding, stabilising and standardising E-Commerce in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to introduce any other technology to make E-Commerce more comfortable;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(e) the cities identified to introduce E-check?

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

(b) while the Government acts primarily as a facilitator, various measures taken in this regard are given below:—

(i) Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. The Act provides a legal framework for recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, electronic filing/documents and legalizes digital signature. A Controller of Certifying Authorities to facilitate the implementation of the Act has already been appointed by the Government.

(ii) Internet Service Providers, Policy (ISP) has been implemented. ISPs are allowed to set up International Gateways independent of VSNL. These ISPs are also allowed to hire international bandwidth on foreign satellite.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a Wide Area Satellite/terrestrial based network- called the Indian Financial Network (INFINET) - for secure, safe and efficient transfer of messages/ funds transfers across a closed user group

comprising of banks and other institutions in the financials sector. The message format for usage across the INFINET has also been finalised.

- (iv) Electronic Data Interchange Network is being set up for message exchange for international trade between Customs, Ports, Airports, Apparel Export Promotion Councils, Banks and Directorate General of Foreign Trade.
- (v) To promote e-commerce, a set of R & D projects and test-bed applications has been supported by the Government.

(c) and (d) Technologies need to ensure that e-commerce transactions take place in a safe, secure manner with due security while the data is transmitted over the net. Technologies are, therefore, continuously evolving to address the changing needs of e-commerce.

(e) A pilot project has been initiated by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad for developing protocols for e-cheques to be issued by a single bank and used on the internet.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by Ministers

470. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Ministers who undertook foreign tours after the present Government came into power till date alongwith the names of the countries visited by them and the number of times those countries were visited;

(b) the number of Government officials who accompanied them;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the visits;

(d) the purpose and outcome of their visits;

(e) whether the tours of some of the Ministers were not approved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Tender for Bedsheets and Towels

471. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 31, 2000 to Unstarred Question No. 1259 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and the total quantity of towels, bedsheets were purchased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry regarding purchasing several items including inferior bandages and gauze cloth by the Safdarjung and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals for the year 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(e) whether there is any proposal to direct all the major hospitals in Delhi to purchase branded items from the manufacturers of reputed firms through calling the tenders; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

State Finance and Development Corporation

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

(a) the funds allocated to State Finance and Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of Bihar during last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of funds utilized by Bihar State Finance and Development Corporation during this period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes could not be sanctioned to Bihar State Scheduled Castes Cooperative Development Corporation and Bihar Scheduled Tribes Cooperative

Development Corporation directly by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs during last three years as they did not furnish the utilization certificates in respect of funds released earlier.

Details of funds allocated and sanctioned by National

By NSFDCs

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Bihar State Scheduled Castes Cooperative Development Corporation			Bihar Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Development Corporation.		
	Allocation	Released	Utilized	Allocation	Released	Utilized
1997-98	990.00	1085.75	50.00	578.00	Nil	Nil
1998-99	860.65	1075.60	286.03	452.99	165.09	Nil
1999-2000	688.92	204.05	28.07	362.60	Nil	Nil

[English]

Vacant Posts of Senior Analyst

473. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of Senior Analysts (in the scale of 10,000-15000) are lying vacant in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances as on date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the specific areas of work of the Department have been severely affected on account of non filling up of the vacancies; and

(d) the time by which the vacant posts of Senior Analysts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) The total number of sanctioned posts of Senior Analyst (in the scale of pay of Rs. 10,000-15,200) in the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances is eight. As on date four posts are vacant out of which one post has been held in abeyance w.e.f. 29.9.2000 to create necessary savings for upgrading the post of Deputy

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and utilized Bihar State Scheduled Castes Cooperative Development Corporation and Bihar Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Development Corporation are as under:

Director (Official Language) (in the scale of pay of Rs. 10,000-15,200) in the Department of Administrative a Reforms & Public Grievances to that of Director (Official Language) (in the scale of pay of Rs. 12,000-16,500) upto 31 July, 2001. These vacancies occurred on account of promotion of the incumbents of the posts of Senior Analyst and their consequent premature repatriation to their parent Departments. One post of Senior Analyst is likely to be filled up as soon as the duly selected candidate to whom the offer of appointment has been sent assumes duty. Necessary action has also been initiated to fill up the remaining 2 vacancies. Union Public Service Commission has been requested to process the applications received in response to the Department's circular/advertisement and recommend 2 candidates.

(c) No, Sir.

Misappropriation of Council's Funds

474. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) employees Union have submitted representation alleging misappropriation of Council's funds, embezzlement and financial irregularities by the Director;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against guilty person(s)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Some allegations of financial irregularities against the Director have been enquired into and further action as called for has been initiated.

[Translation]

Indo-Bangladesh Ties

475. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has sought assistance from India to construct a dam on Ganga and solve problem of arsenic in ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether discussion is going on between the two countries for comprehensive regional cooperation; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh have been discussing issues relating to mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources including possible cooperation in the proposed Ganga barrage project in Bangladesh and in dealing with the problem of arsenic contamination of water. These issues also figured during the discussions held by Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, Minister of State for Water Resources during her visit to Bangladesh in September 2000.

[English]

Atomic Power Generation

476. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive several proposals which were taken earlier for the development of atomic power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to implement these proposals expeditiously for the augmentation of atomic power in the country; and

(d) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented?

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) Apart from completing and commissioning the ongoing projects of a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 (2x220 MWe), the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units 3&4 (2 x 220 MWe), proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of 2 x 500 MWe plant at Tarapur (TAPP 3&4), and additional 2 x 220 MWe Unit at Kaiga (Kaiga 3 & 4), besides commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance and the commencement of work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 1x500 MWe towards the end of the 9th Plan.

(c) and (d) The two Units at Kaiga achieved criticality on 24.9.1999 and 26.9.2000 respectively and were synchronized to the grid on 2.12.1999 and 12.10.2000 respectively. RAPP-3 achieved criticality on 24.12.1999 and was connected to the grid on 10.3.2000. The first criticality of RAPS-4 was achieved on 3.11.2000 and it was connected to the grid on 17.11.2000. Further, as per the present plans, two projects viz. Kaiga-5&6 (2x220 MWe) and RAPP-5&6 (2x500 MWe) are planned to be commenced during 10th Plan period subject to availability of financial resources. All the above projects viz. TAPP 3&4, Kaiga 3&4, Kudankulam 1&2, Kaiga 5&6, RAPP 5&6 and PFBR (500Me) would get commissioned during 10th and 11th plan which would take the installed nuclear generation capacity to 8100 MWe by the end of 11th Plan.

[Translation]

Mother-Child Health Programme

477. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan is in implementation for the welfare of mother and child health in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent for the welfare of each mother and child during each of the last three years;

(d) the total amount received by the each State during the last two years from country and abroad under this head; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on each State including Bihar during the next three years under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, launched in the country 1997, interventions for improving maternal and child health and reducing infant child and maternal morbidity and mortality are being implemented in all the States. These interventions are:

For children, Immunization against six vaccine Preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and Acute Respiratory Infections, prophylaxis for Vitamin A deficiency, Iron deficiency anaemia and Essential Newborn Care.

For mothers essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care; Referral transport for pregnant woman with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional health Workers, staff nurses, Doctors and anesthetist. Funds are also being provided

for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.

A new project for strengthening of the immunization programme with World Bank assistance has also been finalized and includes 8 districts in Bihar. A scheme for training of Dais is being implemented in 142 districts, including 32 in Bihar with a safe delivery rate of less than 30 percent. In addition, 102 districts, including 16 in Bihar have been identified for holding camps to improve delivery of services under the programme.

(c) and (d) A statement indicating the funds released to States in cash and assistance in kind and expenditure reported by them during the last three years is enclosed.

(e) The budget requirement projected for the years 2001-02 for all the States including Bihar under the RCH Programme is Rs.108,534 lakhs. State wise allocation is made on annual basis only after budgetary provisions are approved by the Parliament. The estimates for the two years thereafter will be known after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement

RCH Programme-Total (Kind+Cash) assistance provided to States/UTs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

SNo.	Name of the State/UT	Kind + Cash assistance provided during			Total releases	Expenditure Incurred/Reported during			Total expenditure
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,668.49	2,828.72	4,134.36	9,631.57	1866.38	2381.72	2283.70	6,531.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	324.13	333.22	277.20	934.55	180.37	194.03	146.29	520.70
3.	Assam	1,657.95	1,353.90	1,973.39	4,985.23	1262.27	1239.64	1335.86	3,837.77
4.	Bihar	3,572.10	4,622.06	5,959.35	14,153.51	2717.72	4180.81	4704.37	11,602.91
5.	Goa	82.55	68.49	114.28	265.33	37.85	35.25	57.57	130.67
6.	Gujarat	1,979.70	2,478.84	2,515.28	6,973.81	1326.40	1761.86	1806.63	4,894.89
7.	Haryana	1,322.52	1,173.54	1,382.80	3,878.86	615.71	1050.73	878.68	2,545.12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	520.74	702.12	469.83	1,692.69	329.09	423.04	280.20	1,032.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	561.35	551.19	635.28	1,747.82	300.78	449.46	394.74	1,144.96
10.	Karnataka	1,827.73	2,132.18	2,076.72	6,036.63	1240.38	1794.55	1587.55	4,622.46
11.	Kerala	1,380.20	1,762.10	1,479.79	4,622.09	985.48	1157.68	950.53	3,093.67
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3,863.60	4,546.90	5,375.26	13,785.76	2901.19	4055.11	3777.64	10,733.94
13.	Maharashtra	2,658.29	3,749.79	4,528.00	10,936.08	1881.86	3772.69	3275.05	8,929.60
14.	Manipur	312.48	177.16	638.68	1,128.31	197.41	179.26	191.14	567.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Meghalaya	265.53	204.74	242.30	712.57	135.70	188.46	159.31	483.47
16.	Mizoram	162.83	530.39	586.99	1,280.21	108.97	413.69	139.28	661.94
17.	Nagaland	204.09	165.50	223.29	592.88	114.81	94.29	147.83	356.93
18.	Orissa	1,791.54	2,061.83	2,409.46	6,262.82	1282.26	1685.31	1416.35	4,383.93
19.	Punjab	1,275.33	1,026.60	1,180.27	3,482.20	769.81	997.35	861.70	2,628.86
20.	Rajasthan	2,586.56	2,872.79	3,743.80	9,203.15	1622.73	2260.06	2569.13	6,451.92
21.	Sikkim	134.79	125.99	93.08	353.86	75.75	125.20	66.88	267.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	2,622.15	2,458.56	2,590.39	7,671.10	1672.24	2698.67	1568.93	5,939.83
23.	Tripura	210.57	411.60	389.84	1,012.01	189.48	162.01	241.67	593.16
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5,246.56	8,239.35	11,402.89	24,888.80	3990.73	7080.79	8194.44	19,265.96
25.	West Bengal	2,721.29	3,205.00	3,795.29	9,719.59	2380.72	2744.48	2606.40	7,731.60
26.	A & N Islands	44.18	118.22	52.58	214.98	33.53	31.63	45.60	110.75
27.	Chandigarh	50.22	55.53	139.49	245.23	28.94	49.84	24.65	103.23
28.	D & N Havell	23.37	41.23	34.42	99.02	16.52	8.99	10.43	35.94
29.	Daman & Diu	56.70	35.96	40.40	133.07	27.49	30.55	20.16	78.20
30.	Delhi	387.14	462.15	458.52	1,307.81	304.94	354.92	357.38	1,017.23
31.	Lakshadweep	21.65	36.42	29.38	87.45	7.52	8.96	6.81	23.29
32.	Pondicherry	126.36	80.89	70.42	277.66	59.31	56.40	34.70	150.42
Total		40,662.67	48,610.95	59,043.01	148,316.63	28664.31	41667.20	40141.59	22193.98

*[English]***Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

478. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the experts and various State Governments to amend the existing law on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the new legislation is likely to be enacted;

(c) whether the Government are monitoring the implementation of the existing laws relating to cruelty to animals more stringently; and

(d) if not, other measures being taken to prevent cruelty to animals?

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

(b) Various Animal Welfare Organizations, State Governments/ Union Territories and Members of the public including Members of Parliament have represented from time to time in this regard. The process of amending the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is under consideration of the Government. For the present, no time limit for enactment of the new legislation can be indicated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Minorities Commission

479. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Commission has any legal status and it is mandatory to give replies to its queries by State and UT Governments;

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

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the National Minorities Commission reports with regards to 15-points programme for the welfare and development of minorities;

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

(e) whether the Government agree with the findings of the NMC report; and

(f) if so the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission has been established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. While performing any of its functions, the Commission has all the powers of a Civil Court. It can, inter-alia, summon and enforce the attendance of any person and can requisition any public record or copy thereof from any Court of office.

(c) to (f) Suggestions of the Commission with regard to the 15-Point Programme have been taken into consideration by the Government for revision of the 15-Point Programme in order to make it a more effective instrument for the welfare of minorities.

[Translation]

Growth Rate During 9th Plan

480. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate in the field of agriculture, industry, investment, employment and several other sectors during the initial three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been far below the stipulated target;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the growth rate achieved so far, Sector-wise; and

(d) the special measures taken/being taken to achieve the target by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) A table depicting the performance of various sectors in the first three years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) against Ninth Five Year Plan targets is given in enclosed statement. One of the main reasons for the shortfall in growth performance in Agriculture, Mining and Quarrying and Manufacturing is attributed to shortfall in public investment to the tune of 23 percent. The estimates of employment generated during the initial three years of the Ninth Plan are not available.

(d) In the last two years of the Ninth Plan efforts would be made to raise public investment.

Statement

Sectoral Growth Targets and Achievements (Ninth Five Year Plan-1997-2002)

Sectors	(per cent)	
	Plan Targets (5 Years)	Achievements during First Three Years
1. Agriculture & Allied Activities	3.9	2.7
2. Mining & Quarrying	7.2	2.9
3. Manufacturing	8.2	4.9
4. Electricity, Gas & Water	9.3	7.7
5. Construction	4.9	8.3
6. Trade	6.7	6.1
7. Rail Transport	3.9	3.1
8. Other Transport	7.4	5.6
9. Communications	9.5	14.1
10. Financial Services	9.9	11.4
11. Public Administration, etc.	6.6	12.1
12. Other Services	6.6	8.8
Total*	6.5	6.1

*Sectoral growth targets of the Ninth Plan on the basis of revised sectoral shares would yield an overall growth target of 6.3 percent.

*[English]***Corruption**

481. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the social workers become vigilant and start exposing corruption in Government offices and Government controlled consumer societies etc.;

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

(c) the safeguards available to such social workers who themselves or through the Members of Parliament get the corrupt practices exposed; and

(d) the measures available to them to ensure that their business and interest in the Government Departments and consumer societies is not affected in any way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Government is fully committed to eradicate the malady of corruption from public services. However, the drive against corruption is a continuing process. The Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings etc. are themselves responsible to ensure probity and integrity in their respective Organisations. The complaints from various quarters are received in the respective Ministries/Departments etc. Due action is taken by such authorities in redressal of grievances/complaints. Central Bureau of Investigation, which is a central investigating agency, also receives complaints/information pertaining to corruption in Government Offices, departments including consumer societies etc. from various sources including social workers, NGOs etc. These complaints/information are verified and wherever prima facie evidence regarding commission of a criminal offence or misconduct on the part of public servant is available, cases are registered for investigation and appropriate follow up action taken. The information regarding complaints received by various Ministries/Departments, including from social workers, is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Any person, including a social worker aggrieved with the organisation is free to lodge his

grievance/complaint with the Chief Vigilance Officer or the Head of the Organisation for redressal. Besides, any citizen can move a Police Station or a Court of Law for activating the legal process, against persons in authority for abuse of authority and corruption as per established law.

*[Translation]***Rani Awanti Bai Sagar Dam**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Jabalpur region of Madhya Pradesh is highly earthquake prone area;

(b) if so, whether Rani Awanti Bai Sagar Dam in Jabalpur region has been affected by the seismic tremors during the last month; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Safety norms laid down for the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) (a) Jabalpur region is in Zone-3 as per Indian Standard (IS) code: 1893-1984. As per the above code, the country is divided into five seismic zones. Zone-3 is a moderate seismic zone.

(b) and (c) An earthquake with an intensity of 6 on the Richter Scale and epicenter about 20 km north-east of Jabalpur city in Madhya Pradesh occurred in the early morning on 22.5.97. No damage was reported to Rani Awanti Bai Sagar dam due to that earthquake. It is learnt that another earthquake of a very mild intensity occurred in the month of October, 2000. However, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not reported any damage in this regard.

*[English]***Observations and Objections by Small Industries Association**

483. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chinese consumer goods are flourishing in the Indian market during the last one year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effects on Indian industries as a result thereof;
- (d) whether Small Scale Industries Associations and Members of Parliament have raised objections in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Government has been receiving information/representations from different sources that the import of Chinese consumer goods has increased in the country. A recent study has indicated that Chinese tyres, dry cell batteries, fibres, bicycles, chemicals, ferro-alloys, edible oil and electronics & components have entered the Indian markets in a big way.

(f) The Designated Authority appointed by the Government conducts Anti-Dumping investigations in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of the Anti-Dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995. As per these Rules, initiation of Anti-Dumping investigations is undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with prima facie evidence of dumping injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry.

However, under Rule 5(4) of the Customs Tariff Rules of 1995, the Designated Authority may initiate investigations suo-moto, if it is satisfied with the information received from the Collector of Customs appointed under the Customs Act, 1962 or from any other source that sufficient evidence exists regarding dumping of the foreign goods, material injury to the domestic industry and causal link between the two.

So far as China is concerned, the Final findings have been recommended by Designated Authority in 25 Anti-Dumping cases, preliminary findings in 2 cases involving China and in 4 cases investigation is in progress.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance has also initiated suitable steps to counter the illegal inflow of Chinese goods.

[*Translation*]

Thyroid Diseases

484. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thyroid diseases are spreading alarmingly among the Urban population in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no scientific data to demonstrate that there is increasing prevalence of thyroid disease in the country.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Mobile Medicare Centres

485. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to open mobile medicare centres in various districts of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Non-Governmental Organisations are associated in opening of such centres and if so, the terms and conditions laid down by the Government for these centres; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages that under served segments of the population will be identified for more focused attention. The NPP, 2000 specifically States that outreach to and coverage of tribal and hill area population as well as displaced migrants will improve with the regular use of Mobile clinics. Mobile Leprosy Units have been provided to 14 moderately endemic districts and 8 low endemic districts of Bihar.

(c) and (d) Guidelines for NGO Schemes under the Reproductive and Child Health Project also provide for assistance to NGOs for mobile clinics offering family planning and RCH Health services. A draft format to be

submitted by the NGOs seeking grants under the RCH scheme, is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

For Mat for Proposals to be submitted by the NGOS under RCH Scheme

Part I

1. Full name of the NGO, its headquarters and postal address.
2. Year from which the NGO is functioning (annex copy of the registration certificate)
3. Name of the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the NGO and the date from which they are holding their respective position.
4. Total number of members of the NGO and the year of last election in which the present office bearers were elected.
5. Number of full time and part time employees of the NGO (annex list of employees, their qualifications and their present monthly salary).
6. Assets of the NGO (cash and Immovable assets an copy of the latest balance sheet of the NGO as audited by its Chartered Accountant).
7. Brief Resume of the work done by the NGO including the projects implemented in last three years and assistance, if any, obtained by the NGO in each of the last three years alongwith particulars of the source of assistance.

Part II

1. Description of geographical area and duration in which project is proposed.
2. Description of the project along with strategy and methodology. Financial requirement should be mentioned for each component and expected outcomes of each year of the project should be mentioned.
3. Criteria for evaluation at annual, mid-term and at the end of the project should be suggested by the NGO.

Proposals of Ayurvedic Experts

486. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Ayurvedic Experts to introduce the issues raised by the All India Ayurveda Expert in the conference held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the said conference; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Conference on Growth of Ayurveda: Industry's Perspective was organised by the All India Ayurvedic Congress Manufacturers Association to discuss issues pertaining to the development of Ayurveda with particular reference to the drugs industry. The Conference inter-alia discussed issues relating to maintenance of quality standards, availability of good quality raw material, preparation of a data base to facilitate policy initiatives and measures to give impetus to the development of the sector.

No official proposals have been received by the Government so far.

[English]

Coir based Industry

487. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a coir based industry in Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu considering there are abundant coconut trees in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a coir based industry in Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu.

National Innovations Foundation

488. DR. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Innovations Foundation has been established;

(b) if so, the details of the functions thereof;

(c) whether nodal officers are also being appointed to help the innovation at village level; and

(d) if so, the States where nodal officers have been appointed/ yet to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Innovation Foundation has been established as a registered society under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India in March, 2000.

(b) The National Innovation Foundation will build a National Register and data base of innovations at the grass root level; link local innovators with science and technology experts in formal and informal sectors; forge linkages among innovators, investors and entrepreneurs; set up a few incubators at leading academic and other locations; organize periodic clearing houses for innovators to meet among themselves; support joint ventures or other national and global initiatives of innovators; institutes stipends, scholarships to outstanding students and innovators; undertake publication in the form of papers, books particularly in local languages for disseminating and augmenting grass root innovations; receive grants, gifts, loans, donations in cash and securities, and support value addition in traditional as well as contemporary knowledge innovations and practices developed by local individual healers, herbalists, artisans and other knowledge experts as well as communities.

(c) and (d) The State Governments of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Union Territory of Lakshadweep have identified their nodal point to promote the activities of the National Innovation Foundation at the district and block/taluk level.

[Translation]

Trade Unions Act

489. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.4.2000. This Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for their examination and report.

Water Logging and Soil Erosion

490. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of North Bihar are facing acute water logging and soil erosion problem;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified these areas; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

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

(b) About 8 lakh ha. of land in North Bihar suffers from water logging. Most of the problem areas pertain to the Kosi and the Gandak commands.

The soil erosion problem exists in almost all rivers of North Bihar.

(c) As regards water logging problem, the Government of Bihar constituted a Task Force in 1987, which identified 13 Nos. of drainage schemes in the Kosi command and 11 Nos. of drainage schemes in the Gandak command. On execution of these schemes, an area of about 0.135 lakh ha. in Kosi command and 1.170 lakh ha. in Gandak command will be benefitted. The Planning Commission has so far given clearance to only 6 schemes, of which 5 are in Gandak command and one in Kosi command. The total estimated cost of these schemes is approximately Rs. 43 crore. None of these schemes have been completed so far by the Government of Bihar.

As regards soil erosion problem, Government of Bihar is executing anti erosion schemes according to their priority and availability of funds for the purpose. A centrally sponsored scheme for undertaking critical anti erosion works in Ganga basin States (including Bihar) has been proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources for operation during the 9th Plan on a funding pattern of 72:25 (Central share and State share). The Planning Commission has accorded "In Principle Approval" for this scheme. The scheme has also been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The funds to the Ganga Basin States for this Centrally Sponsored Scheme will be released on approval of the scheme by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

[English]

Disparities between States

491. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed serious concern over the widening disparities between States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a huge gap between the approved outlay and expenditure in various states;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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. Concern has been expressed at the widening disparities in the growth performance of individual States. The range of variation between the slowest and the fastest growing States in the 1980s was from 3.6 % per year in Kerala to 6.6% in Rajasthan, a factor of less than 2. The range increased very substantially in the 1990s from a low of 2.7% per year for Bihar to a high of 9.6 % of Gujarat a factor exceeding 3.5. Comparing Bihar's per capita growth rate with that of Gujarat in 1990s, the ratio between the lowest and the highest is as high as 1:7. The States also vary very widely in terms of human development in

terms of percentage of population below poverty line and literacy percentage etc. There are significant differentials between the rural and urban areas, between communities and between the genders in most States.

(c) and (d) While most of the States have not been able to fully utilize the outlay approved in their discussions with the Planning Commission, there has been a huge gap between the approved outlay and expenditure in case of States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A statement giving State-wise details of actual expenditure vis-a-vis approved plan outlay during the last three years enclosed which indicates that many States have not been able to achieve the Plan outlay. The main reason for these States not achieving the Plan outlay is their inability to raise the projected level of States' own resources.

(e) Planning Commission have been impressing upon the States to generate higher level of own resources, inter-alia, by improving the performance of State level enterprises, increasing tax and non tax revenue and also by curtailing their non plan expenditure so that sufficient funds are available to finance the plan.

Statement

Statement giving details regarding approved outlay/Actual Expenditure for Annual Plans 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Originally Approved Outlays			Actual Expenditure		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3579.55	4678.95	5480.00	3707.23	4671.97	5480.00\$
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	600.00	625.00	665.00	489.38	463.02	503.00
3.	Assam	1510.28	1650.00	1750.00	1283.18	1293.67	1500.00
4.	Bihar	2268.42	3768.74	3630.00	1711.43	2424.65	2471.99
5.	Goa	230.56	291.34	281.19	198.59	220.61	241.00
6.	Gujarat	4509.62	5450.00	6550.00	3905.07	3905.07	6550.00
7.	Haryana	1576.04	2260.00	2300.00	1303.61	1522.91	1785.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1008.00	1440.00	1600.00	1294.33	1539.65	1601.17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1551.81	1900.00	1750.00	1496.28	1259.61	1758.00
10.	Karnataka	4153.59	5353.00	5800.00	4424.48	5649.04	5231.35
11.	Kerala	2851.10	3100.00	3250.00	2867.62	3039.09*	3010.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3718.15	3700.00	4004.00	3343.91	3426.12*	3473.75
13.	Maharashtra	8393.19	11600.73	12162.00	7938.03	8187.48	12161.66
14.	Manipur	410.00	425.00	475.00	345.28	388.55	475.00 \$
15.	Meghalaya	382.00	400.00	465.00	248.83	299.38	350.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram	290.00	333.00	360.00	295.25	272.06	380.51
17.	Nagaland	291.00	300.00	315.00	232.33	245.97	320.50
18.	Orissa	2529.46	3084.43	3309.17	2037.14	2581.61	2510.13
19.	Punjab	2100.01	2500.00	2680.00	2008.80	2006.27	2680.00
20.	Rajasthan	3514.42	4300.00	4750.00	3987.35	3832.83	3855.14
21.	Sikkim	220.0	237.00	250.00	190.12	218.00*	250.00 \$
22.	Tamil Nadu	4004.80	4500.00	5250.00	4010.63	4515.81	5250.00
23.	Tripura	439.91	440.00	475.00	412.59	392.25	437.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7246.57	10260.00	11400.00	5652.36	6363.94	5104.08
25.	West Bengal	3907.62	4594.85	5787.00	2840.10	3459.64	3674.73
Total (States)		61286.20	77192.04	84738.36	56223.92	62179.20	71054.46

* Actual Expenditure not available, Revised Outlay taken.

\$ Revision not sought by State Govt., Approved Outlay repeated.

Women Officers In Government Service

492. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to give adequate representation to women officers at level of Additional Secretary and above in the Government services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Appointments to the posts at the level of Additional Secretary and above in the Government of India are made from amongst officers adjudged suitable for holding posts at those levels. The suitability is adjudged through the process of strict evaluation of such qualities as merit, competence, leadership and flair for participating in the policy making process. The process of evaluation is gender neutral.

Besides, the representation of women officers at the Centre depends upon the number of women officers who had joined services over twenty-five years ago and are still available in service and their being spared by their Cadre Authorities for appointment at the Centre.

Visit of Japanese PM

493. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed with the Japanese Prime Minister during his recent visit to India and the outcome thereof; and

(b) the areas in which new agreements have been signed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshiro Mori paid a State visit to India from 21 to 25 August, 2000. This was the first visit at this level since 1990. He also visited Bangalore and Agra.

The Japanese Prime Minister called on our President and Vice President and held official discussions with Prime Minister. EAM called on him.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to build a multi-faceted global partnership for the 21st century.

Discussions covered a wide range of issues including bilateral political and economic relations, international terrorism, UN reform, celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, institutionalisation of high level dialogue, cooperation in Information Technology, a comprehensive security dialogue cooperation in combating piracy and the launching of the India-Japan Eminent Persons Group.

It was agreed inter alia that (1) The 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations in

2002 would be commemorated in a befitting manner. (2) An India-Japan IT Summit will take place in Japan. (3) A security dialogue will be entered into. (4) Both countries will cooperate on the reform of the UN Security Council. (5) An India-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association will be constituted. and (6) The India-Japan Eminent Persons' Group will meet at an early date.

Prime Minister Mori announced that two high level economic missions would visit India in October 2000 and January 2001. The first high level economic mission visited India from 29 October to 4 November, 2000.

(b) No new agreements were signed during the visit.

Linking of Rivers

494. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to link six major rivers as a part of the long term Ganga-Cauvery link project is to be undertaken by the Government in order to solve water problem in the country;

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular river including Cauvery and Himalayan rivers including Ganga for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to *inter alia* carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of National Perspective Plan as also to prepare cost estimates of total expenditure involved therein. Implementation of water transfer link proposal depends on availability of funds and now soon the detailed project reports are prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States.

Organ Trading

495. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the organ trading practice continues in the country unchecked despite the Act banning it;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any study to identify the discrepancies in the implementation of the Act banning the organ practice in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such information has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India passed a Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994, which came into force with effect from 4.2.1995. It provides for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of Human Organ for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in Human Organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It also provides for stringent punishment for removal of Human Organs without authority which is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years, and with fine which may extend to Rs. 10,000/-. If a Registered Medical Practitioner is convicted, his name can be removed from the Register of the respective State Medical Council for a period of 2 years for the first offence and permanently for subsequent offence. Except two States, viz, Mizoram and Bihar all other States have adopted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act and such incident, of any therefore, may not occur in future.

Admission in Medical Colleges on the basis of SC/ST Quota

496. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in the year 1993;

(b) if so, action taken thereof;

(c) the number of seats offered in different faculties/ disciplines in all the Medical Colleges (receiving the grant-in-aid from the Central Government) in Graduation/Post Graduation Level courses during the last three years;

(d) total number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during each of the last five years; and

(e) the reasons if the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the instructions, 15% and 7.5% of total seats for undergraduate/post graduate medical courses in all the Medical Colleges under the Central Government are reserved for SC/ST candidates respectively and these instructions are being followed in letter and spirit.

(c) to (e) Information from the Medical Institutions is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Requisition of Ayurvedic Medicines from different Countries

497. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of countries have requisitioned the Indian Government seeking Ayurvedic medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to take up export of those medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) to (c) No specific request has been received. However, export of Ayurvedic drugs is regulated under export policy. The intending importer can be obtain drugs without requisitioning from the Government.

Bidi Workers

498. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bidi workers in Madhya Pradesh and the number of workers to whom identity cards have been issued;

(b) whether the State Government had sent proposals for construction of 2030 residential units by the Union

Government for bidi workers in Jabalpur Division in 1995-96 under Bidi Workers Welfare Fund;

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken so far in this regard; and

(d) the number of the factories registered in Jabalpur division till the year 2000 and the number of the employees/workers working therein as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are approximately 7,00,000 beedi workers in the State of Madhya Pradesh. About 6,93,239 beedi workers have been issued identity cards.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal sent by the State Government was not in conformity with the requirement of the Scheme. The district authorities have since also conveyed their inability to construct houses.

(d) Number of registered beedi making Factories : 312

Number of workers therein as on 31.03.1999 : 1,14,475.

Prisoners of War

499. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of prisoners of war released by Pakistan and India during the last three years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson

500. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approached the US Government for extradition of Mr. Anderson, the erstwhile Chief of Union Carbide; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has sought the opinion of a US Attorney on the issue of the maintainability of the extradition request according to the American municipal laws.

Revision of OBC List

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

(a) whether the Government have revised the Central list of Other Backward Castes (OBC);

(b) if so, the date of last revision;

(c) the name of the new castes from various States included in the Central list of OBC, State-wise; and

(d) the norms prescribed for the inclusion of these castes?

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

(b) and (c) The last revision took place on 21-09-2000. The names of castes/communities included in the Central List of Backward Classes pertaining of different States/UTs is given in the Gazette of India Notification No. 210 dated 21-09-2000.

(d) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has formulated the guidelines for consideration of requests which include criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

[Translation]

Reservation in Promotions to OBC's

502. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to extend reservation in promotions to its Other Backward Classes Employees and review the income ceiling for creamy layer in OBC which was fixed at the time of Commencement of Reservation for OBC;

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received suggestions/requests from some of the organizations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (f) It has not been found legally possible to provide reservation in promotions to employees belonging to OBCs. The Government is in the process of setting up a 'Review Committee', which will review the existing income ceiling for Creamy Layer among OBCs in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations/ State Commissions for Backward Classes. The Review Committee will consider the suggestions/requests received by it in this regard.

[English]

Casual Labour

503. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the rules and time schedule fixed by the Government for regularisation of casual labourers serving in various Ministries and Government Departments;

(b) the total number of casual labourers serving in Roorkee Engineering University at present and regularised during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for not regularising the services of casual labourers who have completed the stipulated period of their services in the above University; and

(d) the number of such labourers and the time by which those are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Under the existing instructions, it is not permissible to engage casual labourers for work of a regular nature. However, the various Administrative Ministries/ Departments are empowered to engage casual labourers for work which is of purely casual or seasonal or intermittent nature. They may also consider the regularisation of the services of casual labourers if such labourers have rendered two years of continuous service on casual basis with 206 days in each year in offices observing five days a week and 240 days in each year in offices observing six days a week. Besides they should fulfill the conditions stipulated in the recruitment rules of the relevant group "D" posts.

As the regularisation of casual employees against Group "D" posts is dependent upon the availability of a vacancy in the relevant Group "D" cadre, no time schedule could be fixed for regularisation of these casual labourers.

(b) to (d) As various Administrative Authorities are empowered to engage and regularise the casual employees, the information with regard to the number of casual employees engaged by them is not centrally available. Further, since regularisation of such casual labourers is dependent upon the availability of regular posts in the concerned offices and their fulfilling the requirements of the notified recruitment rules of the relevant Group 'D' posts, no time schedule could be fixed for regularisation of such casual labourers.

Fall In Poverty Line

504. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in poverty line in the last few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of people living below poverty line as on date and how does that compare with each of the last ten year's, year-wise; and

(c) the basis on which the Government come to a conclusion in the fall of the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. The full data from next large survey on consumer expenditure conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 are under process. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line as on date and also during each of the last ten years are not available. The comparable estimates of poverty on the basis of large sample survey on consumer expenditure since 1977-78 show a regular decline in the estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national level as can be seen from the Table below.

Percentage of People below the Poverty Line

1977-78	51.32%
1983	44.48%
1987-88	38.86%
1993-94	35.97%

[Translation]

Colour Blindness

505. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the posts for which the persons suffering from colour blindness are declared to be unfit;

(b) whether the Government propose to exempt the candidates who are found colour blind in the medical examination after passing the written and oral examinations and whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to include such candidates in the handicapped category; and

(c) if not, the reasons for adopting such norms in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Colour Blindness is not covered as a category of disability under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and therefore persons suffering from Colour Blindness are not eligible to claim reservation benefits under the Act. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to recognize Colour Blindness as a category of disability under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

[English]

Abolition of Custom Duty on Cyclosporine

506. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of kidney patients are finding it extremely difficult to pay exorbitant price for Cyclosporine, the life saving drug because of imposition of 40 per cent custom duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Finance have informed as under:

The aggregated duty including surcharge etc. on Cyclosporine comes to 40.54%. Prior to the budget 2000, Cyclosporine was fully exempted from custom duty. Thereafter, on the initial recommendations of Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and due to coming up of indigenous manufacturing capacity, full exemption available to Cyclosporine was withdrawn during the budget.

However, there has been no increase in the prices of Cyclosporine medicine, except for 100 mg dosage manufactured by M/s Cipla after the imposition of customs duty with effect from 1.3.2000.

The Ministry of Finance have received a number of representations from kidney patients for withdrawal of custom duty on Cyclosporine.

The matter is receiving the attention of Ministry of Finance who are the nodal Ministry for imposition/exemption of custom duty. In the light of the representation received the matter is being re-examined by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals. The Ministry of Finance has already given assurances on the subject both in Lok Sabha (short notice question No. 2 dated 25.8.2000) and in Rajya Sabha (USQ No. 1795 dated 8.8.2000).

[Translation]

Sharing of Ganga Water

507. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is demanding its share of Ganga Water;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to consider their demand in view of the drought situation prevailing in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which Ganga Water is likely to be supplied to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Rajasthan has been demanding since 1984 diversion of Ganga water, for 100 days during monsoon at the rate of 1133 cubic metres per second (cumec) near Hardwar and 566 cumec near Bijnore for use in the drought prone areas of the State.

Ganga Flood Control Board constituted an expert committee to study this proposal but the committee could not arrive at any conclusion on the surplus water availability of river Ganga. The study conducted by Central Water Commission revealed that sufficient water was not available in Ganga near these two places for more than 20-30 days in a year for diversion to Rajasthan and the proposal as such was also found to be highly uneconomical. In the fourteenth meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board held in June, 2000, it was decided that the study of diversion of Ganga water to Rajasthan could be done by National Water Development Agency.

(e) Implementation of water transfer link proposal inter-alia depend on how soon the detailed project is prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States and the availability of funds.

[English]

Indo-Russian Nuclear Agreement

508. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed any agreement for the development of nuclear technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Russia has agreed to supply nuclear fuel for Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions laid down in the agreement by Russia for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed between the Republic of India and former Soviet Union (FSU) on November 20, 1988 for setting up of 2x1000 MWe VVERs (Pressurised Water Reactors) at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, a "Supplement

to the IGA" was signed between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on June 21, 1998 to incorporate the revised terms for the implementation of the project, according to which the nuclear power plant will be constructed on a technical and financial cooperation basis. Consequent to this, a contract for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed project was signed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Russian Organisation 'ATOMSTROYEXPORT' on 20th July 1998. The "Supplement to IGA" has come into force with effect from 18th September, 1998 after ratification by the Government of India. The DPR contract has come into effect from 4th April, 2000. Presently, the DPR is being prepared and is expected to be completed by the end of year 2001. The detailed techno-commercial terms and conditions for the implementation of the project shall be firmed up after the completion of the DPR. The 1988 Agreement and its Supplement provide for, inter-alia, the supply of nuclear fuel by Russia for the entire life of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. The spent fuel shall be stored and reprocessed by Government of India and the reprocessed materials shall be retained and used in India under IAEA safeguards.

Visit of Minister

509. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by the Minister visited China in the month of September, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of the MoU signed during the said visit between India or China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and China relates to mutual cooperation in the field of employment, vocational training and social security. The cooperation will be conducted mainly in the following areas:

- labour and social security legislation;
- measures and policies of employment promotion;
- labour relations;
- policies on vocational training;
- social security system; and
- other areas of mutual interest.

Below Poverty Line

510. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware to the controversy over the calculation of level of poverty in the country by various national and international agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of the people living below poverty line as per the estimates of various agencies both in rural and urban areas respectively and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Different approaches have been adopted to calculate poverty. As a result, the estimates of poverty made by various national and international agencies differ due to the difference in methodology adopted. Some of the estimates of poverty made by national and international agencies are given below.

- (i) World Bank: In 1994, 36.7% in rural areas, 30.5% in urban areas and 35% for the country as a whole. For the country as a whole, 34% in 1997. In 1997, 44.2% of the population lived below the poverty line of one U.S. Dollar a day and 86.2% of the population lived below the poverty line of two U.S. Dollar a day.
- (ii) National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi: 39% in rural areas in 1994.
- (iii) A study conducted in the Indian Statistical Institute, and published by the then Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning estimated poverty ratios under alternative poverty lines. The poverty ratios in 1993-94 ranged from 30.29% to 42.70% in rural areas, 24.08% to 33.84% in urban areas and 28.75% to 40.26% for the country as a whole.
- (iv) The official of poverty ratio made by the Planning Commission for 1993-94 is 37.27% in rural areas, 32.36% in urban areas and 35.97% for the country as a whole.

[Translation]

Increase In Financial Limit

511. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have widened the area of activities and raised the financial limit of Small Scale Industries during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities given to small scale industries during the said period to promote export; and

(d) the programmes implemented and likely to be implemented in near future for development of 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) Tyre retreading and coffee processing have been recognised as on SSI activity during the last six months. The investment ceiling for SSIs has not been raised during this period.

(c) and (d) The Ministry already implements programmes for encouraging ISO 9000 Certification by individual units, a capital subsidy scheme for technology upgradation, setting up of industrial estates exclusively for SSIs alongwith State Governments, easy and timely flow of credit, credit guarantee fund for loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs without collateral, as well as sector specific technology upgradation initiatives. In addition, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana enables unemployed youth to be set up their own enterprises. The existing facilities of free of cost participation in international fairs/exhibitions through product display and programme on packaging for exports through Indian Institute of Packaging have been continued.

"Indo-Russia Joint Working Group on Terrorism"

512. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to set up a joint working group to tackle the increasing problem of International terrorism in Central Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the group is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) During the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, from October 2-5, 2000, it was decided that an Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan would be established.

(c) The first meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000.

[English]

Unemployed persons

513. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of unemployment in each State;

(c) the number of States where there is the highest and the lowest unemployment and the position where Gujarat State stands among all States;

(d) whether the Government propose to declare this situation as a national crisis;

(e) if so, the outline thereof;

(f) the targeted year by which the unemployment is likely to be eliminated;

(g) the steps being taken to achieve the target; and

(h) the percentage of additional avenues of employment required to be generated annually for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The latest

estimates of employment and unemployment are available from 1993-94 survey of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per this survey, the incidence of unemployment on Usual Status basis is 1.9% at All India level. The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(f) to (h) As per the projections made during the 9th Plan, it is estimated that full employment by 2007 is contingent upon acceleration in growth of employment in the post 9th Plan period (2002-2007) to 2.8% per annum compared to 2.44% projected for the 9th plan.

The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Statement

State-wise Incidence of Unemployment during 1993-94 (UPSS)*

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Unemployment Lakh
1	2	3
1.	Andhara Pradesh	0.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.17
3.	Assam	5.59
4.	Bihar	2.18
5.	Goa	9.45
6.	Gujarat	1.53
7.	Haryana	1.51
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.64
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.78
10.	Karnataka	1.36
11.	Kerala	7.76
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.25
13.	Maharashtra	1.86
14.	Manipur	1.79
15.	Meghalaya	0.38
16.	Mizoram	0.89

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	2.68
18.	Orissa	1.98
19.	Punjab	1.86
20.	Rajasthan	0.47
21.	Sikkim*	0.88
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.40
23.	Tripura	3.11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.07
25.	West Bengal	3.22
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2.91
27.	Chandigarh	6.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.75
29.	Delhi	1.35
30.	Daman & Diu	2.54
31.	Lakshadweep	18.46
32.	Pondicherry	5.00
All India		1.90

* Percentage of unemployed persons to the Labour Force.

Declaration of Most Backward State

514. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards significant imbalance between the two States after the bifurcation and the Bihar State would be left with only 45 per cent of revenue, while Jharkhand with merely 25 per cent of the population will get 55 per cent of the revenue;

(b) whether Planning Commission has set up internal assessment to declare the Bihar State as the most backward in terms of all indicators of development therein;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare the Bihar State under the special category;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) According to the information furnished by the Bihar Government, a population of about 75 per cent of the erstwhile State of Bihar has remained within the boundaries of the new State of Bihar. Out of the estimated total revenue receipt of Rs. 3818 crore of the erstwhile State of Bihar, Rs. 1970 crore constituting 51.5 per cent, is estimated to be the revenue share of new State of Bihar.

(b) to (e) The Planning Commission does not undertake the exercise to declare any State/ Union Territory of the country as the most backward or backward on the basis of development indicators. However, the States are declared Special Category States by the National Development Council (NDC) on the basis of laid down guidelines. The State Legislature of the erstwhile Bihar had suggested that the new State of Bihar, left over after the bifurcation of Jharkhand, should be accorded the status of a Special Category State. No such exercise has been undertaken by the Planning Commission. However, a dedicated unit has been set up in the Planning Commission under the direct charge of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. This unit is required, inter alia, to ensure that with the help of better financial management and adequate devolution of funds from the Centre, multi-faceted development of region takes place, specially in respect of core infrastructure sector. However, a reference has been received from the Government of Bihar forwarding the outlines of a development package for the new State of Bihar which is currently under examination. Preliminary discussions have already been held at Patna with the State Officers who have now been invited for more detailed discussions.

Welfare Scheme in Manipur

515. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the different Welfare schemes implemented in the State of Manipur during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A statement indicating names of the welfare schemes implemented in Manipur and details of funds released under them during last three years, till date, is enclosed.

Statement

Names of welfare schemes implemented in Manipur and funds released under them during last three years, till date.

1. Scheduled Caste Development

(Rs. In lakhs)

Bureau/Scheme	1998-99	99-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4
SCD			
SCA to SCP(CS)	10.62	12.54	38.96
Post Matric Scholarship(CSS)	507.8	721.78	43.71
Assistance to NGOs(CSS)	30.29	33.33	29.81
OBCs			
Post-Matric Scholarship including Higher Scholarship for Ph.D and Higher Levels (CSS)	0.00	0.00	91.36
Minorities			
<i>Continuing Schemes:</i>			
Pre-Examinations Coaching for weaker Sections based on economic criteria(CS)	17.63	23.74	13.91
Share Capital to National Minorities Development and Finance Corp.(CS)	124.22	0.00	0.00
DD			
Scheme of Assistance of Disabled Person for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances. (CS)	34.28	25.00	6.50
To promote voluntary action for persons with disability	29.54	57.01	28.84
National Rehabilitation Prog. for the Disabled.(CS)	0	12.50	0.00
SD			
Education Work for Prohibition and Drug Abuse. (CS)	163.64	158.07	67.45

1	2	3	4
Scheme for Welfare of Street Child.(CS)	3.53	8.06	0.00
Assistance to Vol. Orgns. for Programmes relating to Aged. (CS)	44.72	59.88	46.72
Animal welfare			
Ambulance service to animals in distress	3.95	9.82	0.00
Shelter houses for looking after the animals	4.95	7.46	6.52

Note: Excludes tribal welfare programmes for which now a separate Ministry is constituted.

Unemployment

516. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decline in the number of registration in employment exchanges in the country despite increasing unemployment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancy Based Roster

517. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in case of R.K.Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as J.C.Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways has held that "the Vacancy Based Rosters can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation";

(b) if so, indicate the services i.e. Class I, II, III and Class IV category/grade under the Planning Commission and Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous /Attached/ Subordinate Organizations under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC / ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which "Post Based Rosters" have been introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters"; and

(c) furnish the reasons if "Post Based Rosters" are introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" in those categories of services also where representation has not reached the prescribed percentage of reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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.

However, this is subject matter of the Department of Personnel and Training and the necessary guidelines were issued by them on 2.7.1997.

(b) and (c) The guidelines of the Department of Personnel and Training are being followed by the Planning Commission for all the posts recruitment for which is done by the Planning Commission. Post Based Rosters are also being maintained, wherever applicable.

Mullaperiyar Dam

518. SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala over the question of raising water level of Mullaperiyar Dam, in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether an expert committee has submitted an interim report on this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Dam and control of its water level come under the sole purview of the State Government of Kerala; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The matter regarding Mulla Periyar Dam is presently sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Government has informed

the Court that an Expert Committee has been constituted to resolve the differences between the two States on Mullaperiyar Dam. The said Committee has since given its interim report. As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court an Action Taken Report as finalized by this Committee has since been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Flood Control

519. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal faced catastrophic floods during the month of September, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether said catastrophic floods can be prevented by the Government of West Bengal and D.V.C. by forecasting of floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/ propose to be taken to prevent the resurrection of such catastrophic flood?

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

(b) West Bengal faced a very grim flood situation in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia and 24 Parganas (North) in September, 2000. This was due to very heavy rainfall both in quantity and intensity never recorded before. Between 18th to 23rd September, 2000, the total rainfall in Ajoy Basin was 1040 mm, in Mayurakshi Catchment was 1224 mm and in the Damodar Basin 529 mm. The Bhagirathi basin was overflowed as it received discharges from its tributaries many times more than its carrying capacity. The embankment of all rivers breached by over-topping. The details of devastation are as follows:—

(i)	Total area affected	: 23971 sq.km.
(ii)	Crop area affected	: 19200 sq.km.
(iii)	Population affected	: 218 lakhs
(iv)	Loss of human lives	: 1320 nos.

(v)	No. of missing persons	: 154 nos.
(vi)	No. of house damaged	: 21.94 lakhs
(vii)	No. of blocks affected	: 117 nos.
(viii)	No. of Municipality affected	: 68

(c) and (d) Flood forecasting cannot prevent floods, but helps in mitigating the flood damage potential. Central Water Commission issues forecasts and flood inflow pattern forecasts to the State Governments and concerned agencies from time to time and regular flood warnings are issued from officers located in the D. V. C. system and other barrages. The District Administration makes elaborate arrangement of communication to different block officers which are likely to be affected by flood water passing through these areas.

(e) Flood caused by rainfall of such high intensity in a short span of time as during the current year is difficult to predict and prevent. In order to mitigate the sufferings of the flood victims, the State Government has taken up a programme of construction of flood shelters in flood prone areas.

Appointment/posting of SC/ST persons on High Posts

520. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 has demanded appointment/ posting of persons belonging to the SCs/ STs in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional Directors, Part-Time Chairman and Official/Non-Official Members of the Board of Management of Public Sector Undertakings and Enterprises under Government of India;

(b) if so, action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the above referred posts in various Public Sector Undertakings falling under the Ministry of Health during the last three years;

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number of posts referred to above; and

(e) the reasons if the above referred demand of SC/ ST, MPs is not met satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Per Capita Income

521. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income in rural areas in comparison to urban areas;

(b) whether the difference in per capita income between these two areas has been increasing; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to minimize this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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 estimates of rural-urban incomes in terms of per capita net domestic product (NDP), are compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on the basis of work-force estimates available from the quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and the Population Census. Since these estimates are available only once in 5/10 years and from the basis for the introduction of a new series of national accounts statistics (NAS), the rural-urban estimates of per capita NDP are also presented in the NAS only for the base year. The latest available estimates on workforce from NSSO relate to 1993-94 (50th round) and using this data estimates of rural-urban per capita NDP have been compiled for the year 1993-94. For the years 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1993-94, these are as follows:

Per Capita Net Domestic Product

(Rs./ per year at current prices)

	1970-71	1980-81	1993-94
1. Rural	529	1245	5783
2. Urban	1294	2888	13525
3. Urban-Rural Disparity (2)/(1)	2.45	2.32	2.34

(b) The disparity in per capita income between urban and rural areas at current prices had shown a decline from 2.45 times in 1970-71 to 2.32 times in 1980-81. However, the corresponding ratio in the estimates for 1993-94 has slightly risen to 2.34.

(c) The reduction in urban-rural disparities in income/ consumption is targeted to be achieved through a greater focus on agriculture and other rural activities. One of the important objectives of the Ninth Plan is to give priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to provide adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

District Industries Centres

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

(a) whether it is being contemplated to provide computerisation and E-mail facility in Distt. Industry Centres Madhya Pradesh under the "Central Computerisation Project of District Industries Centres Scheme";

(b) if so, the details of the Industries Centres likely to be computerised and time by which this facility is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) There is no Central Scheme by the name of "Central Computerisation Project of District Industries Centres Scheme". Perhaps the reference is to the Central Scheme "Collection of Statistics of Small Scale Industries". Under this scheme, 5 District Industries Centres (DICs) in Madhya Pradesh located at Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Khargaon and Rajgarh have already been computerised and E-mail facilities provided. This facility has been provided to all the DICs in the country, which have a sizeable concentration of small scale units. There is no proposal to computerise other DICs in Ninth Five Year Plan.

*[English]***Uniform Fee Structure In Medical Colleges/Hospitals**

523. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government medical colleges and hospitals of Delhi have imposed a uniform fee structure for all patients irrespective of their income category;

(b) if so, whether this is due to blatant misuse of free treatment offered to below poverty line patients;

(c) whether the outdoor patients in Government medical colleges and Indira Gandhi Medical College are finding themselves in a peculiar situation;

(d) if so, whether their claim of earning less than Rs. 180/- per month is outrightly rejected by the doctors on duty;

(e) if so, whether the Government have issued any directions in this regard;

(f) if so, whether the details of categories of patients with the break up of their monthly income enrolled to have treatment at concessional rates have given according to or free treatment at hospital as per earlier system, defined in GR dated June 1, 1957 category-wise; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to provide free medical treatment to the below poverty line patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]***Irrigation Facilities**

524. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to launch another effective scheme for providing irrigation facilities to farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) There is no proposal before

the Union Government to launch another effective scheme for providing irrigation facilities to farmers. However, the Ministry of Water Resources proposes to take up a Participatory Irrigation Scheme for Rehabilitation and Management of Minor Irrigation Projects to be completed in 5 years at an estimated cost of Rs. 760 crore, which is proposed to be met by the Union Government and the concerned States in 75:25 ratio with contribution of the beneficiaries/farmers in the form of free voluntary labour and materials. The cost equivalent to labour/materials of the farmers shall be taken from the project account and deposited in a separate fund to be named as "Tank Maintenance Fund", which may be used for operation and maintenance purposes after completion of the scheme. It is envisaged that the scheme would require about Rs. 102 crore during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan, of which the Central component would be of the order of Rs. 77 crore. Besides, the Ministry of Water Resources also proposes to take up another Participatory Irrigation Management Scheme during the Ninth Plan on pilot basis for 140 projects not covered under the Command Area Development Programme. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 37.575 crore of which Rs. 19.90 crore is proposed to be met by the Union Government, Rs. 17.325 crore by the concerned States and the remaining Rs. 0.350 crore by the farmers.

*[English]***Universal Immunisation Programme**

525. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the diseases for the eradication of which the Universal Immunisation Programme had been launched originally;

(b) the details of the success of the programme;

(c) the number of targeted diseases are yet to be eradicated;

(d) the steps taken to eradicate them by the Government; and

(e) the reasons for the non-inclusion of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Universal Immunization Programme was launched in 1985 and implemented in a phased manner to cover all districts by 1989-1990 with the goal to control and eliminate the six vaccine preventable diseases namely Diphtheria, measles, childhood Tuberculosis, whooping cough, Neonatal Tetanus and Polio.

(b) There has been decline of 74% in respect of Diphtheria, 75% in respect of whooping cough, 64% in Neonatal Tetanus, 80% in polio and 76% of measles cases between 1998 and 1999.

(c) and (d) From 1995 supplementary immunization activities have been launched to eradicate polio.

(e) Hepatitis B has not yet been included in the Universal Immunization Programme due to its high cost and also because it was not considered advisable to introduce another major vaccination programme on a universal basis before improving routine immunization uniformly through-out the country.

[*Translation*]

National SC/ST Finance Development Corporation

526. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures being taken by the Government to bring Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into the mainstream and for their self-employment;

(b) whether it is a fact that 'National Finance and Development Commission' responsible for the economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been allocated a meagre amount of Rs. 100 crores only;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of achievements of the Commission so far, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have been made aware of its commitment to ensure about the participation of Scheduled Castes in the various programme being implemented by different ministries in accordance with "Special Component Plan"; and

(f) if so, the details and achievement thereof including the number of beneficiaries under each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) With a view to bring Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) into the mainstream and provide employment opportunities, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes are being formulated and implemented by the State Govts./UTs. Adms. as well as

Central Ministries/Departments. As per this strategy, plan funds in proportion of SC/ST in the total population in all the States/UTs are to be provided for welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

In addition to this, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implementing some special schemes for welfare of the SC/ST respectively. A list of such schemes/programmes is given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) No, Sir, Rs. 411.00 crores has been provided by Central Government as share capital to the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) State-wise details of achievements of National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation as on 31.10.2000 are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Yes Sir. 13 Ministries have formulated their Special Component Plan list attached as Statement-III.

(f) Under Point 11 A & B of the 20-Point Programme, beneficiaries as under have been assisted to cross over the poverty line during 1999-2000. SC-19,30,641, ST-9,98,000.

Statement I

List of Schemes/Programmes being undertaken by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

1. Educational:

1. Post-Matric Scholarship
2. Hostels for SC boys and girls.
3. Book Banks.
4. Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation.
5. Coaching and Allied.
6. Upgradation of Merit of SCs/STs student.
7. Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls.

2. Economic:

2.1 Scheme of Assistance of Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.

2.2 National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

2.3 National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.

2.4 Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan.

2.5 National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents.

3. General:

3.1 Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

3.2 Research and Training.

3.3 Grant in aid to voluntary organizations working for Scheduled Castes Development.

3.4 Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.

4. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST girls.

5. Vocational Training Centre.

6. Post-Matric Scholarship for STs.

7. Coaching and Allied Scheme.

8. Book Bank.

9. Upgradation of Merit of ST students.

2. Economic:

2.1 Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan

2.2 Grant under Article 275 (I).

2.3 Investment in Tribal Development Co-operative and Marketing Federation (TRIFED).

2.4 Price Support to Tribal Development Co-operative and Marketing Federation (TRIFED).

2.5 Grant in aid to State TDCCs.

2.6 Village Grain Bank Scheme.

2.7 Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).

2.8 Assistance to Tribal Development Finance Corporations of States/UTs.

3. General:

3.1 Grant in aid to voluntary organizations.

3.2 Research and Training

3.3 Lump sum provision for benefit of North-eastern Region.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs**1. Educational:**

1. Hostel for ST Girls.

2. Hostel for ST Boys.

3. Ashram School in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.

Statement II

National SC/ST's Finance & Development Corporation 8, Balaji Estate, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019

State-wise Cumulative Sanctions & Disbursements as on 31.10.2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	No. of Scheme	Project Cost	NSFDC Share	No. of Beneficiaries	Gross funds Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131	18485.60	11520.99	96828	10185.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	137.98	100.90	52	102.18
3.	Assam	76	2524.16	2047.94	2416	1877.66
4.	Bihar	55	5885.19	4391.35	8065	3096.64
5.	Chandigarh	25	625.63	446.11	400	429.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Dadra & N. Haveli, D. & Diu	14	235.25	194.50	97	165.90
7.	Delhi	50	2029.82	1183.80	1463	952.88
8.	Goa	22	254.80	194.77	105	160.48
9.	Gujarat	103	9080.65	6079.72	10616	6046.36
10.	Haryana	30	2665.34	1851.04	1366	1490.57
11.	Himachal Pradesh	81	2351.14	1544.52	927	1552.56
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	21	1207.52	855.09	625	750.17
13.	Karnataka	207	9301.14	5426.78	21432	5104.03
14.	Kerala	112	4263.91	2872.60	5565	2402.68
15.	Lakshadweep	18	105.17	84.30	23	80.56
16.	Madhya Pradesh	126	16690.61	11181.81	20545	10258.89
17.	Maharashtra	170	9987.23	6559.81	9297	5887.22
18.	Manipur	64	1044.84	726.30	917	576.18
19.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
20.	Mizoram	120	1314.08	965.04	1917	875.22
21.	Nagaland	146	1306.35	913.41	1082	913.11
22.	Orissa	77	4171.76	3618.73	2335	2407.01
23.	Pondicherry	48	473.29	354.52	275	327.45
24.	Punjab	24	2970.48	1925.85	1680	2138.78
25.	Rajasthan	55	2873.67	2188.17	2925	1211.03
26.	Sikkim	33	655.60	551.42	549	474.64
27.	Tamilnadu	97	6087.67	3337.83	7449	3831.63
28.	Tripura	64	1845.47	1492.68	1720	1259.81
29.	Uttar Pradesh	47	10230.35	6455.94	34822	4546.89
30.	West Bengal	114	5973.55	4457.23	12944	2870.95
Grand Total		2178	124778.25	83522.95	248437	71976.53

Statement III

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
2. Ministry of Industry, Department of RSI & Agro and Rural Industries.
3. Ministry of Labour.
4. Ministry of Coal (Community Development and Welfare Programmes) of 7 PSUs.

5. Ministry of Commerce (Rubber Board, Spices Board and Tobacco Board).
6. Ministry of Textiles (Handloom & Handicrafts)
7. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (National Programme as improved Chulha).
8. Ministry of HRD, Department of Women & Child Development.

9. Ministry of Science & Technology (i) Department of Biotechnology (biotechnology based programmes for SCs/STs (ii) Department of Science & Technology (Science & Society Division).
10. Ministry of Steel (Special Component Plan relating to 7 PSUs).
11. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Health.
12. Ministry of Rural Areas.
13. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

[English]

MPLADS

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

(a) whether the guidelines of the MPLADS has been modified recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the MPLADS State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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, Guidelines on MPLADS were last modified in May, 2000. The modifications relate to :

- (i) Enhancement of each instalment from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1.00 crore.
- (ii) Allowing nominated Members to select works anywhere in the country.
- (iii) The limit of Rs. 10 lakhs per work increased to Rs. 25 lakhs.
- (iv) Allowing Members of Parliament to recommend work not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs outside their constituency in the event of natural calamity of rare severity.

The details of such modifications have been endorsed to all the Members of Parliament and to all District Heads in the country.

(c) For effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme monthly expenditure reports are obtained from the District Heads. Review meetings are held by the Minister of State (Statistics & Programme Implementation) and also by the Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

Health Programmes (Rajasthan)

528. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Voluntary Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in the implementation of Health Programmes in Rajasthan; and

(b) the amount provided by the Central Government to each organisation during each of the last three years and the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Creation of Jobs for SC/ST

529. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the jobs created for the SC/ST beneficiaries in the year 1999-2000 as result of new economic reforms;

(b) the number of jobs proposed to be created in the next financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities for SC/ST categories?

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

*[English]***Water Scarcity in Orissa**

530. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out that Orissa might face severe water scarcity in coming future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Central Water Commission during 1975-82 had taken up detailed drought studies for 99 districts in the country which were identified as drought prone either by the Irrigation Commission, 1972 or National Commission on Agriculture, 1976 or on the suggestions of some of the concerned State Governments. Out of 99 drought prone districts, there are two drought prone districts viz. Phulbani and Kalahandi in Orissa.

(e) A drought Contingency Plan has been formulated and circulated by Ministry of Agriculture to all concerned State Governments including Orissa for taking necessary steps. The position is being regularly reviewed. An amount of Rs. 41.05 crores has already been released out of Central Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund during the current year (2000-2001).

Software/Hardware

531. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Indian IT companies involved in export and import of computer software and hardware, State-wise;

(b) whether India is one of the largest producers and exporter of computer software in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof, in terms of value;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to send IT experts from India to the various countries all over the World to collect data on the potential for the IT products from India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The State-wise details of companies who are reporting Computer Software/Hardware exports to Ministry of Information Technology is given in the enclosed Statement : Information on companies involved in import of Computer Software/Hardware is not available.

(b) and (c) As per the NASSCOM-McKinsey report, Indian companies has captured 1-2% of the world Software market. However, Indian Software industry has emerged as one of the fastest growing sector of the economy with a CAGR exceeding 50% over the last five years and exports of about US\$4 billion during 1999-2000. The Government has targetted an export of US \$ 50 billion by the year 2008 for Indian Software Industry which will be about 5-6% of the world Software market.

(d) and (e) No, Sir, However, software companies send their experts to various countries to study market potential.

Statement

S. No.	State Name	No. of Units
1.	Andhra Pradesh	361
2.	Delhi	102
3.	Goa	1
4.	Gujarat	189
5.	Haryana	16
6.	Karnataka	186
7.	Kerala	53
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5
9.	Maharashtra	280
10.	Orissa	18
11.	Pondicherry	2
12.	Punjab	47
13.	Rajasthan	2
14.	Tamil Nadu	255
15.	Uttar Pradesh	95
16.	West Bengal	49

[Translation]

Eradication of Polio

532. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to eradicate Polio from the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds for this purpose, State-wise; and

(d) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from Routine Immunisation supplementary vaccination for eradication of Polio is being implemented since 1995. Till 1998-99, two nation wide Pulse Polio rounds used to be implemented during the winter session. From 1999-2000, based on the epidemiological pattern of polio occurrence, a differential approach has been adopted. During 1999-2000, four nation wide rounds of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization programme (IPPI) were organized which included both vaccination through fixed posts and house to house search of unvaccinated children and vaccinating them. Two sub national IPPI rounds in 8 high risk States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were also undertaken. The strategy for 2000-2001 is to hold 2 Sub National Immunization days in high risk States and 2 nation wide rounds in all the States.

(c) and (d) A statement of funds released during 2000-2001 State-wise is enclosed.

Statement

Funds released during		
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2000-2001 (In Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	457.09
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.31
3.	Assam	393.18
4.	Bihar	2206.53

1	2	3
5.	Goa	590.06
6.	Gujarat	352.79
7.	Haryana	66.07
8.	Himachal Pradesh	352.79
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	96.06
10.	Karnataka	372.20
11.	Kerala	130.25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1334.82
13.	Maharashtra	516.61
14.	Manipur	9.52
15.	Meghalaya	13.45
16.	Mizoram	3.59
17.	Nagaland	7.59
18.	Orissa	145.73
19.	Punjab	312.18
20.	Rajasthan	939.58
21.	Sikkim	2.45
22.	Tamilnadu	329.70
23.	Tripura	12.80
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3535.13
25.	West Bengal	1104.74
26.	A&N Islands	2.09
27.	Chandigarh	5.15
28.	D&N Haveli	1.56
29.	Daman & Diu	0.98
30.	Lakshadweep	0.60
31.	Delhi	257.38
32.	Pondicherry	4.91
Total		13217.09

[English]

Calling Back Indian Envoy

533. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's envoy in Austria had been asked to return to New Delhi in October 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of External Affairs had received certain complaints of financial irregularities by former Ambassador of India to Austria. As a consequence, a preliminary inquiry was conducted under the relevant rules. Accordingly, the Disciplinary Authority decided to recall him to headquarters. The departmental proceedings are now in progress.

Family Welfare Programme

534. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Population Stabilization Fund has been set up in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and contribution made by the Union Government, State Governments and other organizations towards setting up of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Addressing the first meeting of the National Commission on Population on 22nd July, 2000 the Prime Minister announced that a National Population Stabilisation Fund would be set up to specially support projects designed to help population stabilisation and to provide a window for canalizing voluntary contributions from individuals, industry, trade organisations etc. in furtherance of this national cause.

The National Commission on Population is taking necessary steps to set up the Fund.

[Translation]

SSI Units in U.P.

535. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the new Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries set up so far in Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon;

(c) the number of such new industries likely to be set up in various parts of Azamgarh and Mau districts of U.P. during the next three years; and

(d) the amount of assistance likely to be provided to these industries and number of the person to be benefited from them?

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 of Uttar Pradesh has indicated that the number of Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries set up/registered in Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

District/Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Azamgarh	220	220	183
Mau	300	312	300

(b) The SSI and Agro and Rural Industries are set up by the entrepreneurs themselves out of their own resources or by borrowing from various agencies including institutional sources. The capital investment of the above mentioned units is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
District/Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Azamgarh	140.82	106.88	131.66
Mau	247.57	143.02	242.78

(c) The number of new industries likely to be set up in various parts of the Azamgarh and Mau districts of U.P. during the current year and next year are as under:

District/year	2000-2001	2001-2002
Azamgarh	200	200
Mau	300	300

As the Plan proposal for the 10th Plan period, have not yet been formulated, it is not possible to give any estimation for the year 2002-2003.

(d) The estimated capital investment and the number of persons likely to benefit from the units indicated in (c) above are as under:

District/Year	2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Capital Investment (in Rs. lakhs)	Employment	Capital Investment (In Rs. lakhs)	Employment
Azamgarh	130.00	500	130.00	500
Mau	230.00	650	230.00	650

[English]

Closure of Industrial Units

536. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2nd August, 2000 to unstarred question No. 1531 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The requisite information has to be collected from all the State Governments. The material has been received from the following States/UTs:

Madhya Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Mizoram and Chandigarh.

The material from the remaining States/UTs is yet to be received.

Extension of time upto 2.2.2001 has been sought from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to fulfil the assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1531 dated 2.8.2000.

[Translation]

Medical Equipment

537. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical equipment in the Government hospitals in Delhi are lying out of order for the last so many months;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and hospital-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these equipment operational; and

(d) the action taken against officers responsible for such irregularities during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The total number of equipment and the details of the medical equipment out of order among those in Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and L.H.M.C. & Associated Hospitals are as under:

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

1. Total No. of equipment — 637

2. Equipment out of order — 3

(i) 4 Channel EMG machine

(ii) Simtrac Pressure Injector

(iii) W.B.C.T. Scanner

Safdarjung Hospital

1. Total No. of equipment — 361

2. Equipment out of order — 4

(i) 1000 MA X-ray machine

(ii) Argon Laser

(iii) Sysmex K-1000

(iv) Vacum Steam Sterilizer

L.H.M.C. & Assoc. Hospital

1. Total No. of equipment — 191

2. Equipment out of order — 3

(i) Variotherm

(ii) Tympanic Displacement

(iii) Bera Sentinal — 4

Since 'Health' is a State subject Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is not maintaining information in respect of equipment lying out of order in the Hospitals of Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(c) The following steps have been taken to make these equipment Functional.

1. Appropriate measures have been taken for procurement of the spares wherever required.
2. The Firms have been approached to repair the equipment which are covered under maintenance.
3. The review of non-functional equipment of the each hospital is done every month.

(d) No case of negligence against any of the officer of the Central Govt. Hospitals has been established in view of the fact that timely steps were taken to make the equipments functional.

Hostels/scholarship for SC/ST students

538. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) the details of the hostels constructed for SC/ST students in the country State-wise;

(b) the number of students benefited during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to assess the impact of Post-matric scholarship, pre-matric scholarship and construction of Hostels for SC/ST/OBC students and children of people engaged in sanitary profession on overall educational development of this socially disadvantageous group;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the total fund provided during Ninth Five Year Plan period for these schemes, State-wise;

(f) whether the funds provided have been fully utilized; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The State-wise details regarding boys and girls hostels sanctioned and the inmate capacity thereof separately in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since 1997-98 are given in the enclosed statement I.

(c) and (d) The Government assesses the impact of the Schemes at various times. Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarship and Scheme of Hostels for OBCs were started in 1998-99 and it may be too early to undertake an assessment of the impact of these Schemes at this stage.

Regarding the impact of the relevant schemes operated for SCs and STs, the performance figures would reveal that their coverage has on the whole shown appreciable increase. Their coverage since 1997-98 is given in the enclosed statment II.

(e) The State-wise details of Central assistance released during each year of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. upto 2000-2001, in respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students, Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation, Hostels for SCs, STs and OBCs, Post Matric and Pre Matric Scholarship Schemes for OBC students are given in Statement III.

(f) and (g) Central assistance under these schemes during a particular year is provided on the basis of anticipated expenditure for the year. Actual expenditure, which is reported in the succeeding year, generally varies from the anticipated expenditure. Therefore, generally there are variations in the allocation of funds and its utilization during a particular year although by and large funds are fully utilized.

Statement I

Details of Hostels Sanctioned and Beneficiaries under the Scheme of Construction of Hostels for SC Boys students

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Hostels	Bene.	Hostel	Bene.	Hostels	Bene.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Assam	20	84	Nil	Nil	10	50
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	11	375	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	1	50	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	88	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	35	1725	34	1785
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	7	210	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	77	3700
13.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	2	60	Nil	Nil	2	64
19.	Punjab	2	Nil	1	56	Nil	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	27	700	Nil	Nil
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12	650
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	1	30	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	2	90	Nil	Nil
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		27	282	84	3186	135	6249

Details of Hostels Sanctioned and Beneficiaries under the Scheme of Construction of SC Girls Students

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Hostels	Bene.	Hostel	Bene.	Hostels	Bene.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	10940	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	20	84	Nil	Nil	14	70
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Karnataka	8	527	15	787	16	1030
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	53	2650
13.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	128
19.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	9	225	Nil	Nil
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	26	1300	18	900	Nil	Nil
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	1	100	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	1	50	Nil	Nil
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		78	12851	44	2062	87	3848

Coverage under the Scheme of Girls Hostels for STs.

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	416	2	50	10	500	0	
2.	Assam	30	150	1	50	Nil	Nil	0	
3.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	7	230	7	350	0	
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	50	Nil	Nil	2	100	0	
5.	Daman & Diu	1	60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
6.	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	2	220	Nil	Nil	0	
7.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	3	180	2	100	0	
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	34	1700	Nil	Nil	0	
9.	Manipur	1	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
10.	Maghalaya	5	200	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
11.	Orissa	11	330	3	66	2	100	0	
12.	Rajasthan	46	Nil	6	200	Nil	Nil	0	
13.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	300	0	
14.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	1	50	Nil	Nil	0	
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1	Nil	1	50	Nil	Nil	0	
16.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
17.	J&K	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
18.	Karnataka	2	100	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	
19.	Maharashtra	4	340	2	165	Nil	Nil	0	
20.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	3	150	Nil	Nil	0	
21.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	100
Total		106	1661	83	3111	29	1450	1	100

Coverage under the Scheme of Boys Hostels for STs.

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat	Hostel	Seat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	312	4	200	8	400	Nil	
2.	Assam	29	145	1	50	Nil	Nil	Nil	
3.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	7	405	2	100	Nil	
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	50	1	200	2	120	Nil	
5.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	1	100	Nil	Nil	Nil	
7.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	3	180	2	150	Nil	
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	9	450	Nil	Nil	Nil	
9.	Manipur	1	30	1	35	1	50	Nil	
10.	Maghalaya	5	200	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
11.	Orissa	8	240	3	66	Nil	Nil	Nil	
12.	Rajasthan	46	1150	13	450	53	2650	Nil	
13.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	150	Nil	
14.	Tripura	1	50	1	50	5	250	Nil	
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	2	100	Nil	Nil	Nil	
16.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
17.	J&K	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
18.	Karnataka	4	200	3	150	Nil	Nil	Nil	
19.	Maharashtra	5	300	10	775	Nil	Nil	Nil	
20.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	3	150	Nil	Nil	Nil	
21.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	100
Total		103	2677	62	3361	77	3870	1	100

Annexure II

Statement in reply to parts (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 538 for 22.11.2000 regarding Hostels/Scholarship for SC/ST Students.

Statement showing increase in coverage of beneficiaries since 1997-98

Year	Physical Coverage under Centrally Sponsored Schemes			
	Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students (In lakhs)	Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in un-clean occupations (In lakhs)	Hostels for SCs	Hostels for STs
1997-98	17.78	3.17	13133	4338
1998-99	18.77	3.57	5248	6472
1999-2000	22.69	4.38	10087	5320
	(Anticipated)	(Anticipated)		

Statement III

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to SC and ST students.-Central assistance released during last five years.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
as on 20.11.2000					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3197.288	2639.458	3724.605	3099.562
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	130	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	285.98652	2334.249	233.75
4.	Bihar	Nil	797.152	1675.372	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	50.254	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	Nil	57.57	Nil	126.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Himachal Pradesh	Nil	19.832	18	21.23	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	14.9	44.85	12	Nil	
10. Karnataka	Nil	Nil	1335.18	Nil	
11. Kerala	Nil	Nil	739.865	Nil	
12. Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	193.849	382.469	
13. Maharashtra	967.78	471.24	Nil	727.78	
14. Manipur	Nil	507.8	721.78	43.71	
15. Meghalaya	Nil	749.058	608.526	4.166	
16. Mizoram	Nil	521.008	334.75	Nil	
17. Nagaland	Nil	1084.26	673.11	Nil	
18. Orissa	47.16	57.35	665.4	Nil	
19. Punjab	Nil	551.2841	Nil	Nil	
20. Rajasthan	84.7	450.53	526.59	Nil	
21. Sikkim	Nil	0.3729	Nil	Nil	
22. Tamil Nadu	396.78	958.86	516.86	1950.462	
23. Tripura	Nil	113.48448	190.01	141.2	
24. Uttar Pradesh	705.392	621.65	1261.847	1383.22	
25. West Bengal	Nil	Nil	411.0066	Nil	
26. Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	1.0613	0.5476	Nil	
27. Daman & Diu	Nil	1.15164	1.27	Nil	
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	1.83	Nil	Nil	
29. Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
30. Guwahati Project	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	
31. Pondicherry	Nil	13.95706	15	30	
Total	5417	10000	16089.82	8143.899	

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations.

Central assistance released during Ninth Five Year Plan

(Rs. (in lakhs))

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
as on 20.11.2000					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	2.61442	30.38969	74.07773	Nil	
2. Bihar	Nil	2.75	33.25	Nil	
3. Goa	Nil	0.358	Nil	0.33675	
4. Gujarat	83.77803	100.600	306.3333	Nil	
5. Haryana	Nil	62.83581	13.44	Nil	
6. Himachal Pradesh	Nil	0.04	Nil	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Jammu & Kashmir	1.2145	0.69	Nil	Nil	
8. Karnataka	27.3395	9.47	Nil	Nil	
9. Kerala	Nil	0.7	7.0035	Nil	
10. Madhya Pradesh	9.73225	90.22125	86.04775	Nil	
11. Maharashtra	21.2515	90.9805	174.6635	160.96125	
12. Orissa	Nil	Nil	7.72784	Nil	
13. Punjab	Nil	Nil	4.83093	Nil	
14. Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	107.5145	
15. Sikkim	Nil	0.07375	0.60175	Nil	
16. Tamil Nadu	27.926	34.4335	63.26125	170.2545	
17. Tripura	1.6863	2.9082	2.0225	2.44625	
18. Uttar Pradesh	24.4575	8.55	Nil	Nil	
19. Delhi	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	
20. Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	15	Nil	
Total	200,00000	440,00000	788.26	441.51325	

Detail of Central Assistance Released during last three years under C.S.S. of Construction of Hostel for SC Boys.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(As on 16.11.2000)					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	122.40	Nil	
2. Assam	5.50	Nil	5.00	Nil	
3. Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
4. Gujarat	Nil	66.091	Nil	Nil	
5. Haryana	4.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	
6. Jammu & Kashmir	19.51	Nil	Nil	Nil	
7. Karnataka	Nil	36.18	483.82	170.00	
8. Kerala	Nil	50.00	Nil	Nil	
9. Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
10. Madhya Pradesh	666.75	574.53	254.19	765.00	
11. Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
12. Orissa	30.00	Nil	7.84	Nil	
13. Punjab	30.00	20.00	Nil	Nil	
14. Rajasthan	129.66	243.20	Nil	Nil	
15. Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	211.75	Nil	
16. Tripura	20.00	10.00	10.00	Nil	
17. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
18. West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Chandigarh		Nil	Nil	20.00	45.00
20. Pondicherry		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		905.42	1000.00	1115.00	980.00

Detail of Central Assistance Released during last three years under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Construction of Girls Hostel for S.Cs.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No. State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(As on 16.11.2000)				
1. Andhra Pradesh	44.90	266.00	398.10	Nil
2. Assam	9.00	Nil	3.50	Nil
3. Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Himachal Pradesh	Nil	25.00	Nil	Nil
7. Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Karnataka	24.36	194.51	35.44	35.44
9. Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Madhya Pradesh	182.74	Nil	277.99	437.51
12. Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13. Orissa	Nil	Nil	24.973	Nil
14. Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15. Rajasthan	Nil	84.15	Nil	Nil
16. Tamil Nadu	339.00	114.00	Nil	258.34
17. Tripura	Nil	10.00	10.00	Nil
18. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19. West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20. Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21. Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	600.00	693.66	750.00	731.29

Amount Released Under the Scheme of Girls Hostels for STs.

S. No. State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(As on 20.11.2000)				
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	60.2	236.44	178.88	Nil
2. Assam	16	50	Nil	Nil
3. Gujarat	Nil	4.02	6.25	Nil
4. Himachal Pradesh	15	37.845	79.9	Nil
5. Daman & Diu	20	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. D. & N. Haveli	Nil	60	Nil	Nil
7. Kerala	Nil	22.05	14.7	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Madhya Pradesh		Nil	100	Nil	Nil
9. Manipur		3	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Maghalaya		13.75	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Orissa		45	17.5	13.15	Nil
12. Rajasthan		150.165	70.77	Nil	Nil
13. Tamil Nadu		Nil	Nil	100	Nil
14. Tripura		17.25	51.64	Nil	Nil
15. Uttar Pradesh		11.165	11	Nil	Nil
16. West Bengal		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17. J & K		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18. Karnataka		14.995	Nil	Nil	Nil
19. Maharashtra		10	Nil	Nil	Nil
20. Bihar		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21. Nagaland		Nil	Nil	Nil	32.5
Total		376.525	769.335	392.88	32.5

Amount Released Under the Scheme of Boys Hostels for STs.

(Amount in lakhs)

S. No. State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
(As on 20.11.2000)				
1. Andhra Pradesh	45.45	49	87.3	Nil
2. Assam	16	50	Nil	Nil
3. Gujarat	Nil	2.29	3	Nil
4. Himachal Pradesh	15	108.3	87.22	Nil
5. Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. D. & N. Haveli	Nil	60	Nil	Nil
7. Kerala	Nil	22.05	22.05	Nil
8. Madhya Pradesh	Nil	100	Nil	Nil
9. Manipur	13	13	26	Nil
10. Maghalaya	13.75	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Orissa	35	17.31	Nil	Nil
12. Rajasthan	159.6	192.1	319.21	Nil
13. Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	50	Nil
14. Tripura	15.25	35.86	103.65	Nil
15. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	9	Nil	Nil
16. West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17. J & K	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18. Karnataka	27.5	29.44	Nil	Nil
19. Maharashtra	12.5	66.24	Nil	Nil
20. Bihar	Nil	75	Nil	Nil
21. Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	32.5
Total	353.05	829.59	698.43	32.5

(As on 31.10.2000)

I. *Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs :*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		Funds Released	Physical Achiv.	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.
1.	Bihar	84.60	10,566	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	A.P.	Nil	Nil	325.00	70,000	Nil	Nil
3.	M.P.	64.00	8,957	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Tripura	1.40	Nil	100.00	46,920	95.785	55,068
5.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	16.00	6,156
Total		150.00	19,523	425.00	1,16,920	111.785	61,218

II. *Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students for studies in India*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		Funds Released	Physical Achiv.	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.
1.	Bihar	196.50	14,410	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	A.P.	116.00	3,259	324.26	26,151	Nil	Nil
3.	M.P.	149.00	10,426	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Tripura	3.00	Nil	55.00	4,570	Nil	Nil
5.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	118.00	11,073	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	25.00	500
7.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	91.36	5,530
Total		464.50	28,095	497.26	41,794	116.36	6,030

III. *Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls:*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		Funds Released	Physical Achiv.*	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.*	Funds Released	Physical Achiev.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bihar	120.53	3(300)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	A.P.	Nil	Nil	144.26	19(1900)	Nil	Nil
3.	M.P.	10.00	1(50)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	57.48	7(175)	Nil	Nil
5.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	78.26	17(985)	Nil	Nil
6.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	20.00	1(50)	Nil	Nil
Total		130.53	4(350)	300.00	44(3110)	Nil	Nil

*Number of Hostels (No. of Students).

SC, ST, OBC Ambassadors

[English]

539. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of countries where Indian High Commissioners and Ambassadors have been posted;

(b) the number out of them belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes; and

(c) the norms adopted for selecting Ambassadors and High Commissioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The number of countries where Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed by the Government of India is 114.

(b) The number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes is as follows:

SC: 10

ST: 7

OBC: Since at the time of appointment of the present Ambassadors/High Commissioners, there was no classification of OBC, the total strength in this category is not reflected in the records.

(c) 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 task and the posts.

Indo-UK Agreement in I.T. Sector

540. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Kingdom is Europe's largest e-commerce market and is the single largest investor in IT sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether U.K. has invited Indian Industry to invest in IT Sector in their country; and

(d) if so, the details and the response of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) As per a report commissioned by the UK Government's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), 27% of UK businesses are trading online. This puts the UK ahead of Germany and Sweden in this respect. UK is not the single largest investor in IT sector in India.

(c) and (d) The UK Minister for e-Commerce- Ms Patricia Hewitt was one of the keynote speakers at the IT fair "Bangaloreit. com" held at Bangalore recently. In her visit to India, she has invited Indian infotech sector to invest in UK by setting up of branch offices, subsidiaries and aligning with UK companies for doing business in UK and other European countries.

Spinal Injury Centres

541. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up some spinal injury centers in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these Spinal injury centers are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether there was any proposal to set up a spinal injury center at Cuttack in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, to whom the matter pertains, is launching a centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRC) for persons with Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic disabilities. The four centres are proposed to be located at MP (Jabalpur), Punjab (Mohali), Uttar Pradesh (Bareilly) and Orissa (Cuttack).

[Translation]

Grant to NGO's

542. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:

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

(a) the number of voluntary organisations whom the funds have been allocated by the Government during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the public funds being misused by the Non-Governmental organisations;

(c) if so, the voluntary organizations against whom complaints have been lodged during the said period;

(d) the total quantum of amount for which the utility certificate has not been submitted by these organisations;

(e) whether the Government propose to restrict further allocation of funds to these organisations;

(f) if not, the measures being taken by the Government to check the misuse of funds provided to these Non-Governmental Organisations;

(g) whether the Government also propose to formulate a policy with regard to the proper utilization of the funds being taken by the NGO's; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The number of voluntary organisations that have been released grant-in-aid assistance by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the last two years and the current year are indicated Statewise in enclosed statement-I to III.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has come to the notice of the Ministry that a few NGOs that have been funded in recent years have misutilised the funds released to them.

(c) In recent years and till October, 2000, 42 organizations have been blacklisted and in 15 cases the District Collectors have been directed to initiate action for recovery of the misutilised amounts.

(d) Utilisation Certificates have not been received in respect of an amount of Rs. 8.02 crores released to 132 organisations since 1998-99.

(e) to (g) Policy guidelines issued by the Ministry from time to time regulate the release of grant-in-aid and its utilization by the NGOs. In continuing cases further instalment of grant-in-aid assistance is released to an NGO only after utilization certificate in respect of previous grants is received. As such if receipt of utilization certificate in respect of any amount is pending from an NGO further releases would not be made to that organisation. Besides this, the working of the NGOs assisted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is regularly monitored and evaluated and officers of the Ministry, the State Governments and representatives of the designated inspection agencies periodically inspect the NGOs. The NGOs are liable for recovery of grant-in-aid if an assessment is made that the funds have been misutilised or the delivery of services by the NGO is not commensurate with the funds released.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement I

Scheme-wise & State-wise NGOs Who Received G-I-A During 1998-99

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	AP&A.	P. Assa.	Bih.	Goa.	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Mah.	Man.	Meg.	Miz.	Na.	Orr.	Pu.	Raj.	Sik.	TN	Tri.	UP	WB	A&N	Cha.	D&D	D&N	Del.	La.	Pon.	Total	
	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with																																	
1.	Disabilities	74	2	5	15	1	14	12	1	2	57	56	6	51	6	3	1	0	14	9	6	0	63	3	70	41	0	2	0	0	27	0	1	542
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	13	0	1	8	1	5	13	1	1	3	6	12	11	5	0	0	0	11	12	3	0	8	1	19	9	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	152
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs)	9	0	3	8	1	7	13	0	2	9	19	5	26	16	2	7	6	23	9	7	0	19	2	44	15	0	2	0	0	7	0	2	263
4.	Grant-in aid programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
5.	Integrated programme for Street Children	10	0	1	2	0	10	0	0	1	1	2	2	8	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	9	0	8	24	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	95	
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	99	0	3	1	0	1	10	1	0	8	2	2	9	26	0	0	0	37	7	1	0	30	2	36	42	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	323
	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./vol. Orgnas/self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	54	0	5	6	0	1	6	0	3	28	2	17	12	6	0	0	0	32	1	13	6	2	72	17	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	300	
	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Organs Working for the Other Backward Classes	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	32	
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	11	0	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	7	2	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	65	
	Total	276	2	27	46	3	39	57	3	9	109	97	58	132	72	5	8	6	122	42	36	1	137	10	281	154	1	6	0	0	79	0	3	1821

Statement II

Scheme-wise & State-wise NGOs Who received G-I-A during 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.	Assam Bih.	Go.	Guj.	Ha.	H.	J&K.	Kar.	Ker.	M.	Mah.	Man.	Me.	Mi.	Na.	Or.	Pu.	Raj.	Sik.	TN	Tri.	UP	WB	A&N	Che.	D &	D&NH	Del.	Lak.	Po.	Total	
	Promote Voluntary Action																																	
1.	for Persons with Disabilities	86	2	3	11	2	17	10	1	2	58	49	8	26	7	4	1	0	21	10	6	0	34	1	67	43	0	2	0	0	31	0	0	502
	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	8	0	1	8	1	5	3	1	0	3	2	10	13	7	0	0	0	9	6	3	0	14	1	39	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	148
	& Substance (Drugs)																																	
3.	Abuse	15	0	7	10	3	7	13	0	2	14	21	10	48	20	2	8	8	31	12	8	1	28	2	52	18	0	2	0	0	8	0	2	352
	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
	Integrated Programme for Street Children	18	0	2	1	0	14	0	0	1	4	2	1	18	1	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	12	1	9	26	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	128
	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	131	0	7	2	0	4	17	2	4	22	4	7	18	34	0	0	0	53	13	2	0	48	3	59	49	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	486
	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Insttis./Vol Orgns./self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	5	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	23	
	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	59	0	6	6	0	8	5	0	0	36	2	23	19	12	0	0	0	41	1	16	0	8	0	91	16	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	378
	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Organs. Working for the Other Backward	17	0	4	0	0	1	8	0	0	2	0	2	14	9	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	26	5	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	105
	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	9	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	2	10	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0*57
	Total	353	2	35	40	6	56	59	6	10	142	83	64	159	101	6	10	8	163	48	43	1	146	8	370	169	1	7	0	0	103	0	2	2201

Statement III

Scheme-wise & State-wise NGOs who Received G-I-A During 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.	Assa.	Bih.	Goa	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Mah.	Man.	Meg.	Miz.	Nag.	Orr.	Pun.	Raj.	Sik.	TN	Tri.	UP	WB	A&N	Cha.	D&	D&N	Del.	La.	Pon.	Total
	Promote Voluntary Action for																																	
1.	Persons with Disabilities	64	1	5	5	2	15	10	1	36	35	3	12	3	2	1	1	8	7				23	1	51	35								321
	Assistance to Disabled Persons																																	
2.	for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	11	4	5	3	3				2	6	4	3					4	2	2			9	1	17	4								88
	Prevention of Alcoholism &																																	
3.	Substance (Drugs) Abuse	7	15	26	3	7	13	1	2	15	21	10	53	20	2	9	8	31	12	8	1	28	2	52	18			2						376
	Grant-in-aid Programme for																																	
	Assistance in the field of																																	
4.	Social Defence	2																																12
	Integrated Programme for																																	
5.	Street Children	3	1							2	2	2	11					2	1	4			7	3	14			1						58
	Integrated Programme for																																	
6.	Older Persons	70	6			2	8	1	2	15	3	5	20					17	8			15		33	23									237
	Assistance to Panchayati Raj																																	
	Instts./Vol. Orgns./Self Help																																	
	Groups for Construction of Old																																	
	Age Homes/Multi Service																																	
7.	Centres for Older Persons	1	2							3																								6
	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns.																																	
	Working for the Welfare of																																	
8.	Scheduled Castes	54	8	4		13	7		2	39	2	11	10	15				61	18			10	1	56	9									349
	Scheme of Assistance to Vol.																																	
	Orgns. Working for the Other																																	
9.	Backward Classes	3	4			1	2			5	3	10						4				3	2	5	1									44
	Scheme of Pre-examination																																	
	Coaching for the Other																																	
10.	Backward Classes																																	0
	Scheme of Pre-examination																																	
	Coaching for Weaker Sections																																	
11.	Based on Economic Criteria.	5	1	4		1				1	4	4	8					2	1					7										40
	Total	220	1	41	43	6	44	43	5	7	108	68	46	102	79	4	10	9	121	31	40	4	94	5	230	107	1	3	0	0	57	0	2	1531

*[English]***Housing Facility to Labourers**

543. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that all those labourers who lost their houses in 1998 cyclone in Gujarat were promised to be given houses in Kutch;

(b) if so, the number of houses unit were proposed to be constructed for the purpose;

(c) whether it is a fact that progress made in the construction of houses is far below the satisfactory level;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Registration of Marriages**

544. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the registration of marriages compulsory to minimize the birth rate so as to control the increasing population:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a Bill in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 mentioned in the National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government proposes for 100% registration of marriages.

(c) There is no such proposal at the present.

(d) Does not arise.

Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal

545. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers flowing in the country from which water flows into Pakistan and which can be averted and used in India;

(b) the area remains unirrigated in these States due to shortage of such water;

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Union Government to complete the Satluj-Yamuna link Canal project during 2000-2001;

(d) the areas of land remains unirrigated in Haryana due to non-completion of the project and the estimated monetary loss suffered by the State as a result thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to complete the project at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Rivers Indus, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum and the Sutlej (after the confluence of Beas) flow into Pakistan from India. All the waters of the Eastern Rivers namely The Ravi, The Beas and The Sutlej are available for unrestricted use of India except for Domestic and Non-Consumptive Uses, and limited agricultural use in Pakistan, as specified in the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 between the two countries. India shall let flow all the waters of the Western Rivers namely The Indus, The Jhelum and The Chenab, but has been allowed to use them for Domestic Use, Non-Consumptive Use, limited agricultural use and generation of hydro-electric power from Run-of-River Plants. India has also been permitted 3.6 MAF of storage on Western Rivers for various uses. Specified withdrawals from Ranbir and Pratap Canals are also permitted to India.

(b) The commissioning of Thein (Ranjit Sagar) Dam and completion of Shahpurkandi Barrage will enable India to fully utilize the average quantum of waters of the Eastern rivers. Pending full irrigation development in the concerned States possible under the Treaty, the Irrigated Cropped Area within the basin of Western Rivers was 8,11,225 acres during 1998-99 against the permissible limit, in accordance with the Treaty, of 13,43,477 acres.

(c) to (e) The completion of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal is sub judice under a Suit filed by the State of Haryana in the Supreme Court. According to the State, over 3 lakh hectares of Irrigation potential already created remain unutilized.

Agro-Based Industries in Bihar

546. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are very few agro-based industries in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Government during the last two years to promote the agro-based industries in the State and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Margin Money Scheme launched by the KVIC for the development of Village Industries, including Agro based industries is also being implemented in Bihar State. Under this scheme individual entrepreneurs and NGOs are provided financial assistance to set up viable projects of agro based industries.

The performance of agro based industries in Bihar State for the last two years based on information given by the KVIC is as under:

Year	Production (Rs. in lakhs)	Employment
1997-98	9531.73	67,505
1998-99	9415.14	68,427

Special Employment Scheme

547. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to reduce the increasing population in metro cities and provide employment to the unemployed persons at their places of residence itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such scheme is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) (i) There is not special scheme for reducing the increasing population in Metro cities;

(ii) Under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which is under implementation since 1.12.1997, assistance in the form training, supply of toolkits, and financial assistance including bank credit, is given to urban poor below the poverty line who are unemployed or under-employed, to set their own self-employment ventures. These ventures can also set up in their own residences. Till date 2,38,155 beneficiaries have been assisted under the programme, and 1,79,693 beneficiaries have been given training.

(b) Details of the scheme are given in enclosed statement.

(c) In the light of (a) and (b) above, this is not applicable.

Statement**Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)**

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched with effect from 1.12.1997 subsuming the earlier Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes viz, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP). This scheme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. This programme relies on creation of suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies and such community structure. The SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the States.

The SJSRY consists of the following two special schemes:

- A. Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)
- B. Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

A. Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

This programme has three distinct parts:

- (a) Assistance to individual urban for beneficiaries for setting up gainful self-employment ventures.
- (b) Assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures. This sub-scheme is called "The Scheme for Development of Women and Children in the Urban Areas (DWCUA)".
- (c) Training of beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and other persons associated with the urban employment programme for upgradation and acquisition of vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

B. Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

This programme seeks to provide wage employment to beneficiaries living below the poverty line within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

This programme applies to urban local bodies, having population less than 5 lakhs as per the 1991 Census.

During the year 1997-98 and 1998-99, Rs. 98.63 crores and Rs. 158.47 crores respectively were released to the States and UTs under the scheme. For the year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 118.77 crores has been released to States/UTs. Also an amount of Rs. 163.70 crores has been tentatively allocated for the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 out of which an amount of Rs. 26.81 crores has been sanctioned for release to States.

*Financial and Physical Progress of Swarna Jayanti
Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)*

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Progress	Funds released during			Allocation for
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)	62.41	82.62	50.23	83.96
Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)	30.19	48.75	51.57	54.54

1	2	3	4	5
Community Structure (CS)	6.03	27.10	16.97	25.20
Total	98.63	158.47	118.77	163.70

Physical Progress

Physical cumulative progress as intimated upto 31.10.2000 by the States/UTs under different components is as under:

Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)

Mandays of work generated 232.51 lakhs

Assistance for Community Structures

Beneficiaries covered 273.89 lakhs
Persons trained 2,37,763

Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)

Beneficiaries assisted 2,38,155
Persons trained 1,79,693

Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA)

DWCUA groups formed 8,734
Women beneficiaries of DWCUA groups 11,413

Thrft & Credit Societies (T & CS)

T&CS formed 36,842

[English]

Delayed funds

548. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding non implementation or slow implementation of the schemes under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State wise;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy implementation of the schemes under MPLADS; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue fresh guidelines to the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Complaints have been received from some Members of Parliament regarding implementation of MPLAD Scheme. The State-wise details in this regard for the period from January, 2000 to October, 2000 are indicated in the statement, attached.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to expedite the pace of progress under the scheme, namely, advice to District Collectors to process and sanction works recommended by the Members of Parliament to the extent of their yearly entitlement of funds, to stipulate time limit in the work order for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame depending upon the nature of the work and advice to all State Governments to issue instructions to all DCs to quickly process the works recommended by the Members of Parliament and accord administrative and financial sanction within 45 days, to scrupulously follow the monitoring provisions by all concerned. Meetings are being held by Minister of State (Statistics & Programme Implementation) in States to review the progress of works under MPLADS. In the past, such Review Meetings were held in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal.

(d) Guidelines are under constant review and as and when necessary these are revised in consultation with the Committees on MPLADS, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(From 1st Jan, 2000 to 31 Oct, 2000)

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of cases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18
1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	23
5.	Goa	3
6.	Gujarat	12
7.	Haryana	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	J&K	4
10.	Karnataka	10

1	2	3
11.	Kerala	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16
13.	Maharashtra	26
14.	Manipur	—
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Mizoram	—
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	9
19.	Punjab	13
20.	Rajasthan	31
21.	Sikkim	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	8
23.	Tripura	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	86
25.	West Bengal	9
26.	A&N Island	—
27.	Chandigarh	—
28.	D.N. Haveli	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—
30.	Delhi	3
31.	Lakshdweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	—
Total		289

Admissions in ICMR Institutes and Centres

549. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in all the educational/academic institutions in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total year-wise number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in all ICMR Institutes and centers in (1) Pre-Graduation (2) Graduation, (3) Post Graduation level courses during the last five years;

(d) the number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last three years; and

(e) the reasons if the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the instructions, 15% and 7.5% of total seats for under-graduate/post graduate medical courses in all the Medical Colleges under the Central Government are reserved for SC/ST candidates respectively and these instructions are being followed in letter and spirit.

(c) to (e) Information from the ICMR is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Unemployed Youth

550. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of exploitation of unemployed youths by the private security agencies;

(b) whether it is fact that most of these security agencies are paying for less than the basic minimum wages fixed by the Government; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to check exploitation by these security agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) With a view to ensure that the workers engaged in security services are not exploited, it has been decided to add Security Services in the Schedule of employment under the Minimum Wages Act. A preliminary notification informing all concerned about the proposed addition of the employment in the schedule seeking objections and suggestions has been issued on 4th October, 2000.

[English]

"Return of Russian Valuables"

551. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has requested India to return all valuables left behind by famous Russian painter, Svetosloo Roerich, who made India his home; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A request has been received from the Government of the Russian Federation for the return of the remains of Svetoslav Roerich for reburial in St. Petersburg. The Government is examining this request.

[Translation]

Poverty is main cause of Ailment

552. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main cause of ailment according to World Health Organisation is poverty;

(b) the steps suggested by the World Health Organisation to check deaths due to poverty; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No Sir. The World Health Organization has only pointed out that poverty is one of the determinants of ill health as poor people do not have adequate purchasing power to access food and timely health care services which are necessary for attaining a level of good health.

Budgetary Support to RML & Safdarjung Hospitals

553. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi are provided less budgetary support in comparison to that of All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the budgetary support of Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Whereas Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital are only hospitals, AIIMS is a teaching institute where facilities of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching alongwith facilities of super-speciality teaching is available. The Staff Strength of AIIMS is above 6000, whereas that of Dr. RML Hospital a non teaching hospital is around 2900. The bed strength of AIIMS is 1596 whereas that of Dr. RML Hospital is 937. Safdarjung Hospital is also a non-teaching hospital with bed strength of 1531. The staff strength of this hospital is also less than that of AIIMS. Therefore, no effective comparison can be made between AIIMS and Safdarjung and Dr. RML Hospital. Government is keeping a constant watch on the requirement of Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals.

[English]

Sushrut Ayurvedic Hospital

554. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the post of Medical Superintendent in Sushrut Ayurvedic Hospital, New Delhi is presently being manned on part time basis whereas it is required to be manned by an officer on full time basis in the larger interest of the vast number of CGHS beneficiaries and their family members;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to go for proper manning of this post; and

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As an interim arrangement, Adviser (Ayurveda) in the Department of ISM & Homoeopathy has been given the additional charge of the post of Medical Superintendent of Sushrut Ayurvedic Hospital as there is no officer available who has the prescribed level of seniority for the post.

(c) and (d) This post has been advertised for filling it up on regular basis through UPSC.

[Translation]

Approval of Projects

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

(a) the total amount being allocated to the voluntary organisations during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that proposals of voluntary organizations are laying pending in the offices at district and State level for years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard;

(d) the time by which the pending proposals of voluntary organizations in district Bulandshahar and Uttar Pradesh are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines in this regard; and

(f) if not, steps likely to be taken for early clearance of pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The statements I to IV enclosed.

(b) to (f) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has issued "Guidelines for assisting NGOs/ VOs" in June, 2000 wherein it is prescribed that cases for release of 1st instalment of grant shall be received before 31st May and for 2nd instalment before 30th October. Cases for sanction of new projects should be received latest by 30th September of the financial year in question. Cases received in the Ministry from District Bulandshahar and Uttar Pradesh will be processed on merits.

Statement I

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.P.	Assam	Bh.	Goa	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Mah.	Man.	Meg.	Miz	Nag.	Orr.	Pun.	Raj.	Sk.	TN	Tri.	UP	WB	Total	
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	492.54	3.78	3.54	83.73	6.96	30.71	23.62	2.98	3.05	203.41	158.94	6.52	52.97	15.21	4.32	1.10		61.35	20.59	31.30		112.40	2.51	189.05	160.74	1671.32	
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	40.38	5.50		43.29	0.69	27.00	122.56	6.00	12.00	15.00	39.25	54.80	18.79			9.47		10.00	29.53	140.00		34.21	8.91	170.74	62.55	850.67	
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drug) Abuse	28.15	3.13		108.35	9.22	48.19	57.16		10.59	31.32	113.59	12.57	59.91	67.98	2.18	26.43	18.84	61.52	51.72	42.82	2.08	80.61	5.01	149.55	62.10	1053.00	
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	6.00																										
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	14.00		6.00			26.00				3.00	13.00		14.00	7.00		7.00		6.00		18.00		45.00		14.00	126.00	299.00	
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	192.36		3.39	2.76		3.47	19.63	3.27	0.35	15.94	7.73	6.67	1.37	24.34				64.67	3.12			69.39	9.93	95.27	73.66	597.32	
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Inlets Vol. Orgns./self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons			2.50								2.50								10.00	2.50		2.50				30.00	
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	186.46		1.64	25.53		2.50	8.54		1.17	167.80	1.45	39.72	46.18	9.15				92.72	4.08	17.72		4.70	2.06	170.73	96.84	878.99	
9.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.																											
		1.20			9.54					0.75	2.00	0.80	7.64	1.66	1.43				3.92		7.62			0.75	18.18		55.49	
	Total	961.09	12.41	17.07	273.20	16.87	137.87	241.51	12.25	27.91	438.47	337.26	127.92	194.88	125.11	6.50	44.00	18.84	300.18	119.04	259.96		2.06	348.81	29.17	825.52	589.89	5467.79

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	A&N	Chandigarh	D&N Have.	Daman & Diu	Delhi	Laksha.	Pondicherry	Total
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities		1.01			147.06		2.60	150.67
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances			3.21		51.97			55.18
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse		7.93			98.91		5.17	112.01
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence								0.00
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children					28.00			28.00
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons					9.14		3.05	12.19
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons								0.00
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes					123.65			123.65
9.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic Criteria.					12.91			12.91
Total		0.00	8.94	3.21	0.00	471.64	0.00	10.82	494.61

Statement II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 1998-99

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.P.	Assam	Bih.	Goa	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Ma.	Man.	Meg.	Miz.	Nag.	Or.	Pun.	Raj.	Sik.	TN	Tr.	UP	WB	Total
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	663.31	3.71	15.37	65.81	9.47	36.89	36.69	37.46	1.78	261.93	833.44	10.52	192.20	29.54	14.62	6.57	93.73	46.17	55.49		153.66	1.83	501.87	233.86	3306.92	
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of	201.83		1.23	58.22	0.35	76.59	138.52	10.00	12.00	34.3	65.44	142.15	56.26	34.28			272.05	146.69	286.27		46.52	2.90	353.45	79.75	2018.83	
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	30.93		19.03	30.32	6.18	44.46	84.05		13.65	1.30	103.82	33.58	124.32	163.64	11.62	49.70	32.05	103.80	62.42	66.93		65.46	7.97	235.74	82.20	1413.17
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of	3.19																						31.70	17.38	52.27	
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	47.15		5.58	1.99		55.74			2.16	7.19	6.56	6.70	47.37	3.53			5.10	7.05	14.78		66.55		35.62	150.32	463.39	
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	197.98		3.47	1.08		2.15	14.38	1.74		17.07	5.63	3.44	12.86	3.26			124.44	4.99	0.60		77.82	15.12	81.57	117.10	684.68	
7.	Instills/Vol. Organised Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons			36.94			23.50					17.50						3.50	20.50	5.00		12.00		24.49	3.70	149.13	
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	331.63		12.53	34.81		0.68	18.29		13.76	209.92	3.62	55.81	42.58	30.29			174.09	1.15	41.43		33.12	14.83	387.19	183.50	1589.23	
9.	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Castes	11.18		2.70									8.50	27.65	2.16			2.69				1.73		5.59	1.13	63.33	
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Castes			6.78								8.33	5.19					2.12								17.42	
11.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	16.28		1.67	41.80		0.33				7.33	7.31	18.61	7.78	12.62					4.06		0.69		73.20		191.68	
Total		1503.48	3.71	107.30	234.03	16.00	216.84	315.41	49.20	43.35	579.07	1044.65	284.50	511.02	279.82	26.24	56.27	32.05	781.52	208.97	474.56	1.73	455.82	42.65	1730.42	868.94	9949.05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid released During 1998-99

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	A&N	Chandigarh	D & N Haveli	Daman & Diu	Delhi	Lakshade.	Pondicherry	Total
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	1.03	0.00	0.00	588.39	0.00	0.63	590.05
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	0.00	22.19	0.00	0.00	377.51	0.00	0.00	399.70
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	0.00	9.98	0.00	0.00	66.87	0.00	8.60	85.45
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	0.00	1.85	0.00	0.00	50.41	0.00	0.00	52.26
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.49	0.00	5.08	50.57
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.88	0.00	0.00	210.88
9.	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.13	0.00	0.00	1.13
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.90	0.00	0.00	12.90
Total		0.00	35.05	0.00	0.00	1353.58	0.00	20.31	1408.94

Statement III

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 1999-2000

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.	P.	Assam	Bih.	Goa	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Ma.	Man.	Meg.	Miz.	Nag.	Orr.	Pun.	Raj.	Sk.	TN	Trl.	UP	WB	Total
Promote Voluntary Action for																												
1.	Persons with Disabilities	1208.35	13.00	28.35	60.32	17.68	75.36	57.51	32.42	9.24	571.99	442.04	17.43	263.72	57.06	17.41	25.31		193.96	64.94	88.13		325.69	6.82	772.39	365.53	4714.65	
Persons for Purchase of																												
2.	Aids/Appliances	134.25		4.47	31.76	0.98	101.25	19.04	19.80		28.51	28.00	110.88	149.85	25.00				135.61	55.19	348.78		86.01	1.45	1015.70	169.48	2468.01	
Prevention of Alcoholism &																												
3.	Substance (Drugs) Abuse	71.22		29.59	44.38	14.51	54.94	94.09		10.12	71.69	119.24	41.64	227.28	158.07	9.97	51.01	49.86	131.10	88.04	66.54		3.12	83.07	9.25	245.68	116.27	1790.68
Grant-in-aid Programme for																												
4.	Assistance in the field of	22.91																	225.00						27.16	8.76	283.83	
Social Defence																												
Integrated Programme for																												
5.	Street Children	101.75		5.71	1.83		89.41			7.75	12.37	14.00	7.77	41.98	8.06		1.79		7.93	8.55	25.67		81.46	0.50	72.28	192.73	681.54	
Integrated Programme for																												
6.	Older Persons	290.69		9.64	0.54		6.68	25.32	7.07		30.62	13.66	15.72	22.61	59.89				185.00	19.04	1.35		94.50	8.63	153.44	112.81	1038.17	
Assistance to Panchayati Raj																												
Institts./Vol Orgns./Self Help																												
Groups for Construction of																												
Old Age Homes/Multi Services																												
7.	Centres for Older Persons	50.00		28.86			29.00	10.00											31.50	10.00			10.00		27.00	10.00	206.36	
Grant-in-aid to Voluntary																												
Orgns. Working for the																												
8.	Welfare of Scheduled Castes	489.93		23.64	46.68		19.09	16.38			294.72	2.46	83.32	145.40	33.33				312.59	8.34	66.05		81.02		545.51	182.04	2350.50	
Scheme of Assistance to Vol.																												
Orgns. Working for the Other																												
9.	Backward Classes	15.82		4.32			0.89	7.33			1.55			20.13	10.56				3.66				0.95		25.11	5.66	95.98	
Scheme of Pre examination																												
Coaching for the Other																												
10.	Backward Classes													2.13														2.98
Scheme of Pre-examination																												
Coaching for Weaker																												
Sections based on Economic																												
11.	Criteria	28.44		7.78	52.53		1.80	3.15	16.46	21.16	1.08	17.83										5.25			80.68		236.16	
Total		2413.36	13.00	142.36	238.04	33.17	347.62	248.67	69.29	28.91	1014.60	635.86	300.05	872.05	369.80	27.38	78.11	49.86	1195.70	256.56	611.77		3.12	762.70	26.65	2964.95	1163.28	13866.86

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	A&N	Chandigarh	D & N Have.	Daman & Diu	Delhi	Lakshade.	Pondicherry	Total
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	1.41	0.00	0.00	679.04	0.00	1.44	681.89
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	376.17	0.00	0.00	376.17
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	0.00	10.66	0.00	0.00	60.49	0.00	5.43	76.58
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	0.00	8.59	0.00	0.00	71.66	0.00	0.00	80.25
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	16.37	0.00	10.12	27.86
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	197.04	0.00	0.00	197.04
9.	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.02	0.00	0.00	11.02
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.96	0.00	0.00	9.96
Total		0.55	32.03	0.00	0.00	1431.75	0.00	16.99	1481.32

Statement IV

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 2000-01

Sl.	Name of the Scheme	AP	Ar.P.	Assa	Bih.	Goa	Guj.	Har.	HP	J&K	Kar.	Ker.	MP	Mah.	Man.	Meg.	Miz	Nag	Orr.	Pun.	Raj.	Sk.	TN	Tr.	UP	WB	Total	
Promote Voluntary Action for																												
1.	Persons with Disabilities	590.19	6.32	17.01	53.67	8.67	57.39	37.86		2.08	288.44	294.17	7.63	105.88	28.84	17.4	9.37	2.83	93.21	59.23	48.63		217.92	3.01	808.44	250.59	2808.78	
Assistance to Disabled Persons																												
2.	for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	185.98			10.66		55.12	43.24	38.50			19.00	34.00	12.57	6.50				14.00	24.50	172.45		28.19	0.73	831.49	22.32	1499.25	
Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse																												
3.		27.37	0.00	17.85	18.65	9.71	50.00	31.80	3.61	11.68	35.21	59.93	23.62	132.98	67.45	0.01	36.69	15.10	98.78	45.59	44.20		2.16	37.38	6.01	146.52	51.84	974.14
Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social																												
4.	Defence	2.02																										
Integrated Programme for Older Children																												
5.		11.81				2.01					5.59	3.54	2.37	22.01					6.08	2.18	3.08		8.96		10.94	33.58	111.95	
Integrated Programme for Street Persons																												
6.		184.05		6.29			2.36	11.01	2.10	9.61	25.24	5.32	7.15	5.41	46.75				64.85	1.78			32.66		58.65	50.57	513.80	
Assistance to Panchayat Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons																												
7.		10.00		11.12								22.00															43.12	
Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes																												
8.		205.16		35.99	19.74		24.49	12.59		3.37	181.58	15.16	30.58	42.67	28.49				246.91		51.71		44.64	0.24	245.30	64.03	1252.65	
Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes																												
9.		3.27		4.45			1.42						8.25	4.50	12.1				4.66				2.11	2.80	7.68	1.27	52.72	
Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes																												
10.																											0.00	
Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria																												
11.		23.81		0.86	5.54		2.30				1.29		21.42	20.76	13.91				1.69		1.03				52.96		145.57	
Total																												
		1243.46	6.32	93.57	108.26	20.39	193.08	136.50	44.21	26.74	537.35	419.12	135.02	346.78	204.25	17.41	40.06	17.93	530.18	133.28	321.10	4.27	372.55	9.99	1975.26	483.02	7436.10	

Scheme-wise & State-wise Grant-in-aid Released During 2000-01

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	A&N	Chandigarh	D&N Haveli	Daman & Diu	Delhi	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	Total
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	456.54	0.00	0.00	456.54
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Aids/Appliances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.05	0.00	0.00	113.05
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	0.00	5.99	0.00	0.00	37.81	0.00	3.05	46.85
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	1.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.58
5.	Integrated Programme for Street Children	0.00	2.88	0.00	0.00	28.09	0.00	0.00	30.97
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.55	0.00	4.62	25.17
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./self Help Groups for construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	136.79	0.00	0.00	136.79
9.	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.00	0.00	1.17
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.07	0.00	0.00	10.07
Total		1.58	8.87	0.00	0.00	804.07	0.00	7.67	822.19

*[English]***Narmada Dam**

556. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the implications of the recent Supreme Court Judgement on Narmada Dam on the policy of the Centre in regard to developmental projects;

(b) whether many proposals taken to the Narmada Dam are pending with the Centre for ecological clearance;

(c) if so, whether the Centre contemplate to take the Apex Court's judgement on Narmada Dam into consideration while processing the pending proposals;

(d) whether the Supreme Court Judgement on Narmada has put the aspects of developmental benefits above the environmental considerations; and

(e) if so, whether the Centre will follow these guidelines when deciding on the pending proposals similar to Narmada Dam Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The recent Supreme Court Judgement on Narmada Dam broadly in line with the policy of the Centre on developmental projects.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Supreme Court Judgement has given due consideration to development benefits and environmental issues and the guidelines are followed by the Centre.

India-EU Ties

557. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed by the Prime Minister with his Counterparts during his last visit to the European Union; and

(b) the outcome thereof in different Sectors, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation for the first India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28,

2000. Various bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual concern were discussed during this Summit.

A major achievement of the Summit was the mutual agreement between India and the EU to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century. The India-EU Joint Declaration, which was adopted at the Summit, provides broad guidelines for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, economic and commercial fields was also agreed upon. The two sides also agreed to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. It was agreed that India and the EU will together strive for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The visit also enabled us to convey our concerns regarding trade related protectionist measures as well as to share views on WTO-related matters. It was agreed that both sides would work to progressively liberalise trade, oppose protectionist tendencies and create an open, equitable and non-discriminatory rule-based multilateral trading system.

AIDS Generated Tuberculosis

558. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tuberculosis has increased because of its association with HIV/AIDS; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control AIDS Generated Tuberculosis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) HIV/AIDS diminishes body resistance and therefore increases the risk of progression from TB infection to disease. Lifetime risk of developing TB increases from 5-10% in HIV negative cases, to 50% in HIV positive cases. However, at present there is no authentic data demonstrating that HIV has resulted in the increase of TB in the country.

(b) The treatment for both HIV infected TB patients and non-HIV infected TB patients is the same with the exception of the use of Thiacetzone. Instead of Thiacetzone, Ethambutol is being used in patients with known or suspected HIV infection or for high risk HIV persons suffering from TB. In all those States of the country where Sero-prevalence of HIV is estimated to be more than 1%, the use of Thiacetzone has already been stopped for treatment of TB patients under the National

TB Control Programme. Similarly, in the rest of the areas where Thiacetzone is used, Ethambutol for HIV suspects is also given. In addition, in RNTCP areas it is envisaged to provide TB services through the counseling centres for HIV, and active case detection is also proposed amongst HIV positive cases and their contacts as also training of TB worker in HIV and HIV-AIDS worker in TB, particularly in areas with high incidence of HIV infection.

CAT/PAT

559. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal and Provincial Administrative Tribunals as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of those cases lying pending for more than two years;

(c) the number of those cases pertaining to the matter of transfers; and

(d) the action being taken for their speedy disposal?

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) As on 30th September, 2000, 43,457 cases were pending in Central Administrative Tribunal, out of which 20,584 cases were pending for more than two years including 242 cases relating to transfer matters. The information relating to pending cases etc. in the State Administrative Tribunals is not centrally maintained.

(d) The Central Government and the State Governments do not interfere in the judicial functioning of the Central Administrative Tribunal and of the State Administrative Tribunals respectively and all cases are decided by the Tribunals on merit keeping in view the provisions of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 and the rules made thereunder etc.

[*Translation*]

ISI Mark on Mineral Water

560. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made it mandatory to put ISI mark on mineral waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite this order mineral water is available in very large numbers without ISI mark; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The notification issued on 29.9.2000 under the PFA Act, 1954 requires the BIS to certify that the quality of mineral water complies with the standards and guidelines specified under the PFA Rules, 1955 after periodic inspection of the manufacturing unit and also after sampling the products lifted either from the manufacturing unit or from the market.

(c) and (d) The above notification comes into effect only from 29.3.2001, giving units adequate time to prepare themselves to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Till then the BIS certification scheme, being implemented under the BIS Act, remains voluntary in nature. Hence all mineral water currently in the market may not have the ISI mark on them.

[*English*]

Medical Store Depots

561. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2991 dated March 14, 2000 and state:

(a) whether as per note given in Annexure-A to the answer, the posts of Store Superintendent, Assistant Liaison Officer, Drivers, Packers, Cleaners and Carpenters are sanctioned for CGHS Medical Store Depot only, as such this staff cannot be transferred to other places of posting;

(b) the actual number of Store Depots of CGHS or Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where the unwanted members of staff have been transferred without the completion of their normal tenure of even three to five years, by the authorities concerned during the last three years; and

(c) the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this respect so that the officials with vested

interests are not allowed to manipulate their over-stay under the label of administrative exigencies and those loyal and honest to Government are transferred before completion of this normal tenure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of posts sanctioned under different system of stores under CGHS Delhi in the Statement attached. However, one post of Store Superintendent and one post of Junior Carpenter is also sanctioned for CGHS Family Welfare Store, Nirman Bhavan, whereas the posts of Packers are sanctioned for all stores except Unani Store Depot functioning under CGHS, Delhi.

(b) Transfer and posting of staff is made keeping in view the public interest and Administrative exigencies.

(c) In view of 'b' above the question does not arise.

Statement

The details of the posts sanctioned in different system of stores is as under:

<i>CGHS Medical Store Depot</i>	
Assistant Liaison Officer (M)	1
Stores Superintendent	2
Drivers Gr. I & II	31
Cleaner	5
Carpenter	1
Carpenter Jr.	1
Packer	17
<i>Homeopathic Store Depot</i>	
Packer	1
<i>F.W. Store Depot</i>	
Stores Superintendent	1
Carpenter Jr.	1
Packer	2
<i>A.Y. Store Depot</i>	
Packer	2

Setting Up of National Board For Medicinal Plant

562. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up National Board for Medicinal Plants for development of Indian System of Medicine of Homeopathy and other systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (c) Establishment of a Medicinal Plant Board under the Chairmanship of Minister of Health and Family Welfare has since been approved. The Board will have representatives of Central Ministries, Departments and other stake holders. The Board will act as an agency to coordinate various functions such as conservation, cultivation, marketing and export etc. and would also prepare policies and strategies for the overall development of medicinal plants sector.

Population Control

563. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have their own population policies and they are not in need of contraceptives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bring population under control in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is true that some States have their own population policies. However, all States and UTs continue to get supplies of contraceptives from the Central Government.

(b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh have adopted their own population policies. As regards their requirement for contraceptives, the statements enclosed provide an updated status report (Statement I to III).

(c) The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 along with strategies, which will lead to achieving population stabilization by 2045.

Statement I**Statewise Supply Position of Free Nirodh-2000-01**

(In Million Pieces)

S.No.	States/UTs	Balance as on 1.4.2000	Condoms utilised during 1999-2000	Demand for 2000-01	Quantity allocated In 2000-01\$	Quantity supplied till 4.11.2000	Total quantity available (3+7)
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	41.64	82.50	40.00	35.00	35.00
2.	Assam	1.89	2.22	3.00	2.00	2.00	3.89
3.	Bihar	1.67	3.85	28.80	3.00	3.00	4.67
4.	Delhi	8.05	11.65	35.00	16.00	16.00	24.05
5.	Gujarat	0.00	63.62	90.00	60.00	56.00	56.00
6.	Haryana	0.00	25.84	37.00	25.00	23.00	23.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.12	4.75	7.00	5.00	5.00	5.12
8.	J&K	1.59	0.49	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.59
9.	Karnataka	0.00	19.40	25.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	10.48	21.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	103.14	150.00	80.00	71.00	71.00
12.	Maharashtra	18.49	37.08	55.00	40.00	32.00	50.49
13.	Orissa	0.00	19.50	22.43	15.00	15.00	15.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	29.75	50.00	20.00	16.00	16.00
15.	Rajasthan	0.00	60.53	65.00	46.00	35.00	35.00
16.	Tamilnadu	11.57	20.88	26.00	20.00	20.00	31.57
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	137.40	300.00	120.00	88.00	88.00
18.	West Bengal	0.00	23.21	50.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
19.	Manipur	1.14	0.21	1.00		0.00	1.14
20.	Meghalaya	0.12	0.01	0.30		0.08	0.20
21.	Nagaland	0.20		0.20			0.20
22.	Sikkim	0.17	0.03	0.20		0.06	0.23
23.	Tripura	0.00	1.27	1.08		1.00	1.00
24.	A&N Island	0.02	0.15	0.00		0.00	0.02
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.11	0.05	0.15		0.05	0.16
26.	Chandigarh	1.45	0.49	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.45
27.	D&N Haveli	0.06		0.10		0.00	0.06

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Goa	2.07	0.48	1.50	1.00	1.00	3.07
29.	Daman & Diu	0.15	0.08	0.10		0.00	0.15
30.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.03	0.02		0.00	0.00
31.	Mizoram	0.50	0.04	0.50		0.20	0.70
32.	Pondichery	0.67	0.63	0.60		0.60	1.27
	M/Defence*	0.00	1.73			0.00	0.00
	M/Railway*	0.00	3.73			0.00	0.00
	MS Depots#	0.87		10.00	10.00	6.01	6.88
Total		50.91	624.36	1066.48	550.00	473.00	523.91

Out of 0.87, 0.79 m. pcs has been released to smaller States/Uts & out of 10.0 m.Pcs, 3.2 m to Raj.. (2.0), Tripura (i.u) Mizoram (0.2), released.

* Stock is supplied by the States to Railways & Defence.

\$ Stock is not allocated to smaller States/UTs. It is supplied from Depots as per their demand.

Statement II

Details of Copper-T supplied during 2000-2001

State/UT/Others	Balance as on 1.4.2000	Requirement received from States for 2000-2001	Quantity allocated for the year 2000-2001	Quantity supplied during 2000-2001 upto 15.11.2000	Total availability during 2000-2001	Utilisation 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2.925	4.000	3.000	1.000	3.925	2.850
Assam	1.659	1.000	1.000	0.200	1.859	0.390
Bihar	3.139	4.370	2.000		3.139	1.820
Gujrat	2.610	6.000	4.500	0.500	3.110	4.140
Haryana	1.673	0.650	0.650	0.250	1.923	1.630
Karnataka	1.435	4.000	4.000		1.435	3.720
Kerala	0.180	1.250	1.250	0.600	0.780	0.820
Madhya Pradesh	1.423	5.500	5.400	1.400	2.823	5.720
Maharashtra	2.101	4.000	4.000	0.500	2.601	3.920
Orissa	2.748	2.000	2.000	0.500	3.248	1.890
Punjab	4.594	6.500	4.000		4.594	3.950
Rajasthan	6.069	6.000	3.060	0.060	6.129	2.360

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	2.660	4.000	4.000	1.410	4.070	4.390
Uttar Pradesh	9.941	39.000	15.000	2.000	11.941	21.000
West Bengal	1.281	2.000	1.610	0.610	1.891	0.780
Himachal Pradesh	0.564	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.964	0.350
Jammu & Kashmir	0.469	0.250	0.250	0.100	0.569	0.070
Manipur	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.060
Meghalaya	0.139	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.163	0.022
Nagaland	0.000	NR	0.010	0.010	0.010	NR
Sikkim	0.070	0.012	0.012		0.070	0.010
Tripura	0.196	0.115	0.115		0.196	0.040
A & N Islands	0.009	0.019	0.020	0.020	0.029	0.009
Arunachal Pradesh	0.098	0.030	0.030		0.098	0.016
Chandigarh	0.195	0.050	0.050		0.195	0.050
D & N Haveli	0.003	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.008	0.003
Delhi	0.428	0.820	0.820	0.500	0.928	0.550
Goa	0.046	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.081	0.029
Daman & Diu	0.011	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.013	0.002
Lakshadweep	0.009	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.011	0.001
Mizoram	0.190	0.500	0.100	0.040	0.230	0.007
Pondicherry	0.018	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.048	0.040
M/o Defence	0.000				0.000	0.070
M/o Railways	0.045				0.045	0.090
Total	46.928	92.864	57.675	10.498	57.381	60.799

Statement III*Details of Mala-N Supplied During the Year 2000-2001**(in Lakh Cycles)*

	Balance as on 1.4.2000	Requirement received from States for 2000-2001	Quantity allocated for the year 2000-2001	Supplied during 2000-2001 upto 15.11.2000	Total availability (3+5)	Utilisation during 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	18.770	45.000	35.000	10.000	28.770	31.020
Assam	3.950	1.000	1.000	1.000	4.950	3.400
Bihar	60.720	25.000	18.000		60.720	5.120
Gujarat	4.240	34.610	30.000	5.000	9.240	23.030

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	4.650	5.000	5.000	2.500	7.150	8.390
Karnataka	0.000	8.000	10.000		0.000	19.250
Kerala	1.120	3.750	3.750	3.750	4.870	3.880
Madhya Pradesh	0.000	87.500	100.000	30.000	30.000	80.430
Maharashtra	0.000	35.000	27.600	8.850	8.850	46.770
Orissa	7.400	14.000	13.280	13.280	20.680	14.830
Punjab	0.000	17.750	20.000	20.000	20.000	14.950
Rajasthan	23.400	60.000	48.000	12.000	35.400	50.240
Tamil Nadu	32.090	29.000	25.000		32.090	26.550
Uttar Pradesh	32.350	246.000	115.000	75.130	107.480	109.370
West Bengal	5.960	81.250	60.000	18.000	23.960	41.200
Himachal Pradesh	0.710	3.500	3.500	3.500	4.210	3.200
Jammu & Kashmir	7.430	1.000	1.000	1.000	8.430	0.360
Manipur	0.560	1.000	0.270	0.270	0.830	0.130
Meghalaya	1.850	1.000			1.850	0.190
Nagaland	0.000		0.200	0.200	0.200	NR
Sikkim	0.277	0.255	0.200	0.200	0.477	0.240
Tripura	0.000	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	3.530
A & N Islands	0.270	0.190			0.270	0.080
Arunachal Pradesh	0.890				0.890	0.160
Chandigarh	0.150	0.050			0.150	0.040
D & Haveli	0.000	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.011
Delhi	1.230	2.090	1.280	1.280	2.510	1.000
Goa	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.260
Daman & Diu	0.080	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.100	0.030
Lakshadweep	0.237	0.010			0.237	0.013
Mizoram	0.800	1.000	0.200	0.200	1.000	0.180
Pondichery	0.005	0.200	0.100	0.100	0.105	0.120
M/o Defence	0.000				0.000	0.500
M/o Railways	0.000				0.000	0.510
Total	209.139	705.895	521.120	209.000	418.139	488.984

Cauvery Water Dispute

564. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cauvery River Authority was established under his Chairmanship in August 1998;

(b) the number of weeks since then in which the actual flow of Cauvery waters to the Mettur reservoir has approximated to within 1 tmc less or more than the weekly flow stipulated in the schedule annexed to the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal;

(c) the percentage of shortfall, week-wise in the actual flows compared to the stipulated flows during the four crucial months of the Kuruval agricultural season, June to September, in the calendar years 1999 and 2000;

(d) the percentage of excess supplies week-wise in the actual flows compared to the stipulated flows during the period of the North-East monsoon, October to December, in the calendar year 1999, as also in the months of September and October, 2000 after the harvesting of the bulk of the Kuruval crop; and

(e) whether Government propose to request the Hon'ble Supreme Court to resume its hearings in the light of the manifest failure of the Cauvery River Authority to ensure the implementation week by week of the weekly schedule stipulated in the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Cauvery River Authority was established under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister in August, 1998.

(b) to (e) Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its interim order of June 25, 1991 has directed the State of Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs in Karnataka so as to ensure that 205 TMC of water is available in Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir in a year from June to May. It has further directed that State of Karnataka shall regulate the release of water in a particular monthly pattern. In respect of particular month, the releases are to be made in four equal instalments. If in a particular week, it is not possible to release the required quantum of water, the said deficit shall be made good in the subsequent week. The Tribunal has further clarified in December, 1995 that their order dated 25th June, 1991 clearly spells out that the deficiency in a particular week has to be made good in a subsequent week and not necessarily within a particular month in which the deficit occurs. Until the deficit is made good, the deficit would accumulate. In a particular year, shortfall or excess in releases would have to be adjusted in an appropriate manner before the close of the particular season. The Cauvery River Authority was constituted to give effect to the implementation of the Order of 1991 and all subsequent related orders of the Tribunal. The weekly inflow at Mettur reservoirs vis-a-vis required flows as per CWDT interim order during the Calendar year 1999 and 2000 are given in attached Statement. The Cauvery River Authority has so far held two meetings and the Cauvery Monitoring Committee has held six meetings.

Statement

Weekly Flows 1999 (TMC)			Weekly Flows 2000 (TMC)		
Month	Stipulated Flows in Mettur Reservoir As per CWDT Interim Order	Actual flows in Meattur Reservoir (As informed by Tamil Nadu Govt.)	Month	Stipulated Flows in Mettur Reservoir as per CWDT Interim Order	Actual flows in Mettur Reservoir (As informed by Tamil Nadu Govt.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
June				June	
I	2.371	1.211	I	2.371	1.316
II	2.371	2.865	II	2.371	0.502
III	2.371	1.263	III	2.371	0.217
IV	3.048	5.077	IV	3.048	1.406
Monthly Total	10.161	10.436	Total	10.16	3.934
July			July		
I	9.655	0.989	I	9.655	4.348
II	9.655	0.956	II	9.655	3.781
III	9.655	4.271	III	9.655	7.502

1	2	3	4	5	6
IV	13.794	17.894	IV	13.794	2.357
Monthly Total	42.759	24.110	Total	42.76	17.277
August			August		
I	12.356	19.829	I	12.356	7.202
II	12.356	23.968	II	12.356	3.487
III	12.356	6.669	III	12.356	3.487
IV	17.652	5.413	IV	17.052	25.069
Monthly Total	54.720	55.879	Total	54.72	39.244
September			September		
I	6.851	3.279	I	6.851	10.075
II	6.851	2.026	II	6.851	10.569
III	6.851	0.884	III	6.851	12.640
IV	8.808	4.017	IV	8.808	23.978
Monthly Total	29.361	10.206	Total	29.36	59.453
October			October		
I	6.813	13.807	I	6.813	31.594
II	6.813	9.313	II	6.813	38.540
III	6.813	11.958	III	6.813	15.287
IV	9.732	46.874	IV	9.732	28.827
Monthly Total	30.171	81.952	Total	30.17	114.247
November			November		
I	3.745	12.657	I	3.745	6.645
II	3.745	6.415			
III	3.745	4.765			
IV	4.815	15.590			
Monthly Total	16.050	39.427			
December					
I	2.342	6.071			
II	2.342	4.490			
III	2.342	4.196			
IV	3.345	5.325			
Monthly Total	10.371	20.082			
Total	193.593	242.092	Sub Total	167.171	234.155

Drip Polio Vaccination

565. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government for the drip polio vaccination during 1999 and 2000 till date, State-wise; and

(b) the number of children benefitted by the each Drip Polio Vaccination drive in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):
(a) Statements of funds released State wise during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for the Pulse Polio Programme is given in Statement-I attached.

(b) State wise number of children covered by Pulse Polio Immunization rounds is given in Statement II attached.

Statement I

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
		(Fund released during)	
Sl No.	States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	1161.94	457.09
2	Arunachal Pradesh	185.10	6.31
3	Assam	785.73	393.18
4	Bihar	1695.69	2206.53
5	Goa	35.83	5.99
6	Gujarat	954.71	590.06
7	Haryana	329.11	352.79
8	Himachal Pradesh	272.86	66.06
9	Jammu & Kashmir	257.17	96.07
10	Karnataka	590.77	372.20
11	Kerala	525.41	130.25
12	Madhya Pradesh	2237.09	1334.82
13	Maharashtra	1269.71	516.61
14	Manipur	138.51	9.52

1	2	3	4
15.	Meghalaya	114.42	13.45
16.	Mizoram	66.54	3.59
17.	Nagaland	112.67	7.59
18.	Orissa	899.83	145.73
19.	Punjab	361.01	312.18
20.	Rajasthan	1200.65	939.58
21.	Sikkim	63.15	2.45
22.	Tamilnadu	880.43	329.70
23.	Tripura	90.63	12.80
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2876.25	3535.13
25.	West Bengal	1031.88	1104.74
26.	A&N Islands	14.41	2.09
27.	Chandigarh	30.23	5.15
28.	D&N Haveli	25.83	1.56
29.	Daman & Diu	34.26	0.98
30.	Lakshadweep	24.01	0.60
31.	Delhi	240.64	257.38
32.	Pondicherry	51.01	4.91
Total		18557.45	13217.09

Statement II

Sl. No.	State/UTs	24th Oct. 1999	21st Nov. 1999	19th Dec. 1999	23rd Jan. 2000	27th Feb. 2000	26th Mar. 2000	23rd Apr. 2000	24th Sep. 2000
Provisional									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	A & N Islands	40095	40128	40004	40253				
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9848606	10446207	10343361	10250317				
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	191835	197863	197187	198734				
4.	Assam	4221984	4267636	4423809	4397860	4492651	4553661		
5.	Bihar	19301316	18269368	19815850	19057161	21209779	19919187		20035015
6.	Chandigarh	104773	110063	113480	115230				
7.	D & N Haveli	29250	29289	30900	31692				
8.	Daman & Diu	16492	17230	17993	18606				
9.	Delhi	1943749	2015191	2118412	2269537		1930688		2313104
10.	Goa	119941	122799	124562	128113				
11.	Gujarat	6160034	5900755	6383787	6603064	6622070	6686777		
12.	Haryana	3185589	3335029	3456469	3543661				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Himachal Pradesh	669587	674656	681151	688383				
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1499222	1536400	1447142	257854				
15.	Karnataka	6382044	7094088	7077449	6861814				
16.	Kerala	2856848	2868981	2875708	2886227				
17.	Lakshadweep	6572	Not Reported		6725				
18.	Madhya Pradesh.	12136544	12348675	12511535	13769457	13476675	13415303		
19.	Maharashtra	8686384	8783592	8893023	116742				
20.	Manipur	223888	323692	330847	299667				
21.	Meghalaya	429890	421849	418940	426330				
22.	Mizoram	110928	110089	109604	110920				
23.	Nagaland	227333	232755	229348	237296				
24.	Orissa	4031529	2532943	4568137	4601990	4639264	4317325	1981373	
25.	Pondicherry	95349	102089	102389	103934				
26.	Punjab	3374277	3410874	3504395	3491648				
27.	Rajasthan	9636232	9850831	9795060	9010618	9864273	10028476		
28.	Sikkim	72630	74685	73236	74265				
29.	Tamil Nadu	6888523	7040429	7212537	7290497				
30.	Tripura	386684	387972	392969	405540				
31.	Uttar Pradesh	29782249	30763206	31567427	31468584	31969325	32226046	31957229	
32.	West Bengal	8829634	9008168	8173979	9167293	9210050	9117830	7023754	
Total		141490011	142317532	147030690	149290012	101484087	102195293	1981373	61329102

[Translation]

Demand for I.T. Professionals

566. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian Engineers associated with Information Technology has gained momentum during the last three years;

(b) if so, facts thereof and details of the requests received from various countries and number of professionals gone abroad so far, country-wise;

(c) whether this would lead to the scarcity of engineers in our own country; and

(d) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to tackle this problem or stop the engineers from going abroad in national interest?

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

(b) Based on the export target of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008 set by the IT Task Force, the NASSCOM McKinsey Report has projected a total requirement of 2.2 million IT professionals by the year 2008 domestically. In addition, there is a global shortage of 1.5 million IT professionals over the next 5 years. This number is almost equally divided between the USA, Western Europe and South East Asia including Japan. Government does not regulate or monitor IT professionals leaving the country to work abroad.

(c) and (d) Several steps have been initiated by the Government to promote IT education at various levels which include: setting up of Smart Schools, promotion of virtual Universities, IT Education in the non-formal sector through the Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DoEACC) Scheme and increasing the intake of students in IT related disciplines in IITs, Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) and other engineering colleges. No critical shortage is likely to arise.

Small Scale Industries Under PMRY

567. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Small and Cottage Industries running under the Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana in Rajasthan specially in Alwar district;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for setting up Small and Cottage Industries in Rajasthan under this scheme;

(c) the reasons for delay in disposal of these applications; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to dispose of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per reports received from the State Government, loans have been disbursed to 49,864 unemployed educated youth, to set up self-employed ventures between 1993-94-1999-2000 in Rajasthan, under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana. During this period, loans were disbursed to 1,814 persons in Alwar district. Evaluation studies have shown that units were set-up in most of the cases where loans have been disbursed.

(b) The State Government has reported that 2,089 applications were pending with the District Industries Centres of the State as on 31.03.2000.

(c) and (d) As per the PMRY (Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana) norms, the applications to be sponsored to the banks should be equal to 125% of the target. Therefore, at the end of any financial year, there are likely to be

some pending applications. As reported by the State Government, the pending applications have been sponsored to the banks during the current year.

[English]

Proposal from Karnataka for Malaria and Leprosy

568. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has urged the Centre to release Rs. 5.00 lakhs worth of material as its share for urban malaria eradication programme and Rs. 62.00 lakhs for National Leprosy Control Programme;

(b) if so, whether the budget allotment for the year 2000-2001 has already been made but the funds to the State has not yet been released;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Malaria (Urban): Under National Anti Malaria Programme (Urban), an allocation of Rs. 81.86 lakhs for providing assistance in kind to Karnataka during the year 2000-01 has been made.

These allocations are meant for supply of larvicides and other materials under the Programme to Karnataka as per approved norms. The process of procurement of these items has been initiated.

Leprosy: Under National Leprosy Control Programme, an allocation of Rs. 199.75 lakhs in cash and kind has been made during 2000-01 for Karnataka. Out of the said allocation, cash assistance amounting to Rs. 31.75 lakhs has already been released to the State.

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

Surveillance mechanism to check viral disease

569. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop an efficient surveillance mechanism in order to check emerging viral diseases in the country every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A National Community-based disease Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases has been launched on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country. It is proposed to expand this programme to cover the entire country eventually. The programme aims at detection of early warning signals of outbreaks and rapid response for prevention and control of these outbreaks and diseases. The programme strategies are :

- Training;
- Modernization and upgradation of laboratories and office;
- Strengthening of linkages for disease surveillance from peripheral to central levels;
- Networking the State/Regional and National Institutions;
- Information, Education and Communication activities;
- Electronic means of communications and data processing.

Indian Resolutions on Nuclear Weapons

570. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has placed resolutions before the 55th Session of U.N. General Assembly relating to ban on nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these resolutions were put to vote in the U.N. General Assembly;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of countries (i) which supported the said resolutions, (ii) which were against those resolutions and (iii) which remained neutral; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. India tabled its traditional resolution on "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" at the First Committee of the 55th General Assembly of the United Nations. The resolution, co-sponsored by 30 countries, was adopted by 101 votes in favour, 42 against and 14 abstentions. A copy of the resolution as well as the voting sheet is attached.

(f) Government believes that it is important for nuclear doctrines to be reoriented towards no-first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon States, thus beginning the process of de-legitimizing nuclear weapons globally. A multilateral agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would strengthen international security and contribute to improving the climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

I.T. Centres

571. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Information and Technology Centres are increasing in the country particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) the criteria laid down for setting up a centre through Central Government assistance; and

(d) the name of the State which is growing faster in Information and Technology Centre?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Information Technology is implementing a scheme for setting up Community Information Centres (CIC's) for socio-economic development of States with poorest infrastructure being the North East States, Sikkim, and Jammu & Kashmir. There is no proposal to set up such centres in any other States.

[Translation]

MPLADS

572. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make the implementation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme easy and systematic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount released and spent during the last one year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Continuous efforts are made to make the implementation of MPLADS more systematic and easy. The Guidelines on MPLADS for this purpose are under periodic review and necessary amendments are being made from time to time.

(c) Since MPLADS funds are non lapsable, cumulative figures on release and expenditure as on 31.10.2000 are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

Summary Statement for Release/Expenditure of LS and RS MP's (as on 31/10/2000)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	1993-2001				
		Release by G.O.I. (Rs. lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. lakhs)	% Sanction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. lakhs)	% Utilisation over Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Nominated	6700	5213.5	77.8	3379.9	50.4
2.	Andhara Pradesh	54795	49562.0	90.4	33872.4	61.8
3.	Arunachal Pr.	2565	2238.8	87.3	1600.7	62.4
4.	Assam	17195	14110.0	82.1	10904.9	63.4
5.	Bihar	59910	49886.0	83.3	36334.3	60.6
6.	Goa	2165	1519.2	70.2	1201.0	55.5
7.	Gujarat	31375	25908.0	82.6	17676.8	56.3
8.	Haryana	12425	10891.0	87.7	8349.3	67.2
9.	Himachal Pr.	6185	5283.8	85.4	4388.4	71.0
10.	J & K	4200	3289.9	78.3	1855.9	44.2
11.	Karnataka	34250	28859.0	84.3	21846.8	63.8
12.	Kerala	23225	19915.0	85.7	11790.9	50.8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	48255	40607.0	84.2	31708.2	65.7
14.	Maharashtra	55515	47683.0	85.9	28704.4	51.7
15.	Manipur	2715	2352.7	86.7	1978.3	72.9
16.	Meghalaya	1915	1507.7	78.7	1428.3	74.6
17.	Mizoram	1910	1707.0	89.4	1598.4	83.7
18.	Nagaland	1660	1722.0	103.7	1510.0	91.0
19.	Orissa	26740	22241.0	83.2	13949.2	52.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Punjab	15405	12505.0	81.2	7002.4	45.5
21.	Rajasthan	31365	26819.0	85.5	17300.3	55.2
22.	Sikkim	1710	1620.8	94.8	1501.1	87.8
23.	Tamil Nadu	55985	52907.0	94.5	42701.5	76.3
24.	Tripura	2415	2027.2	83.9	1072.3	44.4
25.	Uttar Pradesh	00475	85960.0	85.6	62424.6	62.1
26.	West Bengal	44055	36784.0	83.5	23956.0	54.4
27.	A & N Islands	505	327.1	64.8	327.1	64.8
28.	Chandigarh	655	537.1	82.0	340.0	51.9
29.	D & N Haveli	955	843.5	88.3	493.2	51.6
30.	Daman & Diu	605	471.4	77.9	471.4	77.9
31.	Delhi	9195	7731.2	84.1	5482.7	58.6
32.	Lakshadweep	755	716.4	94.9	716.4	94.9
33.	Pondicherry	1710	1585.9	92.7	574.7	33.6
Grand Total		659490	565331.6	85.7	398441.6	60.4

*[English]***Operating Computers Injurious to Health**

573. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether using/operating computers is injurious to health;

(b) whether any study has been made by any organisation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) There has been no study undertaken so far in

India to assess ill effects (if any) of using/operating computers on health.

(e) Does not arise.

Piles Clinic in CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital/Dispensaries

574. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of piles clinics existing in the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospitals/Dispensaries in New Delhi;

(b) since when the piles clinic is being run in the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New Delhi;

(c) whether necessary permission of the concerned authorities was obtained for this piles clinic, date-wise and number-wise;

(d) the names of the specialist doctors/attending to this piles clinic, with names since inception; and

(e) the amount of expenditure incurred during 1998-99 and 2000 till date on this clinic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) One weekly clinic to attend to the patients of piles, fistula-in-ano, etc. is in operation in the CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

(b) This facility was started during the year 1990.

(c) Yes, Sir. The permission was granted vide order No. 5-8/90/C&P/CGHS/4942 dated 9.8.1990.

(d) Dr. S.K. Sharma, Advisor (Ayurveda) is attending this clinic on a weekly basis. In addition to this, other regular Doctors such as Dr. R. Reddy & Dr. T. Diwakar Rao are also providing service to the patients.

(e) No separate budget provision for piles clinic in the CGHS Ayurvedic hospital, Lodhi Road, is maintained. However, the expenditure is met from the funds allocated for procurement of Ayurvedic medicines.

[*Traslation*]

Expenditure on officials

575. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total expenditure incurred on Indian Officials accompanying Haj pilgrims during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to reduce this expenditure in view of financial crisis facing the country; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard during the current Haj Pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The expenditure incurred on Indian Officials accompanying Haj Pilgrims during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total Expenditure (in Rupees)
1997-98	5,70,57,587
1998-99	6,11,98,964
1999-2000	8,15,56,350

While every effort is made to effect economies, it may be noted that over the last three years, the number

of pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee has increased from about 63,000 to about 72,000 which has contributed to the increase in the number of officials accompanying Haj pilgrims. For Haj-1998, Government had sent 398 officials to Saudi Arabia consisting of the medical mission and administrative staff. For Haj-2000, based on an assessment of minimum requirements, Government reduced the number of officials accompanying Haj pilgrims to 384.

The total expenditure expected to be incurred on account of the officials accompanying Haj pilgrims for Haj-2001 would be about Rs. 7,80,49,750.

[*English*]

Water Sharing Agreements

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

(a) the details of agreements existing between India and neighbouring countries with regard to sharing of river water;

(b) whether the construction of some projects were also undertaken as a part of these agreements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Following agreements are existing between India and neighbouring countries with regard to sharing of river water:

(i) Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the "Integrated Development of the Mahakali river including Sarda Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project". The treaty was signed on 12th February, 1996 and ratified on 5th June, 1997.

(ii) Treaty between Government of the Republic of India and the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka. The Treaty was signed on 12th December, 1996.

(iii) Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan. The treaty was signed on 19th September, 1960. However, treaty is effective from 1st April, 1960.

(b) and (c) Against agreement at Sl. No. (a) (i) above only detailed field surveys and investigations have been undertaken for the preparation of Detailed Project Report

of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. No project has been undertaken for construction against agreement at S.No. (a) (ii) mentioned above.

Mid Term Review

577. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a mid-term review of the implementation of anti-poverty scheme in the country; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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. A Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) including anti poverty programmes has been made. The highlights of the Mid-Term Appraisal have been released and information pertaining to Poverty Alleviation Programmes is given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Highlights of Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Poverty-Alleviation Programmes

Poverty had declined substantially in 1980s. Proportion of people below poverty line declined from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 36% in 1993-94. However, recent estimates suggest that the projections on reduction of proportion and number of people below poverty line made in the Ninth Plan have not been realised in the first two years of the plan period.

This may be due to sluggish agricultural growth which was also less well spread out; labour absorption did not increase hence slow down in growth of real wages; failure of poverty alleviation and watershed development schemes; continuance of certain policies that act against the interest of the poorest, especially tribals; inadequate reach of TPDS to the poorest in the northern and eastern States; fiscal crisis caused by the V Pay Commission that led to reduced ability of the States to spend on

social sectors; limited growth of rural non-farm sector; and poor governance.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) evaluation points-sub-critical investment; enviable projects; illiterate and unskilled beneficiaries with no experience in managing an enterprise; indifferent delivery of credit by banks, overcrowding of lending in certain projects such as dairy; under emphasis on activities like trading, service and even simple processing, poor targeting and selection of non-poor; rising indebtedness; scale of IRDP outstripped capacity of government and banks to absorb.

Integrated Rural Development Programme-Allied Programmes TRYSEM not dovetailed with IRDP. Non-existent training centres, non-payment of stipend (Chhapra study). DWCRA did well in some States (AP, Kerala, Gujarat).

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (the successor to IRDP) aims at micro-enterprises with emphasis on cluster approach. It is a credit-cum-subsidy programme. Focus on self-help groups. In the past, subsidy orientation leads to corruption and distortion of objectives. Too early to evaluate.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana evaluation points: inadequate employment (11 days as per concurrent evaluation); thin spread of resources; violation of material-labour norms; corruption (fudging of muster rolls). Projects were executed by contractors who sometimes hired outside laborers at lower wages. Positive aspects; durable community assets and empowerment of gram panchayats. Redesigned in April 1999 as **Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana**. Primary aim now rural infrastructure. Employment is secondary. Too early to evaluate.

Employment Assurance Scheme Initially demand-driven. Funds went to better-off States. Evaluation by PEO: scheme is being executed through contractors in most of the States in violation of the central guidelines; the norm of 60:40 for wage and material is not maintained; the genuine muster rolls are not being maintained by the Gram Panchayats. Family cards have not been issued; the system of registration of job seekers with Gram Panchayats is not in vogue; Central norms of earmarking, 40 per cent of funds for watershed development and 20 per cent for minor irrigation, have not been followed.

From April 1999 restructured as the single wage employment scheme; became allocative; 30% of funds allocated to district reserved for areas suffering from endemic labour exodus/areas of distress. Need to shift focus only to backward areas; should not be a universal scheme.

NSAP. Well-targeted. Fewer leakages reported. Needs more resources.

Delivery mechanism. A major weakness in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes has been the lack of adequate participation by the people for whom the programmes are meant. There should be emphasis on the role of PRIs and NGOs.

State Initiatives do better because of better ownership and flexibility in the design of programmes to suit local conditions. Examples: Gokul Gram Yojana, Apna Gaon Apna Kaam, Kudumshree.

Rural Housing: Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) became an Independent CSS from 1.1.1996. Free of cost houses are provided to below poverty line families. Unit cost is Rs. 20,000 in plain and Rs. 22,000 in hill/tribal areas. Updation of existing houses at a unit cost of Rs. 10,000 is now permissible. A new component of credit-cum-subsidy has also been added. In any given village/block/district it would take a long time before all the families are covered. This is dividing the poor instead of helping them to organise into groups. Despite orders, gram sabhas are not active in deciding beneficiaries.

Land Reforms: Access to land is still critical for employment and income generation in rural areas.

Access to land is possible through liberalisation of leasing, but leasing-in should be limited to small and marginal farmers. In areas characterised by feudal/semi feudal modes of production, there is need to further strengthen the existing laws for security of tenure of the poor.

Alienation of tribal land continues unabated but needs to be arrested.

Gender inequality exists in both inheritance laws and land laws. Suitable Amendments are required to make inheritance laws to agricultural land more gender equal.

There is need to update land records and to computerise them to make access to information easier.

Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation

Urban poverty remains an area of significant and persistent neglect in public policy and is a manifestation of lack of income and purchasing power attributable to lack of productive employment, high rate of inflation, lack of access to social infrastructure, affecting the quality of life of the people. The 1993-94 official estimate of the total urban population below poverty line was 32.36%. The modified urban poverty alleviation programme

re-named as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) consists of two schemes, (a) the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and (b) the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), Impact assessment has been suggested.

[Translation]

Officers of IAS

578. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Foreign Service as on date;

(b) the number of officers of these services deputed in Centre and various States;

(c) the number of officers of Indian Foreign Service deputed in India and abroad as on date; and

(d) the number of officers recruited in various services each 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): The number of officers belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Foreign Service (IFS) is as follows:

IAS	IPS	IFS
(As on 1.11.2000)	(As on 30.8.2000)	(As on 17.11.2000)
5096	3253	606

(b) In respect of the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service the officers are borne on the respective cadres of various States. At present, 787 Indian Administrative Service officers and 425 Indian Police Service Officers are on deputation to the Central Government from their respective State Cadres. Further, 60 officers of the Indian Administrative Service and 13 officers of the Indian Police Service are on interstate deputation from their respective cadres. As regards the Indian Foreign Service officers, 21 officers are on deputation to other Ministries/Departments. No officer of the Indian Foreign Service is on deputation to the States.

(c) As on 17-11-2000, 190 officers of the Indian Foreign Service were serving in India and 416 were deployed at Indian Missions/posts abroad.

(d) The annual recruitment in the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and the Indian Foreign Service in the last five years is as follows:

Year	IAS	IPS	IFS
1996	80	100	16
1997	76	96	14
1998	55	84	16
1999	55	36	10
2000	56	36	8

[English]

Employment Opportunities in Foreign Country

579. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment opportunities in foreign countries have declined for Indian labour who seek employment in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to increase employment opportunities in foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Majority of the workers emigrate to the gulf countries for contractual employment. The demand of workers in these countries has declined mainly because of slowing down of economic activities, growing emphasis on providing employment to the local persons and efforts by these countries to maintain some sort of an ethnic balance. The demand for workers is determined by the policies of these countries. However, the Indian Missions maintain constant liaison with the Governments of these countries in the matter.

[Translation]

Indian Labour in UAE

580. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Indian labourers working under the Government of UAE has declined;

(b) if not, the total number of Indian labourers working there at present;

(c) whether the Government of UAE has formulated any scheme to curtail arrival of unskilled Indian labourers there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on Indian labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total number of Indians in UAE at present is approximately ten lakh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a restriction on the recruitment of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers from India and Pakistan. However, this does not apply to recruitment of professionals. This restriction has been imposed because of (a) demographic imbalance caused by a disproportionate expatriate population as compared to the national population; and (b) to mop up excess supply of labour caused by import of labour by companies for non-existent projects. However, on case-by-case basis, recruitment is still being cleared from India.

[English]

Central Provident Fund

581. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a certain laxity has crept in the administration of the offices in Andhra Pradesh of Central Provident Fund Commissioner;

(b) if so, whether any team has been sent from Delhi to conduct on the spot inspections;

(c) if so, the details of findings thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the functioning of the local office of Provident Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The local offices of the EPF are functioning generally satisfactorily. However, in order to provide prompt service to the EPF subscribers, a massive

computerization programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. The Grievance Redressal Machinery has been strengthened and activated so as to ensure prompt settlement of PF claims. The vigilance machinery of the EPF Organisation has also been strengthened and prompt action is taken against the officials indulging in malpractices in settlement of PF claims. Pendency of PF claims is being periodically monitored through and Annual Business Plan at the headquarter of the EPF Organisation.

Opening of CGHS Dispensaries

582. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Central Government Employees Welfare Association of Central Government Housing Complex in Vasant Vihar for the opening of C.G.H.S. (Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic) Dispensaries in Vasant Vihar;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government for opening of C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in Vasant Vihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal for opening of an allopathic dispensary in Vasant Vihar but due to constraints of resources and non-implementation of the Report of the Staff Inspection Units, it will not be feasible to open any new allopathic dispensary there at present. Further, there is no proposal for opening any Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic dispensary in Vasant Vihar due to financial constraints.

MPLADS

583. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use teleconference technology for interaction between the Members and State Governments to reduce delays in implementation of projects sanctioned under the M.P. Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS);

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

(c) the details of State Governments selected for introduction of teleconference facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Guidelines on MPLADS provide for periodic teleconferences in association with MPs, for establishing contacts with the Heads of districts and local functionaries to clarify doubts and remove bottlenecks in the implementation of MPLAD Scheme. Due to high cost and lack of infrastructural facilities, these teleconferences were found not feasible.

For smooth monitoring of the Scheme, however, the Districts Heads have been advised to submit monthly statements indicating details like number of works recommended/sanctioned/completed, funds received/sanctioned/balance amount left. The Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha periodically review, inter-alia, the progress of works under MPLADS. The Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS at periodical intervals also holds interactive meetings in different States with Members of Parliament, Heads of Districts and the concerned officials of State Government and Central Government. In addition to these, Minister of State (Statistics & Programme Implementation) also holds meetings in different States with MPs, District Heads, concerned State officials to review the progress and sort out the bottlenecks from time to time. In view of this, holding teleconferences for the same purpose does not seem necessary at this stage.

Attack on Family Members of Indian Staff in Pak

584. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in early September, 2000, minor daughters of an official of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad were attacked;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter including the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the safety of the Indian High Commission officials and their Family members in Pakistan?

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

(b) A serious incident took place on September 2, 2000 involving an attempt at molestation of two minor daughters of staff members of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad by an intruder who entered the compound of the house of one of the High Commission staff members. The Intelligence officials of Pakistan, who were keeping surveillance over the house, did nothing to prevent the incident.

(c) The Government of India lodged a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and the High Commissioner of India met Pakistani Foreign Secretary to convey India's gravest view of this reprehensible crime. The Government of India demanded that the offender should be arrested, prosecuted and punished according to law, irrespective of his position.

The safety and security of the High Commission and its personnel is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. India has, time and again, reminded Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the bilateral Code of Conduct.

Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

585. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been received for keeping Hospitals, Charitable and educational institutes out of the purview of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed, based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The amendment proposals are processed at various stages before being approved by the competent authority. The details of the amendments can be made public only after they have been finally approved.

Transfers in Kendriya Bhandar

586. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfers and posting in the Kendriya Bhandar are done under the pressure of the workers' union;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of employees who have been transferred before completing the laid down tenure from one place to another;

(d) whether there is any proposal to restrict the tenure of postings in the stationery department to one year only being highly sensitive; and

(e) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Transfers and postings in Kendriya Bhandar are done strictly in accordance with the guidelines on Transfer Policy, which provide for a normal tenure of 3 to 5 years depending upon the nature of appointment. However, the guidelines also provide that an official can always be transferred prematurely in the interest of office discipline, efficiency of work or other administrative considerations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

De-Addiction Centres

587. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) the details of de-addiction centers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the extent of financial assistance provided to these de-addiction centers during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of people benefitted during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A statement showing State-wise details of de-addiction and counselling centers funded under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, the extent of financial assistance provided to these centers, and the number of people benefitted during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is enclosed.

Statement

Number of De-Addiction and Counselling Centres, Number of Beneficiaries and the amount spent under the scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of de-addiction and counselling centres as on 20.11.2000	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
			No. of beneficiaries	Grant sanctioned	No. of beneficiaries	Grant sanctioned	No. of beneficiaries	Grant sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	3718	28.15	425	30.93	2644	71.22
2.	Assam	8	998	3.13	347	19.03	1139	29.59
3.	Bihar	28	12843	108.35	9616	30.32	11796	44.38
4.	Goa	5	551	9.22	209	6.18	1054	17.51
5.	Gujarat	13	15944	48.19	17977	44.46	22611	54.94
6.	Haryana	21	11227	57.16	25379	84.05	27021	94.09
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	165	10.59	168	13.65	385	10.12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	18	2562	31.32	902	41.30	4819	71.69
10.	Kerala	29	27923	13.59	24199	103.82	24779	119.24
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11	10582	12.57	5336	33.58	7073	41.64
12.	Maharashtra	60	9283	59.91	4170	124.32	18002	227.28
13.	Manipur	28	6773	67.98	5889	163.64	7081	158.07
14.	Meghalaya	3	482	2.18	151	11.62	343	9.97
15.	Mizoram	12	2702	26.43	2527	49.70	1962	51.01
16.	Nagaland	9	1743	18.84	1826	32.05	1398	49.86
17.	Orissa	36	14142	61.52	8537	103.80	15504	131.10
18.	Punjab	17	19739	51.72	12791	62.42	17001	88.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19.	Rajasthan	11	6024	42.82	5493	66.93	7578	66.54
20.	Sikkim	1	447	2.06	640	—	138	3.12
21.	Tamil Nadu	36	23076	80.61	20043	65.46	25241	83.07
22.	Tripura	2	3507	5.01	5492	7.97	7187	9.25
23.	Uttar Pradesh	56	42329	149.55	43961	235.74	34407	245.68
24.	West Bengal	21	12454	62.10	6673	82.20	10163	116.27
25.	Chandigarh	2	2551	7.93	2617	9.98	3273	10.66
26.	Delhi	14	16199	98.91	20384	66.87	12143	60.49
27.	Pondicherry	2	1084	5.17	267	8.60	2089	5.43

Working of Kendriya Bhandar

588. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rates of office automation including computers are higher in Kendriya Bhandar in comparison to that of in the open market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the functioning of the Bhandar in regard to rates of office automation products?

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) Occasionally, the rates of these items may be marginally higher in Kendriya Bhandar in comparison to that in the open market due to the reasons that Kendriya Bhandar adds a margin of 3 to 5 per cent to meet its overhead expenses, sells on credit with average realisation period of 60 to 90 days and gives 'on site' warranty services.

(c) All out efforts are being made by Kendriya Bhandar to get more competitive prices from manufacturers/authorised distributors. Further, Kendriya Bhandar has introduced a scheme of 2% discount on these products for payments on delivery.

*[Translation]***Audit of CMC Limited**

589. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the audit report from statutory auditor on July 27, 2000 about the accounts of the CMC Ltd. for the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether it contains many negative audit paras or observations therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have identified the officials responsible for these irregularities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them so far?

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

(b) and (c) The observations in the Auditors' report to the accounts of CMC Ltd., for the years 1999-2000 mainly relate to the following:

(i) Non conformance with accounting standards.

(ii) Need for adequate controls over debtors/creditors/ other liabilities/advances/tax deducted at source certificates.

- (iii) Need to strengthen control and documentation for purchases, sales of goods/services as also need to strengthen internal audit.

These cannot be construed as negative audit paras. The Company has given replies to the audit observations which are appended to the Board of Directors report in which the Company has committed to rectify procedures/requirements, wherever necessary.

(d) and (e) In view of reply to (b) and (c), question does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Barrage on Punpun River

590. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the proposal of Government of Bihar in regard to building a Barrage on Punpun river at Hamid Nagar of the State;

(b) if so, the present status, estimated cost and the time schedule fixed for the completion of the Barrage;

(c) whether any estimate and other details have already been obtained from the Experts of Central Water Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the area of land likely to be irrigated after completion of the Barrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The Detailed Project Report of the Punpun Barrage at an estimated cost of Rs. 84.55 crore was received in May 2000 from Government of Bihar. Comments on various technical aspects have been sent to the State Government. Clearance of the project is linked with the compliance of observations of various Central appraising agencies by the State Government. On completion, the Project will provide irrigation benefit to a culturable command area of 13680 Ha.

Corneally Blind Persons and Grafting

591. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether corneal grafting by way of eye donations has failed to pick up all these years;

(b) whether Government have taken any effective steps to motivate, not merely the prospective donors, but, the family members of the dying persons to secure eye donations; and

(c) the estimated number of corneally blind persons in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per national survey 1986-89, 1.52% of blind persons are affected due to corneal opacities. State-wise number of corneally blind persons is not available.

Rengali Irrigation Project

592. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the Rengali Multipurpose Irrigation Project of Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost, total irrigation potentials and the likely date of completion of the project;

(c) whether construction work on the project has commenced; and

(d) if so, the extent of progress of various aspects of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The reference is presumably to Rengali Irrigation Project which was approved by Planning Commission during 1978 at an estimated cost of Rs. 233.64 Crore for providing Annual Irrigation to 4,23,600 hectares on completion. However, latest estimated cost is reported to be Rs. 1892.5 Crore against which an expenditure of Rs. 600.50 Crore has been incurred upto March, 2000. As per the Draft Annual Plan Document of Orissa for 2000-2001, the physical progress achieved upto March, 2000 is as under:

(i) Barrage (named Small)	Completed
(ii) Main canal & branches	68.50 Km
(iii) Structures (Main, branch and distributaries)	185 Km

The project is likely to be completed by 2003.

Irregularities in Provident Fund Offices

593. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale irregularities, persisting in Provident Fund Offices;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of Provident Fund cases;

(c) whether the Government have provided any time frame for disposal of Provident Fund cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There have been some complaints about delayed payment and fraudulent payment of PF dues to the EPF subscribers.

(b) In order to provide prompt service to the EPF subscribers, a massive computerization programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. The Grievance Redressal Machinery has been strengthened and activated so as to ensure prompt settlement of PF claims. The vigilance machinery of the EPF Organisation has also been strengthened and prompt action is taken against the officials indulging in malpractices in settlement of PF claims. Pendency of PF claims is being periodically monitored through an Annual Business Plan at the headquarters of the EPF Organisation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The EPF claims complete in all respects are required to be settled within a time limit of 30 days after their receipt in the concerned EPF office.

Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan

594. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently concluded midterm review of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ninth Plan is going as per projection and allocations;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes Sir. The draft Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Ninth Plan was considered in the Full Planning Commission Meeting held on 30th September, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairman, Planning Commission. The copies of highlights of the Mid-Term Appraisal Document have already been placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) The overall Growth rate of GDP during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan is estimated by Planning Commission to be 6.2 per cent per annum on an average as against a target of 6.5 per cent. This shortfall is mainly accounted for by shortages in growth performance of Agriculture, Mining & Quarrying and Manufacturing sectors, while Construction, Communications, Public Administration & Community Services have exceeded the targets. Both domestic savings and investment have fallen short of targets by over 5 per cent. The entire shortfalls are in the public sector, where public savings has recorded a shortfall of 70 percent and public investment recorded a shortfall of 23 per cent. Private investment has, however, exceeded the target by over 3 per cent.

There has been a shortfall of 8.6 per cent in the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) provided by the Central for the Plan in the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-98 to 1999-2000. Only 44.45 percent of the projected resources have been mobilized by the States during this period.

(d) Some of the reasons for the shortfall are:

(i) Shortfall in budget support for the Central plan mainly on account of the constraints on the resource front.

- (ii) Expected buoyancy in Revenue receipts did not materialise.
- (iii) Non-plan expenditure grew faster than anticipated.
- (iv) Shortfall in the Revenue receipts of the Centre.
- (v) Shortfall in realisation of projected States Own Funds due to low balance from current revenue, low miscellaneous capital receipts, inadequate additional resource mobilization measures and unsatisfactory performance of State Level Public Enterprises.

(f) Bringing down the fiscal deficit and rate of inflation, appropriate pricing of services, competition policy, effective targeting of subsidy etc. are some of the measures suggested in the Mid-Term Appraisal.

Spurious Tea

595. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have seized a large quantity of spurious tea from four rice mills in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the spurious tea racket has been in operation in State of Maharashtra, Kamataka, Bihar, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh for the last three years;

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government to check the racket;

(d) whether the health of people of these States was affected due to consumption of spurious tea;

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether there is any machinery to distinguish the spurious tea from the normal tea, if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Typhoid and Malaria

596. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave situation prevailing in various parts of the country due to outbreak of Typhoid and Malaria;

(b) if so, the details of the cases detected during the last six months, State-wise;

(c) whether the situation is more grave in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken to check these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) It is fact that despite intensive efforts of the Government, cases of typhoid and malaria are still prevailing in the country. Details of reported cases of Malaria and Enteric Fever in the last year is given in enclosed Statement.

The steps taken to tackle the spread of these diseases is as under:

A National Anti-Malaria Programme is being run as a Centrally Sponsored Programme operating on a 50:50 cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. The Centre provides material assistance to the States including drugs and insecticides. However, 100% assistance is being provided to North Eastern States under the National Programme. The strategy of malaria control includes:

1. Early case detection and prompt treatment.
2. Selective use of insecticides
3. Promotion of personal prophylaxis.
4. Capacity building and epidemic preparedness. Besides, a World Bank assisted Enhanced Malaria Control Project to give focussed attention to 100 districts in 7 malaria endemic States and 19 cities is operational in the country since September 1997.

For the control of typhoid, which is a water and food borne disease, IEC campaigns are mounted through the

Central Health Education Bureau for increasing public awareness for maintenance of good personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, and for creating awareness regarding clean cooking practices and consumption of pure drinking water. There is coordination between the Central and State Governments for closely monitoring the incidence of water borne diseases and to prevent epidemics, especially during the summer months and monsoon.

Statement

Reported cases of Malaria and Enteric fever in 1999

States/UTs	Malaria	Enteric Fever
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	124806	79737
Arunachal Pradesh	58243	—
Assam	131048	—
Bihar	131898	—
Goa	15380	183
Gujarat	64130	3740
Haryana	2604	—
Himachal Pradesh	700	13843
Jammu & Kashmir	3574	17272
Karnataka	97274	32470
Kerala	5141	15239
Madhya Pradesh	527510	10643
Maharashtra	137712	20092
Manipur	2652	4197
Meghalaya	14798	35278
Mizoram	14437	351
Nagaland	3482	2311
Orissa	423777	—
Punjab	1113	—
Rajasthan	53154	2460
Sikkim	14	0
Tamil Nadu	54067	6907
Tripura	14408	2619
Uttar Pradesh	99362	12066
West Bengal	222188	—
A & N Islands	937	3408

1	2	3
Chandigarh	456	—
D & N Haveli	3303	3
Daman & Diu	352	53
Delhi	3702	3744
Lakshadweep	1	45
Pondicherry	149	2283
All India	2212342	268944

- Data Not Received
- Source: CBHI

[English]

Document on Netaji

597. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of any recently published document that relates to the possibility of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose being alive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered an inquiry to look into the uthenticity of the document; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government have seen the press report that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of October 29, 2000 captioned "Soviet Papers add to Bose mystery."

(c) and (d) While no specific inquiry has been ordered in the context of the press report, attempts have been made at the official level to find out from the Russian Government whether there were documents pertaining to Netaji available with them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation conveyed on September 27, 1995 that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of documents on Modern History, no information has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years." The State Archive Service of the Russian Federation informed on August 4, 1997

that "the Centre for Preservation of Historical Documental Collection does not have any information on Subhash Chandra Bose." This matter is likely to receive further attention in the course of the ongoing hearings of the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry into the alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose appointed by Government of India under Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

[*Translation*]

Soft Drinks/Vicks Vaporub Injurious for Health

598. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soft drinks manufactured by Pepsi Cola/Coa Cola companies and Vicks Vaporub manufactured by Colgate Company are injurious to health;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government had imposed any conditions while granting licences to these multinational companies;

(d) whether these multi-national companies are violating the said conditions and thereby playing with the health of the public; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No report has been received by Government to indicate that products like soft drinks being manufactures by Pepsi Cola/Coca Cola companies or Vicks Vaporub are injurious to health. Vicks Vaporub is a product of M/s Proctor & Gamble & not of M/s Colgate.

(c) The statutory requirements and appropriate standards of quality required to be maintained by each manufacturer of soft drinks is normally ensured when granting licence under FPO 1955. Similarly manufacturers of drugs are also required to comply with prescribed standards of GMP before license for manufacture under Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules thereunder is given.

(d) No such instances of violation of licensing conditions have come to the notice of Government.

(e) Does not arise in view of 'd' above.

[*English*]

Health Melas

599. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has planned to organize "Health Melas" throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to involve State Governments in Health Melas;

(d) whether the NGO's getting grants from the Union Government and engaged in population control are also likely to be associated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes

(b) The details are as follows:

Place	Date
Mathura	17-20 Sept., 2000
Delhi	16-25 Oct., 2000
Kargil	21-23 Oct., 2000
Patna	19-21 Nov., 2000

The melas at Imphal, Lucknow, Bhopal, Guwahati and Jaipur will be held as soon as is feasible.

(c) Yes. Health Melas are organized by the State Governments, with support from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Voluntary Health Association of India, Indian Medical Association, Health Care Foundation, Red Cross Society and some NGOs selected by the State Governments are usually associated with the organization of the Health Melas. The doctors from Medical Association and other voluntary agencies participate in the melas.

SSI in Tamil Nadu

600. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Small Scale Industries in Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Setting up of small scale industries is a continuous process and their promotion is done primarily through the District Industries Centre, Pudukottai, which also offers escort services, conduct of motivational campaigns, processing and recommending loan applications to banks, preparation of project reports and other allied assistance.

During the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the number of new SSI units registered in the district were 778 and 705 respectively.

Facilitation Counters of Ministries

601. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Inspection reveals most information counters defunct" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated September 27, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the information and Facilitation Counters in various Ministries are not functioning properly; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the efficiency in service at the counters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Teams of officers of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances have carried out on-the-spot evaluation of the functioning of Information and Facilitation Counters during March to June, 2000. These teams reported that, while overall functioning of the IFCs can be termed satisfactory, certain deficiencies were also observed. The specific observations of the teams were communicated to the Contact Officers of the concerned Ministries/Departments for taking necessary corrective action. This is part of an on-going process for evaluating and improving the counters.

[Translation]

Iodine Deficiency Disorder Programme

602. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched the National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the assistance provided under the above programme during each of the last three years and current year, separately, State-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose for the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the above funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

(c) and (d) The funds for the States and UTs for the remaining period of the 9th Five Year Plan have not yet been earmarked.

Statement I

Statement showing the Financial allocation under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme to the States/UTs.

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.80	3.00	3.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.60	3.80	5.10
3.	Assam	4.10	4.20	3.00
4.	Bihar	3.60	3.40	2.80
5.	Goa	2.40	2.50	2.70
6.	Gujarat	4.30	4.50	4.50
7.	Haryana	3.10	3.30	3.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.10	3.10	3.40
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.90	2.90	2.70
10.	Karnataka	4.10	4.30	5.80
11.	Kerala	3.90	3.90	3.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.30	3.30	2.80

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	5.70	5.90	6.00
14.	Manipur	3.70	3.90	4.10
15.	Meghalaya	3.70	3.70	3.90
16.	Mizoram	3.50	3.70	3.90
17.	Nagaland	3.50	3.60	3.80
18.	Punjab	3.40	3.20	2.50
19.	Rajasthan	4.00	4.00	4.00
20.	Sikkim	3.40	3.60	3.60
21.	Tripura	3.70	3.90	4.50
22.	Uttar Pradesh	5.10	5.10	3.50
23.	West bengal	3.90	3.10	3.50
24.	Orissa	4.10	4.30	4.90
25.	Tamil Nadu	4.10	4.30	4.00
		93.00	95.00	95.00
UT (with legislatures)				
Delhi		2.80	2.80	2.80
Pondicherry		2.20	2.20	2.20
		98.00	100.00	100.00

Statement II

Allocation of Funds to States/UTs (Current Year 2000-2001)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Establishment of IDD Control Cell	Publicity & Health Education (Rupees in lakhs)	Surveys @ Rs. 10000/- per Distt.	IDD Monitoring Labs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.00	1.00	0.40	0.50	4.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.00	0.50	0.40	1.20	5.10
3.	Assam	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	4.50
4.	Bihar	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	4.50
5.	Goa	2.50	0.30	0.20	0.40	3.40
6.	Gujarat	2.50	1.00	1.00	0.40	4.90
7.	Haryana	2.50	0.80	0.50	0.40	4.20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.50	0.80	0.40	0.50	4.20
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.50	0.40	0.40	0.40	3.70
10.	Karnataka	3.00	1.00	0.40	1.40	5.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Kerala	2.50	1.00	0.40	0.50	4.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.50	1.00	0.40	0.40	4.30
13.	Maharashtra	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	6.00
14.	Manipur	3.00	0.80	0.40	0.60	4.80
15.	Meghalaya	3.00	0.80	0.40	1.00	5.20
16.	Mizoram	3.00	0.80	0.20	1.00	5.00
17.	Nagaland	3.00	0.80	0.20	0.60	4.60

Legislation on Eye Donation

603. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in any legislation in regard to eye-donation after death in hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited in the country after the said legislation is passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to bring in any new legislation with regard to eye donation. However, some amendments in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 are under consideration to increase the number of donated eyes.

[English]

Computerisation of Govt. Offices

604. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to computerise offices and put public services on the Internet for the betterment of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Computerisation of Government offices is an on going process. Several Ministries/Departments and the organisations with them have set up their websites in order to provide easy access to information regarding the services being provided by them.

Eradication of Filariasis

605. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for Communicable Diseases has made any efforts to eradicate filariasis disease;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more Centres to study the prevalence of filariasis in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States worst affected by filariasis; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme is the nodal agency for control of filariasis in the country. A National Filariasis Control Programme was launched in 1955 and under the Programme 48 million population in urban areas are protected through recurrent anti-larval measures alongwith case detection and treatment through 206 Filaria Control Units and 199 Clinics. In rural areas case detection and treatment is provided through Primary Health Centres. Govt. of India is a partner of the global alliance for elimination of filariasis. A Pilot Project in 13 highly endemic districts of 7 States on single dose annual

mass DEC administration has been taken up since 1997 to study the impact on lymphatic filariasis.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to open more Centres to study prevalence of filariasis in the country. Various research institutions of the Indian Council of Medical Research namely Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry, Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar alongwith National Institute of Communicable Disease and the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme are already involved in filariasis control.

(d) The States of Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are highly endemic to filariasis.

(e) The efforts made to reduce the disease burden include:

- Recurrent anti-larval measures.
- Biological control of mosquito breeding with larvivoracious fishes
- Anti-parasitic measures by detecting micro-filaria carriers and treatment with Di-ethyl-carbamazine (DEC).
- Referral of acute and chronic filaria cases to Hospitals for effective management.
- IEC activities to increase public awareness.
- Pilot Project to study the feasibility and impact of single dose annual mass DEC therapy in 13 districts.
- Training of Medical and Para-Medical Staff in 3 Training Institutions under NICD.
- Community-based clinical trail has been taken up to study the impact of co-administration of tablet Albendazole with DEC on human health.

Cyber Regulation

606. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a 21-Member Committee to advise on Cyber regulation; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee alongwith the findings and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government has set up "Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee" on 17.10.2000.

The composition of the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee is contained in the statement attached.

Statement

Government of India

Ministry of Information Technology

New Delhi, the 17th October, 2000

NOTIFICATION

G.S.R. 790(E). In exercise of the powers conferred by section 88 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000), the Central Government hereby constitute the "Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee", consisting of the following, namely:

1. Minister, Information Technology	Chairman
2. Secretary, Legislative Department	Member
3. Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology	Member
4. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications	Member
5. Finance Secretary	Member
6. Secretary, Ministry of Defence	Member
7. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
8. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce	Member
9. Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Member
10. Shri T.K. Vishwanathan, Presently Member Secretary, Law Commission	Member
11. President, NASSCOM	Member
12. President, Internet Service Providers Association	Member
13. Director, Central Bureau of Investigation	Member
14. Controller of Certifying Authority	Member
15. Information Technology Secretary by rotation from the States	Member
16. Director General of Police by rotation from the States	Member

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 17. Director, IIT by rotation from the IITs | Member |
| 18. Representative of CII | Member |
| 19. Representative of FICCI | Member |
| 20. Representative of ASSOCHAM | Member |
| 21. Senior Director, Ministry of Information Technology | Member Secretary |

2. Travelling Allowance/Dearness Allowance, as per the Central Government rules, for the non-official members shall be borne by the Ministry of Information Technology.

3. The Committee may co-opt any person as member based on specific meetings.

Increase in MPLADS Fund

607. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have opposed the move to raise MPs Local Area Development Fund to meet the requirement of development works in their constituency;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to allocate foodgrains to the MPs to be distributed among the people living below poverty line in their constituency;

(c) if so, the allocation of foodgrains to be provided to each MP to be distributed free or on nominal rates; and

(d) the time by which the allotment of foodgrain is likely to be made to MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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 proposal for raising MPLADS fund was carefully considered by the Government and it was not found feasible to accede to the same.

(b) No decision has been taken for allocating foodgrains to the Members of Parliament under MPLADS.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Blood Processing Racket

608. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Report about a racket in countries across Europe and North America engaged in relabelling contaminated blood with HIV and sending it to the country as healthy blood recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) WHO has stated that the story basically relates to a criminal case now under process in Austria. This case was taken up in 1996 by the Austrian National Regulatory Authorities against a Company Albovina. The Report referred to is not actually a WHO report and was undertaken by a WHO consultant in his individual capacity for the South African Government. This Consultant is not a blood safety specialist and WHO does not have copies of the report. All blood components/products that are imported into the country are screened for all transfusion transmissible infections.

Establishment of Government in Afghanistan

609. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has shown its willingness to help establish a Government in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade in narcotics coupled with acts of terrorism is causing much concern to USA and Russia who are becoming victims of Taliban's activities;

(d) if so, whether all these countries are looking forward to India for guidance to fight terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India recognises and supports the Government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani as the legitimate Government of Afghanistan.

(c) to (e) The international community is deeply concerned at the Taliban's extremist and violent ideologies and their nexus with international terrorism. The Taliban have strong ties with Pakistani terrorist groups and Pakistan's state apparatus which is promoting cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The open sympathy shown by the Taliban to the hijackers of IC-814 is also a matter of record. The establishment of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan and the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism are manifestations of the determination of the international community to combat international terrorism.

Spy Satellites

610. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain foreign Spy satellites are present in our space territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the foreign Spy satellites identified in our space territory during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the effective steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this direction?

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 AN MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However foreign satellites do orbit in international space territory and collect information on all parts of the earth including India.

(d) International law does not provide for preventing satellites from orbiting and collecting information over any territory.

Indo-UK Ties

611. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been held between India and United Kingdom on bilateral issues during the last one year;

(b) if so, the different issues taken up for discussion and the outcome thereof;

(c) further steps being taken by the Government to improve Indo-British relations; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and the UK have held regular discussions on bilateral issues during the last year both at the Ministerial and official levels. The issues discussed include, inter-alia, cooperation in combating terrorism, trade and commerce, cultural cooperation, defence cooperation, consular matters etc. The discussions have allowed the two countries to consider measures for further augmenting mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

(c) and (d) The Governments of India and the UK have adopted several initiatives to further strengthen the bilateral relationship. The modalities of a Joint Working Group for Combating Terrorism and Drug-Trafficking are being finalised by the two sides. A non-governmental forum, the India-UK Round Table has been set up in April 2000, to advise the Governments of India and the UK on ways of strengthening the bilateral relationship. Government have endowed a Chair in Indian History and Culture, in the Oxford University to promote Indian studies in the UK. Both sides have also reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and commerce, to achieve a target of £5 billion in the next couple of years.

Fight Against Corruption

612. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kendriya Bhandar mein bhi bharsahtachar ka bolbala" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 21 October, 2000;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the officials who are suspended during the last year giving reasons thereof an the present status thereof and if suspension revoked by now, the reasons for that and the action has been taken against those employees;

(d) whether there is rampant corruption and nepotism and irregularities in the matter of transfers and postings, selection of suppliers and items and defective purchase policy and the inability of the management to strengthen the vigilance unit to fight against the corruption; and

(e) If so, the action propose to be taken to set things right in the Bhandar?

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) The news item referred to in the Rashtriya Sahara dated 21.10.2000 is based on discussions which a Reporter has had with the officials of Kendriya Bhandar but some of the facts stated therein are not fully correct.

(c) Two Chowkidars were suspended in June, 2000 when there was an attempt of theft in the Stationery Division at "P" Block while they were on duty. Their suspension was, however, revoked after about one week as a result of preliminary inquiry which revealed that they were not at fault. A Senior Manager was also suspended in December, 1999 for about one week to enable him to learn basics relating to code numbers. However, a Senior Salesman who was suspended in June, 2000 owing to huge shortages in the stores where he was posted as in-charge still remains under suspension. Besides, the services of Regional Managers of Lucknow, Mumbai and Faridabad and two officials at Mumbai and Delhi Zones were dispensed with as they had committed serious lapses.

(d) and (e) Kendriya Bhandar has a full fledged Vigilance Unit to investigate and take care of corruption and other related matters. The strength of the Vigilance Unit is commensurate with its workload.

The items of inventory and suppliers are selected after necessary screening in accordance with the approved purchase policy.

The transfers and postings are made in the Kendriya Bhandar as objectively as possible and in accordance with the transfer policy approved by the Board.

Scarcity of Doctors in Hospitals in Delhi

613. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of patients attended in a year by AIIMS, Safdarjung, RML and others Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) the hospital-wise, doctor-patient ratio of OPDs and in beds;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the plight of patients is bad in the above hospitals and the doctors do not get time to examine them; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The average OPD attendance in AIIMS and other Central Government hospitals in Delhi is as follows:

	OPD (Yearly)	Beds
AIIMS, New Delhi	12-13 lakhs	1596
Safdarjung Hospital	15-16 lakhs	1531
Dr. RML Hospital	Over 12 lakhs	937
LHMC & Asso. Hospitals	About 9 lakhs	877

(c) and (d) Even though there is heavy rush of patients in all the above hospitals, all patients are attended to. The hospitals are well equipped keeping in view financial resources available and medical care is provided to all patients who come to these hospitals for treatment. The medical services are provided free of cost to the poor and the needy.

Participation of Private Sector in Irrigation

614. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite private sector participation in implementing irrigation projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of India had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Union Minister of State for Water Resources to examine the feasibility and scope of Private Sector Participation in irrigation and multi-purpose projects. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1995, which, inter-alia, recommended promoting private sector participation in command area development programme, upto bulk supply of water to Water Users Associations

and to consider giving incentives such as tourism, tax holidays, floating tax-free revenue bonds/loans at concessional rates including moratorium on repayment, development of pisciculture, limited use of reservoir water for horticulture, right of water sports, navigation in reservoir areas, lands for commercial exploitation on embankments, etc.

(c) Although some major States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and U.P. have given positive response and, out of these Gujarat and Maharashtra have introduced the concept of Private Sector participation in some limited projects as pilot projects, most of the States have indicated lack of scope of private sector participation in this sector.

[Translation]

Vocational Training Institute

615. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV :
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Comprehensive Professional Training Scheme for labourers in Bihar with the assistance of the World Bank;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new Industrial Training Institutes for Women under the said projects;

(c) the number of training institutes and the places where these are being run under the above mentioned scheme in Bihar;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up an Industrial Training Institute for Women in Purnia an Seohar division in Bihar;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Government of India implemented a World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project during 1989-98 covering 28 States including Bihar. A proposal to consider a fresh World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project is at its preliminary stages of consultation with the States. No decision on a fresh World Bank assisted Project has been taken.

(d) Opening of new Industrial Training Institutes is under the purview of the concerned State Government.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Human Organ Bank at AIIMS

616. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Human Organ Bank in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, shortly;

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

(c) the estimated amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation (ORBO) is being established soon in C.N. Centre, AIIMS. An amount of Rs. 7.21 crores has already been sanctioned for this project. The building for ORBO has been constructed and is being furnished. In the beginning it is proposed to establish a network with all hospitals in Delhi, including private and government hospitals. Thereafter, this network will be expanded at national and international level.

[English]

Export of Electronic Products

617. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for increasing export of electronics goods from the country;

(b) if so, the possibility explored so far; and

(c) the new electronic products identified for export?

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

(b) and (c) The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has taken a number of initiatives to explore the possibilities of exposing potential export markets to the Indian exporters. These measures include:

- Organising Indian participation in industry specific trade fairs and exhibitions.
- Mounting market survey delegations.
- Entering into long term strategic alliances with counter part organisations world over for regular exchange of information.
- Hosting foreign business delegations.
- Organising a series of Indian Industrial Product and Technological Expositions (India-Tech) especially in the developing economies to promote the Indian Electronics sector.

Electronics exports mainly consist of low technology and medium technology consumer durable items like AM/FM Radio Sets, Radio Cassette Players, Amplifiers, Televisions, Watches and Clock etc. India has a very strong base for these items but there is a need to make production cost effective and to add features to the existing range of products which have a large demand all over the world.

Maternal Deaths

618. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India accounts for 30 per cent of all maternal deaths in the world;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation; and

(c) the number of maternal deaths reported in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The World Health Organisation in 1999 estimated that 600,000 women die every year globally as a result of complications arising from pregnancy and child birth. As per estimates of the maternal mortality rate provided by the Sample Registration System-1998, it is estimated that about 1.1 lakh women die every year in India due to maternal causes.

(b) Maternal health is an integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme which aims at bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity. Under this programme various interventions focussed on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These are essential obstetric care: Emergency obstetric Care;

provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anesthetist. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres; training of dais in 142 districts with safe delivery rate of less than 30 per cent and holding of health camps in 102 districts with adverse health indicators.

(c) State-wise data on number of maternal deaths are not available. However, the maternal mortality rates as estimated for major States by the Registrar General of India for the year 1997 and 1998 is given in the statement attached.

Statement

Maternal Mortality Rate

India and Bigger States

Major state	MMR (1997)	MMR (1998)
India	408	407
Andhra Pradesh	154	159
Assam	401	409
Bihar	451	452
Gujarat	29	28
Haryana	105	103
Karnataka	195	195
Kerala	195	198
Madhya Pradesh	498	498
Maharashtra	135	135
Orissa	361	367
Punjab	196	199
Rajasthan	677	670
Tamil Nadu	76	79
Uttar Pradesh	707	707
West Bengal	264	266

Source : RGI, SRS, 1997, 1998

Post Based Rosters

619. SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DOPT has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reserving system w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of indentifying excesses/shortages if any in class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and all the autonomous/ Statutory Organizations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, indicate excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997; and

(e) whether the 'Post Based Rosters' are introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' without completing the process of Identifying excesses/shortages if any as prescribed under the above referred O.M.; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

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

(b) The post based rosters were introduced keeping in view the fact that the reservation of jobs for backward classes i.e. SCs/STs/OBCs should apply to posts and not to vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) The 'Post Based Rosters' are introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' after completing the process of identifying excesses/shortages as prescribed under the above referred O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res). dated July 2, 1997.

[Translation]

Bansagar Irrigation Project

620. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bansagar Inter-state Irrigation Project is being monitored by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not being paid their share cost for the completion of the project;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to direct these State Governments to pay their share cost at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Bansagar Irrigation Project is an inter-state project of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The project is being executed by the State of Madhya Pradesh under the direction and control of Bansagar Control Board. The cost of the project is being shared by the Governments of MP, UP and Bihar in the ratio of 2:1:1. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have paid their share up to September, 2000 in excess of their due share.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Population Policy

621. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a new population policy in view of the increasing population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of this new population policy; and

(d) the likely impact of this policy on the increasing population?

*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National Population Policy, 2000 has been adopted by the Government and has been placed in the Lok Sabha on 3rd March, 2000.

(c) The immediate objective of the National Population Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium term objective is to bring the total fertility rate to replacement level by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies. The long-term objective is to achieve population

stabilisation by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.

(d) The Policy enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010, which will lead to achieving population stabilization by 2045.

[English]

Medical Facilities in Rural Areas

622. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita expenditure on Medical facilities in rural areas of Rajasthan particularly Western Districts is much less in comparison to other States;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better medical facilities to rural people of Western Rajasthan;

(c) the funds allocated for Health and Family Welfare schemes/programmes for Rajasthan during the each of the last three years;

(d) whether the funds have been utilised properly as per guidelines issued by the Union Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The State of Rajasthan lags behind some of the States in as much as per capita Government expenditure on health is concerned.

(b) Implementation and Management of the national agenda for Family Welfare is primarily a State subject. The Centre provides technical and financial assistance in all critical areas, in order to ensure regular outreach to all segments of the population. The Government have already launched a number of special projects and programmes like Reproductive and Child Health Programme, India Population Project, State Health System Projects, Area Projects and several others.

(c) to (e) Under the National Family Programme the State Government of Rajasthan was given an amount (in cash and kind) of Rs. 9476.69 lacs (1997-98), 11180.84 lacs (1998-99) and 17545.57 lacs (1999-2000) respectively.

The State Government also utilizes the funds provided

in the Basic Minimum Service (BMS) Programme and also the Additional Central Assistance to BMS under the State Sector Plans for strengthening the Primary Health Care Services.

Finalisation of Annual Plan

623. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual plan for the State of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of the plan outlay, State-wise; and

(c) the details of growth rate of industrial and agriculture sector alongwith the allocation and targets fixed in respect of primary, secondary and technical education and Health and Family Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Annual Plans for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have been finalized for the year 2000-01. The approved core plan outlays in respect of these three States are: Andhra Pradesh—Rs. 7708 crore; Orissa—Rs. 2665 crore and Madhya Pradesh—Rs. 4450 crore.

(c) The growth rates of Industrial and Agriculture sector as not fixed by Planning Commission as a part of the Planning process on an annual basis. The State-wise allocations and targets fixed in respect of primary, secondary and technical education and health and family welfare are not yet finalized for the year 2000-01.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Ayurvedic Sansthan, Jaipur

624. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance extended to the Rashtriya Ayurvedic Sansthan, Jaipur during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount actually utilised by the Sansthan during the said period;

(c) whether any complaints have been received regarding misuse of money by the Sansthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The financial assistance granted to Rashtriya Ayurveda Sansthan, Jaipur during each of the last three years is as under:

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Rs. 563 lakhs	Rs. 896 lakhs	Rs. 872.50 lakhs

(b) The Sansthan utilised the following amount during each of the last three years :

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Rs. 533.26 lakhs	Rs. 671.71 lakhs	Rs. 1094.78 lakhs

(Expenditure. In 1999-2000 also includes unspent balance of 1998-99, grants from State Govts. and other receipts/income).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Mortality Rate in Child Birth

625. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa State accounts for the highest mortality rate in the birth in the country; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken or contemplated by the Government to avoid this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No data on mortality rate in birth is available. However, as per the data provided by Registrar General of India,

Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate in the country. For maternal mortality, the data available from Registrar General of India for 1998 shows that Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have maternal mortality rates higher than Orissa.

(b) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, launched in the country 1997, interventions for reducing infant child and maternal morbidity and mortality are being implemented in all the States including Orissa. These interventions are:

For Children

Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections, prophylaxis for Vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anaemia and Essential Newborn Care.

For Mothers:

The interventions include antenatal and post-natal check-up, improving safe delivery practices, prophylaxis and treatment of nutritional anaemia, immunization against tetanus and promotion of birth spacing.

Special efforts for improving immunization against tetanus and promotion of birth spacing.

Special efforts for improving implementation of the programme are being made in identified border districts in 16 States of the country, including Orissa with the help of UNICEF.

A new project for strengthening of the immunization programme with World Bank assistance has also been finalized and includes 5 districts in Orissa. A scheme for training of Dais is being implemented in 142 districts, including 14 in Orissa with a safe delivery rate of less than 30 percent. In addition, 102 districts, including 7 in Orissa have been identified for holding camps to improve delivery of services under the programme.

A National Nutritional Policy has been formulated in 1993 and the national plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through different departments of Government of India including the Integrated Child Development Services of the Department of Family Welfare.

Apart from health related factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development of the people have a direct bearing on the infant and maternal mortality rate. To tackle these, programmes such as Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana and Adult Literacy programme are being implemented by different departments and agencies of Government of India.

*[Translation]***Unemployment Allowance**

626. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any effective measures to provide unemployment allowance to those unemployed young men/women whose names have been registered in various employment exchanges of the country for more than the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received and memorandum/representation from various social organisations/public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government have received memoranda/representations from Andhra Pradesh Teachers' Federation, Hyderabad and Hind Mazdur Sabha (Youth Committee), Mumbai, in 1999, regarding payment of Unemployment Allowance/Right to Work. Replies to these organisations were sent indicating that the Central Government is not in favour of making payment of Unemployment Allowance to any category of the unemployed youth.

*[English]***Reservation for Disabled**

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

(a) whether the Disabilities Act provided three per cent reservation in Government jobs to disabled;

(b) if so, whether the provisions of the Act have not been implemented till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which provisions of the Disabilities Act are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In terms of the provisions contained in Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, not less than 3 per cent of the vacancies are required to be reserved for persons or class of persons with disabilities in the identified posts.

(b) to (d) Implementation of various provisions of the PWD Act, including Section 33 relating to employment in central services is the responsibility of the concerned Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Central Government. Government have issued instructions from time to time for ensuring that the provision relating to 3 per cent reservation for Persons with Disabilities in employment is implemented in the right earnest.

As per information received from various Ministries/Departments, as on 1.1.1998, the representation of persons with disabilities in Group A,B,C & D posts with reference to the identified posts was 14.90%, 13.27%, 26.25% and 34.86% respectively.

Recruitments in Indian Missions

628. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any fresh recruitments for various posts in the Indian Embassies across the world;

(b) if so, the details of the various recruitments made in different Indian Embassies abroad during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government have posted security officers in various Indian Embassies abroad from among the Indian Police Personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, country-wise;

(e) the details of the various posts lying vacant in various Indian Embassies and Missions abroad, location-wise; and

(f) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The officers/officials of the Ministry of External Affairs are posted to our Missions/Posts abroad on a regular basis for a normal tenure of 3 years except in those cases where the tenure is specified for a shorter period. The postings are decided by the three Boards constituted for the purpose; the Foreign Service Board (FSB), the Senior Establishment Board (SEB) and the Junior Establishment Board (JEB).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A detailed chart in this regard is given in the Statement attached.

(e) Nil

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Existing Deployment of Security Officers posted abroad from among the Indian police personnel during the last 5 years

S.No.	Station	Minister	Counsellor	First Secretary
1.	Berlin	1	—	—
2.	Colombo	—	1	—
3.	Dhaka	—	1	—
4.	Islamabad	—	—	1
5.	Kathmandu	—	—	1
6.	London	1	—	—
7.	Moscow	—	—	1
8.	Ottawa	—	1	—
9.	Washington	1	1	—
Total		3	4	3

[Translation]

E.S.I. Hospital

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

(a) whether a big hospital of E.S.I. is running at Basaidarapur in Delhi;

(b) the number of visits undertaken by senior officers to inspect the functioning of these hospitals;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of these hospitals; and

(d) the number of insured persons of Employees State Insurance Corporation attached to this hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Functioning of the ESI Hospital Basaidarapur is being monitored on a regular basis. During last three months the ESI Hospital was visited by Senior Officers eight times.

(c) Review/improvement of facilities in the ESI Hospitals is an ongoing process. The medical facilities like I.C.U., I.C.C.U., Echocardiography, round the Clock Casualty, Blood Bank, well-equipped Bio-Chemistry, Pathology and Micro-biology laboratories are already operational in the ESI Hospital Basaidarapur.

(d) The ESI Hospital Basaidarapur is working as a referral hospital for other ESI hospitals. There are around three lakh Insured Persons of West and North Zone attached to the ESI Hospital Basaidarapur for medical care and treatment.

[English]

Employment for Agriculture and Rural Industries Sector

630. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government does not fix employment targets for the agriculture and rural industries sector; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in the industrial sector the highest employment generation potential is not in agricultural and rural 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) The Government provides financial assistance to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the KVIC allocates these funds to its implementing agencies namely

the State/UT level KVI Boards, institutions, Cooperative Societies etc. The Government does not fix targets, as such.

(b) Rural industrial sector has immense opportunities for employment generation with relatively smaller investment.

Development of IT

631. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would be a Super Power in the field of Information Technology by the year 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Centre and the States are aware of the enormity of job before them to make India an IT Super Power by 2002;

(c) whether the visit of Microsoft Chief Bill Gates has provided some impetus to the facts mentioned above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Government and Industry are acutely aware of the need to maintain a high rate of growth in the Information Technology Sector. With this end in view, a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development was constituted. The report of the Task Force contains an action plan for the future growth of the IT Industry and envisages software export target of US\$ 50 billion by the year 2008.

(c) and (d) Bill Gates' visit to India provided considerable encouragement to the IT Industry. His declaration that India was already a Software Super Power was greeted with wide acclaim. His acknowledgment of our significant position in providing software services generated an enthusiastic response from the IT Sector.

IAS/IPS Cadre for Newly Created States

632. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have created new cadres of IAS, IPS and other allied services for three newly created States; and

(b) if so, the procedure adopted in the allotment of cadres to these new States?

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 have created new cadres of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) for the three newly created States of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

(b) Pursuant to the enactment of the three Reorganization Acts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, the Government constituted separate Advisory Committee for each of these three States under the Chairmanship of Shri U.C. Agarwal, IAS (Retd.). Apart from the concerned Chief Secretary of the undivided State, the three Cadre Control Authorities, i.e., Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Environment & Forests were represented in each of these Advisory Committees.

The three Advisory Committees submitted their Reports in regard to:

(a) the initial strength and composition of the cadres of All India Services for the newly created States of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, as also,

(b) the principles on which members of All India Services borne on the cadres of the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar be allocated to the cadres of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand respectively of that Service.

The Government have accepted the Reports of the three Advisory Committees with minor modifications and, accordingly, notifications have been issued under the three Reorganization Acts read with the relevant Cadre Rules constituting the All India Services cadres of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand as also allocating officers belonging to IAS, IPS & IFS to these cadres.

Uniform criteria have been adopted by the respective Advisory Committees in regard to the newly created States of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand to provide them a balanced and viable cadre on the one hand and objective and transparent norms for allocation of personnel on the other, in a manner that the main features of the

undivided cadres of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, as far as possible, with respect to "direct recruits" and "promotees" "insiders" and "outsiders" and "reserved" and "general" categories, are reflected in the two cadres arising out of them.

Growth of Unemployment

633. SHRI SMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual growth of employment prior to Ninth Five Year Plan was estimated to be 367.2 Million whereas the level of employment projected by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan was of the order of 416.4 million;

(b) if not, the factual position in this regard with respect to educated unemployed persons both in the Urban and Rural areas; and

(c) the estimated annual growth of employment during the present Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The average annual employment during the 8th Five Year Plan was 367.2 million which is projected to go up to 416.4 million during the 9th Five Year Plan. The latest estimate of educated unemployed is available from 1993-94 survey of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per this survey, the incidence of unemployment among educated persons is 7.6% in rural areas and 7.9% in urban areas (usual status basis).

(c) The annual rate of growth of employment during the Ninth Plan is projected to be 2.44%.

ESI Corporation

634. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESI Corporation, New Delhi owes huge amount to Andhra Pradesh State Government towards insurance medical charges from 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount so far cleared by the ESI Corporation, New Delhi;

(c) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be paid to the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is shared between the ESIC and the State Government in the ratio of 7:1 subject to a ceiling prescribed in this regard. Based on the audit report, the entire contribution of the ESIC as admissible under the ESI Scheme has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the years up to 1997-98. The Corporation has also made an 'on account' advance payment of Rs. 17.34 Crore for 1998-99 and Rs. 21.36 Crore for 1999-2000 to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The balance payment, if admissible, under the scheme will be made as and when the audit certificates are received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Lok Pal Bill

635. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are keen to enact legislation relating to Lok Pal;

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

(c) the time by which the Lok Pal Bill is likely to be enacted?

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 VADUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. In fact, the Government had last introduced the 'Lokpal Bill, 1998' in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998. This Bill, however, lapsed on dissolution of the House on 26.4.1999.

(b) and (c) Government have already initiated steps for the enactment of suitable legislation relating to Lokpal. In fact, the Government's endeavour is to introduce the Lokpal Bill afresh as early as possible.

[Translation]

Indian Institute of Information Technology

636. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a unit of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in each State and Union Territory for the expansion and optimum utilisation of Information Technology in the country;

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

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Besides, the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Allahabad and the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IIITM) at Gwalior, the Central Government does not propose to set up any more IIITs in any State or Union Territory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No further investment in IIITs is proposed until the two IIITs stabilise.

Checks on Population

637. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of the country has touched one billion mark and further increase in the population is dangerous for the development of the country;

(b) the steps being taken/to be taken by the Government to check the increase in the population;

(c) whether the World Population Day was observed on the 10th July, 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any programme has been announced/proposed on that day by the Union Government to control the population;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government since February, 2000 enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 alongwith strategies, which will lead to achieving population stabilization by 2045.

(c) Yes, Sir. It was observed on 11th July.

(d) Activities like population race at various centres all over the country through the Sports Authority of India, Plays by Song & Drama Division, Kavi Sammelan/Mushaira in Hindi Speaking States and other such activities were organised by all States/UTs, to make people aware about the adverse impacts of high population growth on development.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Passport Advisory Committee

638. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Passport Advisory Committee;

(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) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The working of the passport offices is already being closely monitored by the Standing Committee of the Parliament on External Affairs. They have also visited a number of passport offices during the last one year. The functioning of the passport offices during the last one year. The functioning of the passport offices are also open for discussion in Consultative Committee.

Accident Compensations

639. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers have not so far been paid compensation for accidents under Workers Compensation Act;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending during the last three years, till September, 2000, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 provides for payment of compensation to the workman or dependants in the case of industrial accidents arising out of and in the course of employment resulting in disablement or death. The Act is applicable to the workmen employed in certain hazardous employments like factories, mines, railways, building construction industry etc. The provisions of the Act are being administered exclusively by State Governments and Union Territory administrations. As such, details of compensation paid in individual cases are not centrally maintained. The complaints about non-payment or delayed payment of compensation, as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Government for taking appropriate remedial action.

[English]

Diseases from Animals

640. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many persons are dying in Metro Cities due to diseases being spread by various animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Animals are closely associated with human beings and are responsible for transmitting various diseases through direct contact or through their products. Some of the important diseases are Leptospirosis, Rabies, Brucellosis, Hydatidosis, Toxoplasmosis, etc. These diseases also occur in metropolitan cities.

The exact frequency of their occurrence is not known; however, outbreak of leptospirosis occurred in Mumbai and Thane in the last week of May, 2000. Rabies which

is transmitted through bites of infected animals does not show any particular pattern of occurrence and is experienced as a problem throughout the country.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to control the spread of animal borne diseases in Metropolitan cities:

- Teams from ICMR and NICD were rushed to the affected areas to coordinate with the local health officials for carrying out sero surveillance and to establish the cause of infection.
- Training was imparted to medical and paramedical staff for early diagnosis of leptospirosis.
- Anti-rodent activities were stepped up before the monsoon.
- Guidelines for prevention and treatment of leptospirosis disseminated through the State Governments.
- IEC campaign launched to sensitize the people for taking steps to avoid infection.
- In addition vaccinations are provided in all tertiary hospitals to treat cases of dog bites and bites of other animals in order to prevent rabies.

[Translation]

Medical Assistance to the Poor Patients

641. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the Government hospitals to provide medical services to poor and destitute patients and to provide financial assistance/transport facilities to such patients on discharge from the hospital;

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

(c) whether necessary arrangements are not available in the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi for such patients; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide proper assistance to such patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Poor and destitute patients are provided free

medical services including transport facilities in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and L.H.M.C. and Associated Hospitals. Financial assistance is also provided to such patients from the National Illness Assistance Fund. Financial Assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- is available under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) to the poor and needy patients for specialized treatment/surgical interventions in Hospitals including Government Hospitals. In Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, a patient care home is also available which is run by Dr. R.M.L. Hospital Society where destitute patients on discharge from that Hospital can stay.

Since 'Health' is a State subject, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is not maintaining any information in respect of Hospitals under the control of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Ayurvedic Dispensaries, Hospitals and Research Laboratories

642. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Ayurvedic dispensaries, hospitals and research laboratories of the CGHS, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) details of the medical staff sanctioned *vis-a-vis* employed presently in these establishments category-wise, separately;

(c) the parameters for opening a CGHS Ayurvedic Dispensary; and

(d) the date on which the last CGHS Ayurvedic Dispensary was opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The information is given in Statement I attached.

(b) The information is given in Statement II attached.

(c) The CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries are opened as per the requirements of the beneficiaries based upon justification and subject to availability of manpower and resources.

(d) The last CGHS Ayurvedic Dispensary was opened on 14.4.1986 at CGHS, Nagpur.

Statement I

List of CGHS Dispensaries/Units of Ayurveda Under Various Cities Except Delhi

S. No.	Name of the City	System of Medicine	Address
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	Ayurveda (U)	Kashiwish Mahadev Trust Bldg., Shahpur Gate, Ahmedabad.
2.	Allahabad	Ayurveda (D)	Sangam Place, 2, Civil Lines, Civil Road, Allahabad.
3.	Bangalore	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 3, Bashanguri, Bangalore
		Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 8 Domlur, Bangalore
4.	Calcutta	Ayurveda (U)	IC Block Polyclinic, Salt Lake, Near Trunk Road No. 14, Calcutta.
5.	Chennai	Ayurveda (U)	Quarter No. 125, BCG Vaccine Lab. Qrs. Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai.
6.	Hyderabad	Ayurveda (U)	Kendriya Swasth Bhawan, Begumpet, Hyderabad.
		Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 2, No. 10-3-273/10, Humayun Nagar, Hyderabad.
7.	Jaipur	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 4, D-143/A-7, Kaushalya Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur.

1	2	3	4
8.	Kanpur	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 1, 126/T/9, Govind Nagar, Kanpur.
9.	Lucknow	Ayurveda (U)	Skylark Building, Naval Kishore Road, Lucknow.
10.	Meerut	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 1, 171-D, Abu Lane, Meerut.
11.	Mumbai	Ayurveda (D)	New Airport Colony, Santacruz, Mumbai.
		Ayurveda (D)	Central Govt. Bldg. No. 36. Sector-VII Mumbai.
12.	Nagpur	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No., Type-III Orts., CPWD Colony, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
		Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 5, Sh. S.N. Patel Bldg., Rambagh Road, Medical College Chowk, Nagpur.
13.	Pune	Ayurveda (U)	Swasth Sadan, Mukund Nagar, Pune
14.	Patna	Ayurveda (U)	CGHS Disp. No. 2, 39 People Co-operative Colony, Kankerbagh, Patna.

NB: (D) is for Dispensaries and (U) for Unit.

List of CGHS Dispensaries/Units of Ayurveda Under CGHS, Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of dispy./Units	Location
1	2	3
1.	Kidwai Ng. Ay. Dispay.	No. 61 D-II, Flats Kidwai Nagar Govt. Quarters.
2.	Sector-12 R.K. Puram Ay. dispy.	Sector-12, R.K. Puram Govt. Quarters.
3.	Kali Bari Ay. dispy	CGHS Own building
4.	North Avenue Ay. disp.	Qt. No. 4 North Avenue
5.	Janakpuri. I Ay. dispensary	C-4, A, Janakpuri, N. Delhi.
6.	Paschim Vihar Ay. Unit	Green Apartment Paschim Vihar Delhi-110063
7.	Delhi Cantt. Ay. Unit	CGHS dispensary No. 3 near Sadar Bazar New Delhi-8
8.	Dev Nagar Ay. Unit	313-314, Type E, Dev Nagar New Delhi
9.	Gurgaon Ay. Unit	482/16, Civil Lines, Gurgaon
10.	Kingsway Camp Ay. Unit	CGHS Kingsway Camp Hospital/Dispensary building New Police Line, Delhi-110009

1	2	3
11.	Laxmi Nagar Ay. Unit	Vikas Nagar near Laxmi Nagar Chowk, Delhi-92
12.	Jangpura Ay. Unit	No. 825, 826 Jangpura Govt. Quarters No. 4256, 8th block
13.	M.B. Road Ay. Unit	M.B. Road own building.
14.	Ay. Hospital Lodhi Road	CGHS Own building

Statement II

Sanctioned And Working Strength of Ayurvedic Doctors

Sl. No.	Name of Units	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacant post
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	02	02	00
2.	Allahabad	02	02	00
3.	Bangalore	04	04	00
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Calcutta	02	01	01
6.	Chennai	02	02	00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Delhi	40	37	03
8.	Guwahati	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Hyderabad/	04	04	00
10.	Jabalpur	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Jaipur	02	02	00
12.	Kanpur	02	02	00
13.	Lucknow	02	01	01
14.	Meerut	02	01	01
15.	Mumbai	04	04	00
16.	Nagpur	04	02	02
17.	Patna	02	01	01
18.	Pune	02	02	00
19.	Ranchi	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Trivandrum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		76	67	09

[Translation]

Water Logging

643. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several districts and villages in Uttar Pradesh are facing acute water logging problem; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain parts of several districts of Uttar Pradesh State are experiencing water logging problem.

(b) Under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme, a number of efficient water management activities which include construction of field channels, field drains, land levelling and land shaping, enforcement of warabandi, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, introduction of suitable cropping pattern, creation of awareness of the problem among the farmers have been taken up. Moreover, a new component "Reclamation of waterlogged areas in irrigation

Commands" has also been included under the programme since 1.4.1996. Under this item, Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 6000/- per ha. or half of the expenditure, whichever is less, is provided to the State Government. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been executing ten years' plan for reclamation of waterlogged areas under different schemes.

[English]

NGOs Blacklisted In North-East

644. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs) who have been getting grants from various Ministries are misusing the funds;

(b) whether the Minister had declared in Guwahati that most of the NGOs in the North-East have been found to be misusing grants disbursed to them and that many such NGOs have been blacklisted by the Ministry;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry has set up its own audit and inspection cell to keep a direct vigil on the NGOs;

(e) whether the list of NGOs blacklisted has been circulated to all other Ministries where grants disbursed to NGOs already blacklisted by the Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure co-ordination between the Ministries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. However it is fact that a few of the voluntary organization receiving funds from the Ministry are not delivering services commensurate with the funds released and are misusing the funds.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, The Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment has visited Guwahati in November 1998, alongwith team of the officers of the Ministry to create awareness and encourage NGOs to take up schemes of the Ministry.

(d) The Ministry by and large depends on the inspection reports received from State Government and representatives of Designated Inspection Agencies but also deputed its own officers for inspection where it deems

this to be necessary. The NGOs submit audited accounts alongwith their applications for grant-in-aid assistance and the office of the Chief Controller of Accounts attached with this Ministry deutes its audit teams for audit in selected cases.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Government has appointed the Planning Commission as Nodal Agency and in June, 2000 a standing committee of Secretaries on voluntary organizations/non-governmental organizations was constituted to ensure coordination between the Ministries on this and other related issues.

Permission to Indian Scientists

645. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has recently removed barriers to the free movement of Scientists from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):

(a) The United States examines visa applications of scientists working in certain scientific areas in accordance with its domestic regulations in this regard. This process also applies to Indian scientists. Following the nuclear tests in May 1998, the United States applied tighter restrictions on travel by Indian scientists to the United States.

(b) Government has been conveying the United States that such restrictions are unjustified and counter-productive to the development of scientific and technological co-operation between India and the United States that both countries desire. US scientific organisations, including the American Physical Society, voiced their concern over US restrictions on free scientific exchanges between India and the United States. As a result, a number of scientists and officials from Indian scientific organisations have travelled to the United States on official work in recent months.

Five day Week in Government Offices

646. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made about the effect of the five day week in Government offices and consumer departments;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the five day week has resulted in delays and affected the public; and

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to switch over to the six day week for Government offices?

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) Five day week system introduced in June 1985 without reduction in the weekly working hours as under six day week, was reviewed through study conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms in February, 1987 and November, 1988 and was recommended for continuance. On a further review in the light of the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, Government Departments whose functions are predominantly marked by public dealings or of commercial nature have been advised to review the existing arrangement and switch over to six day week working wherever feasible.

[Translation]

MPLADS

647. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to prepare drafting and design of roads and other development works to be accomplished under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of alternative steps being taken by the Government to undertake development work at such places where acquiring the required land for development work is difficult?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Under MPLADS, construction of roads are executed by the District Heads on the recommendation of concerned Members of Parliament, subject to the established procedure of the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Manisana Wage Board

648. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken a decision on the recommendations of the Manisana Singh Wage Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the decision on the recommendations of the Manisana Singh Wage Board is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Government would soon notify its decisions on the final recommendations of the Manisana Wage Board submitted on 25.7.2000.

Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Colleges

649. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of medical universities in the country;

(c) the number of Post-graduate Courses are permitted by the Dental Council of India in above colleges;

(d) the total number of PG Dental Seats available every year in various Dental Colleges in Karnataka;

(e) whether Karnataka Government has given Essentiality Certificate for the increase in intake of PG Dental Seats in Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) 5 (Five).

(c) As per Dental Council of India so far 267 Post-graduate Courses in 9 specialities have been permitted in different Dental institutions.

(d) 355

(e) The Karnataka Government have given Essentiality Certificate for increase in PG seats in following Dental Colleges:

(1) College of Dental Sciences, Davangere

(2) Bapuji Dental College & Hospital, Davangere

(3) MRA Dental College, Bangalore,

(4) PMVM Dental College & Hospital, Bagalkot.

(f) The Central Government on the recommendations of the Dental Council of India have already permitted the increase in seats in respect of dental college at Davangere. The matter regarding increase in PG seats in the dental colleges at Bangalore and Bagalkot is under process.

Statement

S.No. States/UTs		Number of			
		Medical Colleges	Dental Colleges	Pharmacy Degree College	Pharmacy Dip. College
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	4	10	20
2.	Assam	3	1	1	
3.	Bihar	11	7	5	7
4.	Chandigarh	1		1	2
5.	Delhi	4	1	2	8
6.	Goa	1	1	1	1
7.	Gujarat	10	4	6	9
8.	Haryana	1	4	1	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	4		2
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1 (u/s 41)		1
11.	Karnataka	23	40	43	81
12.	Kerala	6	2	3	20
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6	3	3	7
14.	Maharashtra	34	16	28	67

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Manipur	1			1
16.	Orissa	3	2	6	19
17.	Pondicherry	2	1		
18.	Punjab	6	10	1	20
19.	Rajasthan	6	3	4	10
20.	Sikkim	—			1
21.	Tamil Nadu	17	13	25	36
22.	Tripura	—			1
23.	Uttar Pradesh	11	14	2	14
24.	West Bengal	7	2	1	7

[Translation]

Exhibitions in Rajasthan

650. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission propose to hold exhibitions in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name(s) of districts where exhibitions would be held;

(c) the amount allocated for these exhibitions; and

(d) the extent to which Khadi and Village Industries Commission will be benefited by these exhibitions?

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) One State Level exhibition at Jodhpur and three district level exhibitions at Bikaner, Kota and Ajmer districts.

(c) As per the KVIC's pattern of assistance, Rs. 1.50 lakhs are sanctioned for a State Level exhibition and Rs. 0.50 lakh for a District level exhibition.

(d) These exhibitions will help to create awareness about KVI products among the public. It will also help the institutions to sell their goods during the time of exhibitions in addition to procuring orders for supplying KVI products.

CGHS Network

651. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to expand, upgrade, modernise CGHS Network in the country during the next three years;

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

(c) the number of families covered under this scheme as on 31-3-2000; and

(d) the details of action plan to improve medical health cover under CGHS to industrial workers including provision of emergency medical aid through specialised services etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Modernisation and upgradation of CGHS network is a continuing process. The staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has submitted its report on Staffing Norms of CGHS in November, 1999. Its recommendations are being examined. Opening of new dispensaries which require creation of posts can be taken up only after a decision on the report is taken.

(c) 9,86,877 families are covered under this scheme.

(d) The CGH Scheme is not applicable to industrial workers.

MPLADS

652. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra and Kerala Governments to make available the dwelling units to the homeless under MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated to the States by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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) Works under MPLADS are taken up on the recommendations of Members of Parliament. Instructions have been issued that under provisions contained in the Guidelines on MPLADS funds to the extent recommended by the concerned MP could be used for providing housing in accordance with the procedure and terms and conditions of Indira Awas Yojana.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Medical Colleges in Kerala

653. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government to start medical colleges in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance from World Bank for Hospitals

654. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for financial assistance from the World Bank to improve the level of Medium Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) and (b) Government of Bihar have sent a proposal for Grant-in-aid from the World Bank for modernizing hospitals in terms of diagnostic, therapeutics, and informatics inputs for approx. Rs. 4000.00 Crores vide its letter No. 10/vividh 19-21-99416(10) dated 20th Nov., 1999. This broadly consists of:

1. Imported latest equipment.
2. Indigenous equipment.
3. Computerization & networking.
4. A.M.C. for all equipment & Computers for ten years.
5. Referral machines, diagnostic, kits, re-agents.
6. PHC preliminary work.
7. Taxes & others.
8. Manpower, skilled etc.

(c) The proposal has been examined and the State Government has been informed on 30.3.2000 that the State has to make an analysis of the present system in terms of human & material resources such as no. of medical & para-medical staff, buildings, electricity availability, O.T.s, required no. of beds, ambulances etc. and based on that make necessary projections.

Reminders have been given to the Dev. Commissioner, Planning Secy. & Health Secretary and services of consultants for preparing Project Report offered. But so far Govt. of Bihar have not responded.

Child Labour Act

655. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent and effective, was discussed in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1987. Important suggestions made in the Conference to make the Act more stringent include (a) making the offence a cognizable one; (b) making the penalties more stringent and deterrent;

and (c) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

[English]

Quackery

656. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the unabated flourishing of quackery in the country despite various measures taken by the Government;

(b) whether any study has been made recently to assess the problem of growing quackery;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject and State Governments and Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for. Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that raids have been conducted in 283 cases and 63 cases have been referred to various police stations for taking action. However, no study has been conducted on a country-wide basis about the prevalence of quackery.

(d) Government have initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal for prohibition of unauthorized institutions awarding medical degrees and medical practice by unqualified persons.

Kendriya Bhandar

657. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large number of cases of financial impropriety taking place in the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so; the number of such cases detected during the last two years alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Kendriya Bhandar, there have been four cases of financial impropriety during the last two years, the details of which are shown in the statement attached.

Statement

Cases of Financial Impropriety in Kendriya Bhandar During the Last Two Years

S.No.	Name of the Store	Name of responsible person	Nature of Irregularity	Action taken
1.	R.K. Puram IX-A	Shri Tameshwar Singh	Cash shortage to the Extent of Rs. 2,25,359-00	(a) A sum of Rs. 1,12,336.00 has been recovered. (b) Departmental Inquiry has been completed.
2.	Andrews Ganj	Shri R.N. Saxena, Sr. Salesman	Alleged false theft	As a result of Departmental Inquiry, the individual has been dismissed from service.
3.	Nauroji Nagar	Shri Anoop Singh Sr. Salesman	Shortage of stock to the extent of Rs. 7 lakhs	(a) Entire amount has been recovered. (b) The individual is presently under suspension. Departmental Inquiry has been completed.
4.	Stationery Division	Shri D.K. Jain Sr. Manager	Purchase of a specific item being posted under various heads in the stock register.	Departmental Inquiry is in progress.

[Translation]

Unemployed Youth

658. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youths registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country as on August 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of unemployed youths is increasing every year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to provide employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement showing state-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31st August 2000 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, The increase is marginal. The increasing trend is due to a mis match between the requirements of the labour market and supply.

(d) 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 under employment. Such a strategy will benefit the unemployed persons.

Statement

Number of Job-Seekers on Live Register on Employment Exchanges as on 31.8.2000

(In thousands)

S.No.	State/Union Territories	Live Register
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3229.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.3
3.	Assam	1468.0
4.	Bihar	3321.7
5.	Goa	104.4
6.	Gujarat	1059.4

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	802.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	885.3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	162.0
10.	Karnataka	1968.0
11.	Kerala	4091.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2584.3
13.	Maharashtra	4396.8
14.	Manipur	389.5
15.	Meghalaya	35.2
16.	Mizoram	89.1
17.	Nagaland	36.9
18.	Orissa	985.2
19.	Punjab	537.0
20.	Rajasthan	812.5
21.	Sikkim*	
22.	Tamil Nadu	4623.2
23.	Tripura	294.1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2502.3
25.	West Bengal	5787.3
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	30.0
27.	Chandigarh	95.5
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.5
29.	Delhi	959.2
30.	Daman & Diu	7.2
31.	Lakshadweep	10.0
32.	Pondicherry	137.1
Total		41428.3

* No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
N.B. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

[English]

Misuse of Funds in CCR in Unani Medicine

659. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7774 on May 16, 2000 and state:

(a) the date on which the inquiry officer for conducting preliminary enquiry was appointed;

(b) whether the enquiry has been completed and the report submitted to the Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty persons by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Enquiry Officer appointed in 1998 has given his report. Further action has been initiated based on the enquiry report.

Indo-Saudi Arabia Ties

660. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to further strengthen bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain areas have been identified for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any Indian delegation was scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia recently;

(f) if so, whether the same had been postponed; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, India and Saudi Arabia already have cordial relations and efforts continue to further strengthen Indo-Saudi Relations.

(c) and (d) High level political interaction, increase in bilateral trade and employment of about 1.5 mn Indian in Saudi Arabia are the main areas of co-operation.

(e) to (g) Our External Affairs Minister along with a delegation was to visit Saudi Arabia recently. However the visit was postponed owing to the Middle East crisis, and the pre-occupation of Saudi leaders with the Extra-

ordinary Arab Summit and other important meetings amongst Arab leaders.

Mediation by India in West Asia Problem

661. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the attacks on Palestinians in West Bank and Ghaza;

(b) if so, whether World organisations have condemned the attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of India was approached to mediate in the peace process in West Asia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the stand of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) Government have expressed deep concern at the recent incidents of violence in Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza and in other parts of Palestinian National Authority and Israel. At the request of the Arab League, Special Session of Commission on Human Rights and the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly were convened in Geneva (18-19 October, 2000) and New York (18-20 October, 2000) respectively. Resolutions adopted by these bodies were supported by India. Government of India have been in touch with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships on these developments and continue to maintain that the issues involved in the Middle East Peace Process are of immense complexity and, therefore, the need for restraint, avoidance of provocation and to desist from acts which destabilise the peace prospects.

Darjang Irrigation Project

662. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal for Central assistance for the construction of right bank canal system of Darjang Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued after completion of the project;

(d) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any financial assistance for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The reference is presumably to Darjang Irrigation Project Stage II which is an unapproved ongoing medium irrigation project. The project on completion will benefit an area of 2.48 thousand hectares in Angul district. No proposal for Central assistance for this project has been received in the Ministry from the State Government of Orissa.

[Translation]

Funds for Family Welfare

663. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released the allocated funds to the States for family welfare during each of the last three years;

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

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding funds are likely to be released to each State and details of additional assistance provided to the States on their demands during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) State-wise release of funds (cash & kind) during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed statement I. However, the funds released to the States are usually short of their actual requirements. The excess expenditure incurred by the States is fully reimbursed subsequently on receipt of audited statement of expenditure from the State Accountant General. All the outstanding dues (arrears) in respect of audited statements of expenditure received from the concerned States have been fully reimbursed. A statement-II giving details of reimbursement of arrears to the States during the last 3 years and during the current year (till date) is enclosed.

Statement I

Grants in Aid (Cash and Kind) Including Arrears Under F.W. Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		in Cash	in Kind	Total	in Cash	in Kind	Total	in Cash	in Kind	total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8838.71	2387.25	11225.96	11652.79	2961.41	14614.20	16609.39	3023.31	19632.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	147.73	89.65	237.38	144.06	75.75	219.81	231.20	103.35	334.55
3.	Assam	3284.70	1165.61	4450.31	3260.45	1177.35	4437.80	7071.23	1421.68	8492.91
4.	Bihar	9894.51	2727.31	12621.82	8792.62	4025.28	12817.90	28435.89	4868.39	33304.28
5.	Goa	168.13	38.70	206.83	184.83	58.94	243.77	243.44	82.50	325.94
6.	Gujarat	9446.00	1877.12	11323.12	10503.85	2108.13	12811.98	14612.87	2600.21	17213.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Haryana	3521.84	722.46	4244.30	2746.01	906.66	3852.67	3388.16	1019.59	4407.75
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1123.72	307.30	1431.02	1973.97	399.57	2373.54	2069.01	338.33	2407.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1873.62	264.16	2137.78	1600.73	455.77	2056.50	1803.64	458.21	2261.85
10.	Karnataka	5185.49	1275.84	6461.33	7681.02	2111.95	9792.97	16978.35	2107.70	19088.05
11.	Kerala	2981.48	973.70	3955.16	4190.43	1313.51	5503.94	5487.87	1376.24	6884.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8765.52	3227.78	9993.30	8566.08	4587.46	13153.54	11373.95	4988.02	16361.97
13.	Maharashtra	8289.64	2388.04	10677.68	11164.04	3872.20	15036.24	11971.24	3924.85	15896.09
14.	Manipur	452.95	132.90	585.85	622.26	108.80	731.06	907.39	147.96	1055.35
15.	Meghalaya	300.91	96.13	397.04	328.75	140.78	469.53	598.21	152.50	750.71
16.	Mizoram	221.36	74.68	296.04	239.11	68.77	307.88	368.47	75.80	444.27
17.	Nagaland	209.05	59.19	288.24	247.96	90.31	338.27	402.78	97.73	500.51
18.	Orissa	4821.63	1337.46	6159.09	4710.89	1773.73	6484.62	6053.65	1765.56	7819.21
19.	Punjab	2451.93	1117.79	3569.72	2558.65	1125.51	3884.16	2941.14	1246.95	4188.09
20.	Rajasthan	7299.73	2176.98	9476.89	8492.29	2688.55	11180.84	14307.20	3238.37	17545.57
21.	Sikkim	218.87	46.00	264.87	307.72	41.68	349.40	416.73	68.33	485.06
22.	Tamil nadu	10835.89	1924.08	12759.97	9197.30	2582.39	11779.69	21270.03	1833.16	23103.19
23.	Tripura	411.50	161.28	572.78	1781.61	193.98	1975.59	823.48	177.00	1000.48
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19276.48	5797.10	25073.58	42482.52	8773.56	51256.08	26295.63	10356.72	36652.35
25.	West Bengal	5201.99	2505.16	7707.15	11122.85	3172.95	14295.80	9003.46	2944.78	11948.24
Total (States)		113223.36	32873.65	146097.01	154552.79	44814.99	199367.78	203664.41	48417.24	252081.85
UTs with Legislature										
1.	Pondicherry	138.53	35.49	174.02	137.85	54.55	192.40	148.13	38.19	186.32
2.	Delhi	719.82	435.59	1155.41	1012.59	473.35	1485.94	2092.19	698.88	2791.07
Outlys for UTs without Legislature										
1.	A&N Island	100.34	22.06	122.40	104.60	19.00	123.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	D&n Haveli	34.41	5.55	39.96	59.31	9.98	69.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Chandigarh	98.25	17.08	113.33	131.33	57.72	189.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Lakshdweep	13.25	5.91	19.16	30.05	5.01	35.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Daman & Diu	32.25	12.15	44.40	43.50	8.55	52.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (UTs)		1134.85	533.83	1668.68	1519.23	628.16	2147.39	2240.32	737.07	2977.39
Grand Total		114358.21	33407.48	147765.89	158072.02	45443.15	201515.17	205904.73	49154.31	255059.04

Statement II**Payment of Arrears to States**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State	During			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2K	2000-01
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2373.40	3200.00	6587.17	7953.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh				
3.	Assam	795.45		800.66	591.01
4.	Bihar	3525.17		16571.00	981.00
5.	Goa				
6.	Gujarat	3817.69	4450.00	7407.09	
7.	Haryana	1306.85	686.76	754.71	1132.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh		497.26	112.41	816.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	871.43	310.51		
10.	Karnataka		1000.00	8304.82	
11.	Kerala		380.19		
12.	Madhya Pradesh				
13.	Maharashtra		1286.60	302.54	1641.00
14.	Manipur		5.15		
15.	Meghalaya				
16.	Mizoram				
17.	Nagaland				
18.	Orissa	1107.99			
19.	Punjab				
20.	Rajasthan	997.96	1450.00	5794.97	4953.43
21.	Sikkim	2.33	78.07	66.38	242.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	4255.62	2072.33	9613.40	5299.73
23.	Tripura		1283.13		
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7457.73	27500.00	7240.20	494.98
25.	West Bengal	93.38	800.00	612.35	
Total-All States		26611.00	45000.00	64167.70	24105.64

*[English]***Functioning of CHCs/Referral Hospitals**

664. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHIV AJI MANE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Community Health Centres and referral hospitals functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to know the functioning of Community Health Centres and referral hospitals in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereof;

(d) whether most of the Community Health Centres and referral hospitals are suffering from several infirmities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) The number of Community Health Centres functioning in the country as on 30.6.1999, is given in the Statement attached. Centre does not maintain the Statewise data regarding other referral hospitals functioning in various States.

(b) and (c) A Facility Survey is conducted at district level to assess the availability of trained staff, equipments, supplies and their utilization at Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, First Referral Units, District Hospitals, Post Partum Centres etc. Under this Survey one district from each large State, one sub-division of a district from each medium State and one block of a district from each small State/Union Territory, is covered every month.

(d) and (e) Government is aware of certain gaps in Health Care System mainly on account of inadequate out reach of infrastructure and trained manpower. While health is primarily is a State Subject, the Centre is providing technical and financial assistance in all critical areas which affect the Health and Family Welfare Programmes. States are regularly advised to take appropriate steps to bridge the existence gaps including filling up of vacancies and providing necessary infrastructure at these centres.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UT	CHCs	Date of Latest Report
1.	Andhra Pradesh	238	30.06.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	28.02.99
3.	Assam	105	31.03.95
4.	Bihar	148	30.06.99
5.	Goa	5	30.06.99
6.	Gujarat	206	30.06.99
7.	Haryana	64	30.06.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55	30.06.99
9.	J & K	53	31.01.98
10.	Karnataka \$	249	31.03.99
11.	Kerala	80	30.06.99
12.	Madhya Pradesh*	342	30.06.98
13.	Maharashtra	308	30.04.99
14.	Manipur	16	30.06.99
15.	Meghalaya	13	30.06.99
16.	Mizoram	6	31.01.99
17.	Nagaland	5	30.04.99
18.	Orissa	157	30.06.99
19.	Punjab	105	30.06.99
20.	Rajasthan	263	30.06.99
21.	Sikkim	2	31.05.99
22.	Tamil Nadu	72	31.03.98
23.	Tripura	11	30.06.99
24.	Uttar Pradesh	310	31.12.98
25.	West Bengal	99	30.06.98
26.	A&N Islands	4	31.01.99
27.	Chandigarh	1	31.12.98
28.	D&N Haveli	1	28.02.99
29.	Daman & Diu	1	30.06.96
30.	Delhi	—	30.06.96
31.	Lakshadweep	3	30.04.99
32.	Pondicherry	4	31.03.99
All India		2935	

Inter-State Water Disputes

665. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the salient features of amendments proposed to be incorporated in the Act; and

(c) whether any Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament during the ensuing Session and 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 amendments proposed in the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 are based on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission as agreed to by the Inter State Council. The proposals are at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government.

Impact of Globalisation on Poverty and Women

666. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's policies of globalisation and structural adjustment are responsible for increase in poverty and violence against women;

(b) if so the facts thereof.

(c) whether the Government are considering to review its economic policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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 estimates poverty at National and State level!

from the large sample surveys on consumer 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 full data from next large survey on consumer expenditure conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 are under process. As such, the estimates of poverty since the initiation of the policies of globalisation and structural adjustment 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. It is not possible to establish the nexus between the policies of globalisation and structural adjustment initiated by the Government and violence against women.

(c) to (e) The economic policies are regularly reviewed by the Government from time to time.

Postponement of SAARC Summit

667. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 11th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) scheduled to be held in Nepal in November 1999 has been postponed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any fresh date for holding the Summit has since been decided;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) The 11th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation scheduled to be held in Kathmandu on November 26-28, 1999 was postponed in view of the military coup in Pakistan. No fresh dates for holding the Summit have since been decided. However, SAARC activities for strengthening technical and functional cooperation are being held. The meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asian Development Fund was held in

Maldives in May this year. A meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development took place in Kathmandu in July 2000. Dates for holding other Technical Committee meetings are under consideration.

Monitoring of Central Provident Fund

668. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Central Provident Fund Commissioner periodically monitors the various regional and sub-regional offices under its jurisdiction for efficiency and proper administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations to improve the functioning of offices in Rajahmundry and other areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The EPFO has formulated an Annual Business Plan so as to periodically monitor all substantive activities performed by the field formations. In addition, monthly reports/returns are required to be submitted by the field offices about their activities to the Office of the Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC). Functioning of field offices is also periodically reviewed through inspections by the CPFC and other senior officers.

(c) and (d) The EPF offices including the offices in Andhra Pradesh are functioning generally satisfactorily. However, there have been sporadic complaints about functioning of some EPF offices. In order to provide prompt service to the EPF subscribers, a massive computerization programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. The Grievance Redressal Machinery has been strengthened and activated so as to ensure prompt settlement of PF claims. The vigilance machinery of the EPF Organisation has also been strengthened and prompt action is taken against the officials indulging in malpractices in settlement of PF claims.

[Translation]

Women Care Centres

669. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of mass irregularities in Sanrakshan Griha as reported in 'Hindustan' dated 17th October, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to prevent atrocities against women in the Women Care Centres (Nari Sanrakshan Griha)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Sanrakshan Griha as reported in 'Hindustan' dated 17th October, 2000 is a destitute Home being run at Banaras by the Social Welfare Department of the Government, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) According to the Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, they are implementing a scheme for setting up of Short Stay Homes for women and girls which are meant for those women and girls who are either exposed to moral danger of victims of family discord and the resulting strain of relationship or emotional disturbances. They further stated that they have not received any complaints of atrocities against the inmates of these Homes, which are assisted by them.

[English]

Financial Package for Handloom Sector

670. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced several measures for small scale industries including rise in excise duty exemption limit and financial package for the handloom sector;

(b) whether the Government have sanctioned any amount for Credit Guarantee Scheme for the improvement of Small Scale Industries; and

(c) if so, to what extent, these incentives are likely to improve the functioning of SSIs?

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

WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These incentives will enhance the competitiveness of small scale industries through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Supply of Raw Water

671. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Ministry has constituted an expert team to look into the high level of raw water lost during transportation between Bhakra dam and Nangloi water treatment plant in Delhi;

(b) if so, the main points studied by the expert team;

(c) whether the team has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the main recommendations made therein; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) An expert team has been constituted to look into the reasons for the excessive losses in the conveyance system to supply water to Delhi and also to suggest measures to overcome the problem.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Relations with Arabian Countries

672. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking any step to improve relations with Arab countries; alongwith Palestine.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the Arabian countries with whom bilateral issues have been discussed during the last three years till date and better ties established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India enjoys traditionally close and historic ties with the Arab countries. Efforts have been made to impart further depth and content to these relations through regular dialogue at various levels.

(c) Bilateral discussions on issues of mutual concern have been held with Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E. and Yemen during the last three years.

Shortage of Beds in AIIMS

673. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of patients coming to OPDs has increased ten-fold and the number of beds in the wards in AIIMS is same as it was 30 years ago; and

(b) if so, the necessary steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The number of patients coming to AIIMS OPDs has increased manifold. The number of beds at AIIMS has also increased during the last 30 years and the details of the present total bed strength at AIIMS is as under:

Main Hospital	:	866 beds
Neuro-Science Centre		180 beds
Cardio-thoracic Centre		180 beds
Dr. R.P. Centre		300 beds
I.R.C.H.		70 beds
De-Addiction Centre		30 beds
Total	:	1626 beds

At present the IRCH is under expansion and on completion the total bed strength will be 150.

Primary Health Centres

674. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities of Medical Termination of Pregnancy are not available at many Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide such facilities at all the centres and to check illegal abortions by private clinics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The facilities of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) are not available at some of the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres due to shortage of manpower and Operation Theatres/Equipments.

(b) Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, following steps are being taken to provide facilities:

- MTP equipments are being procured centrally & provided to CHC, PHCs whenever required through their respective medical store depot (MSDs).
- Government of India is assisting the States/UTs to engaging the doctors trained in MTP techniques (safe motherhood consultants) to visit the CHC and PHC once a week or at least once a fortnight on a fixed day for performing MTPs. These doctors are paid Rs. 500/- per day visit.
- Karnataka, Mizoram & U.P. have requested for provision of SM consultants to be posted to PHCs on a monthly basis as they face problems in hiring consultants willing to visit remote PHCs on a regular basis. The concept has been rethought upon.
- MTP equipments & free training in MTP technique will be provided to recognized MTP centres in the Non-government sector.
- NIHFWS has identified 238 institutions for MTP specialized skill training.

The MTP Act 1971 and Rules 1975 specify the circumstances and place where termination of pregnancy can be done, the qualifications, experience and training of personnel who can conduct the termination of pregnancy, conditions for approving the place for medical termination of pregnancy and various reporting/recording procedures with regard to the termination of pregnancy. The amendments proposed in the MNP Act 1971 call for rigorous imprisonment in case of private clinics who violate the MTP Act.

Ties with Indian Ocean Rim Countries

675. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MARITAE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made to foster closer ties with Indian Ocean Rim Countries; and

(b) the details of the different sectors in which these countries are collaborating with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India is working closely with the members of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) to strengthen and consolidate this Association, and to further economic and commercial cooperation between the member countries.

A Working Group on Trade and Investment has been set up to consider issues relating to trade liberalisation, facilitation and promotion as well as to economic and technical cooperation.

The Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group and the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum also support the efforts of the member Governments in enhancing economic interaction and cooperation among the member countries of the IOR-ARC. The projects undertaken under the aegis of the IOR-ARC include Compilation of Customs Procedures, Compilation of Investment Regimes, The Indian Ocean Rim Online Business Network, Transfer of Technology in the IOR-ARC Region, Maritime Transport, Insurance and Reinsurance, an Investor's Forum, Trade Fair, Tourism Promotion and Development, Cooperation in Standards and Accreditation, etc.

Contract Labour

676. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the contract labour are being engaged in all Government and public sector units in violation to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 and the permanent jobs are being liquidated in a process by replacing them with contract labours;

(b) if so, protection to the labourer and engaged workers job for their employment security is guaranteed by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have proper assessment of the contract labour engagement and their numbers to any of the institution under law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Government are aware of the engagement of contract labour both in Government and Public Sector Units. The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and the rules framed thereunder provide for the regulation of employment of contract labour in certain establishments and its abolition under certain circumstances. Such engagement is only prohibited where the appropriate Government, by way of a notification under Section 10 of the Act, has prohibited employment of contract labour in a job/work/process in an establishment. The concerned appropriate Government enforces the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder and violation of the same is a punishable offence. Enforcement in the Central sphere is done by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM). Specific instances of violations brought to the notice of the Government are referred to the concerned authorities of CIRM for appropriate action.

2. In the light of the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Air India Statutory Corporation vs. United Labour Union and others* in December, 1996, the establishments engaging contract labour in processes/works/jobs are under obligation to absorb contract labour on regular basis wherever the 'appropriate Government' by way of notification made under Section 10 of the Act have prohibited engagement of contract labour in those processes/works/jobs in those establishments.

3. The Act and the rules further prescribe that every principal employer and every contractor shall maintain such registers and records and submit half yearly returns to the prescribed authorities giving particulars of contract labour employed by them. In the Central sphere, the number of contract labourers covered by licences issued under the Act during the years 1997, 1998 & 1999 were 5,88,678; 6,64,216 and 7,24,705 (provisional) respectively.

Irregularities in Health and Family Welfare Programme of European Union

677. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an enquiry committee to assess the irregularities in the Health and Family Welfare Programme of the EU (European Union) in India;

(b) if so, the findings of the enquiry committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) There have been no irregularities in the Health and Family Welfare Programme supported by the European Union. No enquiry Committee has, therefore, been constituted.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Report on Dropsy

678. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned '66 dropsy death in 1998' appearing in 'Times of India' dated April 7, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Department of Delhi is responsible for this epidemic;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the nexus between PFA Department with laboratories is shielding the trader;

(e) if so, the facts thereof;

(f) whether CAG has given its report on the dropsy in Delhi;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the information made available by the Government of Delhi, the matter has been enquired into by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration has not been held responsible for this epidemic.

The CBI after enquiring into the matter, has filed two cases before the Addl. Session Judge Delhi against certain persons/traders for hatching a criminal conspiracy to adulterate mustard oil with argemone, which resulted in dropsy.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) to (h) According to Government of Delhi, it has received the Report of the CAG and after considering the said Report it has sent appropriate reply to the CAG and has also taken up suitable measures to avoid recurrence of dropsy in Delhi.

National Wage Policy

679. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new National Wage Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to introduce the new National Wage Policy at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The issue relating to formulation of National Wage Policy has been discussed at various fora over the years. However, the same has not been conceived so far because wages are linked with factors like income, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity etc. which vary from State to State and industry to industry. Therefore it is not possible to maintain uniformity in the wages throughout the country.

In the absence of an uniform National Wage Policy the Central Government floated National floor level minimum wage at Rs. 35/- per day, which is the rock bottom level, in 1996, based on the recommendations of national Commission on Rural Labour and subsequent increase in the price level. In August, 1998, the floor level minimum wage was increased to Rs. 40/- and the Hon'ble Prime Minister wrote to all the State Governments requesting them to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wages were below Rs. 40/- per day. The floor level wage has further been raised to Rs. 45/- with effect from November, 1999 on the basis of rise in the Consumer Price Index.

[Translation]

Pending Labour Cases

680. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disposal of labour related cases are badly delayed in labour courts;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for the last three years upto September, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Cases in CGIT-cum Labour Courts are disposed of after observing procedural formalities and principles of natural justice. Some of the reasons for belated disposal of cases are:

- (i) absence of both applicants
- (ii) adjournment sought by parties to file documents
- (iii) Time taken for appointment of Presiding Officers after observing all procedural formalities.

(b) Statement showing the number of cases pending with the various CGIT-cum-Labour Courts for the last 3 years.

Sl. No.	Name of the CGIT-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases Pending As on 31st Dec.		
		1998	1999	2000 upto Sept.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Asansol	167	309	406
2.	Bangalore	587	441	492*
3.	Calcutta	231	184	200*
4.	Chandigarh	1237	1372	1627*
5.	Dhanbad-I	1112	1286	1486
6.	Dhanbad-II	980	1170	1252*
7.	Dhanbad-I	1112	1286	1486
6.	Dhanbad-II	980	1170	1252*
7.	Jabalpur	1598	1229	1347
8.	Jaipur Started functioning w.e.f. 1-9-98	—	177	120
9.	Kanpur	331	724	634
10.	Lucknow Started functioning w.e.f 15-6-99	—	18	164
11.	Nagpur Started functioning w.e.f. 1-7-99	—	52	208#

1	2	3	4	5
12.	New Delhi	846	1057	1085
13.	Mumbai-I	204	189	201
14.	Mumbai-II	190	292	251
15.	Hyderabad Yet to start functioning	—	—	—
16.	Chennai Started functioning w.e.f. 15-3-2000	—	—	65
17.	Bhubaneswar Started functioning w.e.f. 5-6-2000	—	—	19
Total		7483	8500	9556

* Information upto August, 2000.

Information upto July, 2000

(c) Following steps are taken to ensure speedy finalisation of the cases:

- (i) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.
- (ii) The need to reduce Tendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the CGIT cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by taking up the matter with them from time to time.
- (iii) Department manual of procedure for use of Presiding Officers in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts has been finalized. It is expected that this manual would be useful for the Presiding Officers to dispose of cases quickly.

[English]

Domestic Workers

681. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law for regulation of service condition of domestic workers;

(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) At present Government have no proposal to enact a law for

regulation of service conditions of domestic workers. Such workers, however, form part of the unorganised sector and the issue of suggesting an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sectors is one of the Terms of Reference of the Second National Commission on Labour set up on 15.10.1999.

[Translation]

Below Poverty Line

682. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of people living below poverty line and the availability of essential basic commodities on account of implementation of liberalisation policy;

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

(c) whether the number of people living below poverty line has increased unprecedentedly during the last three years and the trend is likely to be continued to increase as assessed by many agencies of country and abroad;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete steps proposed by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, 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 (e) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level

from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. The full data from next large survey on consumer expenditure conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 are under process. These surveys provide data on consumption expenditure at a particular point of time and are not designed to directly assess the impact of economic policies. As such, the estimates of poverty since the initiation of the policies 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 and also during the last three years. 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. The State-wise estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line for these two years are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

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.

The provisional estimate of per capita net availability of certain basic items is given below.

1. Cereals—428.8 grams per day in 1999
2. Pulses—38.6 grams per day in 1999
3. Edible oil—9.5 kg in 1998-99
4. Vanaspati—1.0 kg in 1998-99
5. Cloth—28.2 meters in 1998-99
6. Tea—676 grams in 1998

Statement I

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States—1987-88

State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	96.38	20.92	64.05	40.11	160.43	25.86
Arunachal Pradesh	2.75	39.35	0.08	9.94	2.83	36.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	73.53	39.35	2.22	9.94	75.75	36.21
Bihar	370.23	52.63	50.70	48.73	420.93	52.13
Goa	1.31	17.64	1.65	35.48	2.96	24.52
Gujarat	74.13	28.67	48.22	37.26	122.36	31.54
Haryana	18.86	16.22	6.51	17.99	25.37	16.64
Himachal Pradesh	7.27	16.28	0.25	6.29	7.52	15.45
Jammu & Kashmir	14.11	25.70	2.85	17.47	16.95	23.82
Karnataka	96.81	32.82	61.80	48.42	158.61	37.53
Kerala	61.64	29.10	26.84	40.33	88.48	31.79
Madhya Pradesh	200.02	41.92	64.29	47.09	264.30	43.07
Maharashtra	186.89	40.78	109.38	39.78	296.27	40.41
Manipur	4.83	39.35	0.46	9.94	5.29	31.35
Meghalaya	5.18	39.35	0.30	9.94	5.48	33.92
Mizoram	1.46	39.35	0.25	9.94	1.70	27.52
Nagaland	3.49	39.35	0.18	9.94	3.66	34.43
Orissa	149.98	57.64	15.95	41.63	165.93	55.58
Punjab	17.09	12.60	8.08	14.67	25.17	13.20
Rajasthan	104.97	33.21	37.93	41.92	142.90	35.15
Sikkim	1.31	39.35	0.04	9.94	1.36	36.06
Tamil Nadu	161.80	45.80	69.27	38.64	231.07	43.39
Tripura	8.49	39.35	0.35	9.94	8.84	35.23
Uttar Pradesh	429.74	41.10	106.79	42.96	536.53	41.46
West Bengal	223.37	48.30	60.24	35.08	283.61	44.72
Andaman & Nicobar	0.83	45.80	0.26	38.64	1.09	43.89
Chandigarh	0.08	14.67	0.76	14.67	0.84	14.67
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.79	67.11	—	—	0.79	67.11
Delhi	0.10	1.29	10.15	13.56	10.25	12.41
Lakshadweep	0.07	29.10	0.10	40.33	0.17	34.95
Pondicherry	1.33	45.80	1.72	38.64	3.05	41.46
India	2318.79	39.09	751.69	38.20	3070.49	38.86

Note: Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

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

S. No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
7.	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

Note: 1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.

[English]

Unemployed Persons

683. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Persons belonging to handicapped/ SCs/STs/OBCs and General Categories registered in the various employment exchanges of North-Eastern States including Sikkim during January 1998 to October, 2000; and

(b) the number of handicap provided jobs during to above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) The number of Registrations made by the Employment Exchanges in North-Eastern States during January-December 1998 (latest available) is indicated below. This does not include Sikkim since there is no employment exchange in Sikkim.

Description	No. of Registration made (in thousand)
1	2
Physically Handicapped	0.8

1	2
Scheduled Caste	10.7
Scheduled Tribe	64.5
OBC	15.7
General Categories	216.9

(b) The number of handicapped persons placed in employment by the Employment Exchanges in North-Eastern States during Jan - Dec 1998 was 47.

Agricultural Labourers

684. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Labourers in the country, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the minimum wages fixed for these labourers, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) and (b) : A statement is attached.

Statement

S.No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	Minimum wages fixed by State Governments as on 30.6.2000
1	2	3	4
	INDIA (excluding J & K)	74,597,744	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159	Rs.30 to Rs 36.50 p.d .According to zones)
2.	Assam	844,964	Rs. 45.00 p.d without food, shelter and clothing; Rs 38.60 p.d plus food, shelter and clothing
3.	Bihar	9,512,892	Rs. 49.11 p.d
4.	Gujarat	3,230,547	Rs. 34.00 p.d
5.	Haryana	896,782	Rs. 74.30 p.d without meals
6.	Himachal Pradesh	58,668	Rs. 26.00 p.d Rs. 45.75 p.d
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	Rs. 30.00 p.d
8.	Karnataka	1,999,959	Rs. 26.00 p.d
9.	Kerala	2,120,450	Rs 30.00 p.d for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d for hard work
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5,863,029	Rs. 49.46 p.d*
11.	Maharashtra	8,313,223	Rs. 39.00 to Rs. 41.00 p.d (According to Zones)
12.	Manipur	47,350	Rs. 55.00 p.d* for Hill areas Rs. 52.00 p.d for other than hill areas
13.	Meghalaya	89,492	Rs. 50.00 p.d
14.	Nagaland	7,233	Rs. 40.00 p.d
15.	Orissa	2,976,750	Rs. 42.50 p.d*
16.	Punjab	1,452,828	Rs. 69.10 p.d
17.	Rajasthan	1,391,670	Rs. 60.00 p.d
18.	Sikkim	12,851	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 yet to be extended
19.	Tamil Nadu	7,896,295	Rs. 54.00 p.d.
20.	Tripura	187,538	Rs. 40.00 p.d.
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7,833,258	Rs. 47.00 to Rs. 49.00 p.d.
22.	West Bengal	5,055,478	Rs. 58.90 p.d.* (with meals) Rs. 62.10 p.d. (without meals)
23.	A & N Islands	4,989	Rs. 50.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 53.00 p.d. (Nicobar)

1	2	3	4
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,054	Rs. 35.60 to Rs. 37.60 p.d. (According to areas)
25.	Chandigarh	1,642	Rs. 71.93 p.d.
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6,233	Rs. 60.00 p.d.
27.	Delhi	25,195	Rs. 93.00 p.d.*
28.	Goa	35,284	Rs. 58.00 p.d.
29.	Daman & Diu	1,199	Rs. 35.00 p.d.
30.	Lakshadweep	—	Rs. 45.00 p.d.
31.	Mizoram	9,527	Rs. 70.00 p.d.
32.	Pondicherry	77,203	Rs. 20.000 to Rs. 22.00 (Pondicherry region) Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work (Mahe Region) Rs. 19.25 to rs. 26.25 p.d. (Yanam Region) Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d. (Karaikal Region)

Note: 1. The minimum wages also include the variable dearness allowance, wherever provided.

2. *Indicates the provision of variable dearness allowance with the minimum rates of wage.

3. p.d. indicates per day.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 842 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2000 under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No.LT-2267/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

EIGHTH LOK SABHA

- (1) Statement No. XXVIII Fourteenth Session, 1989.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 2368/2000]

NINTH LOK SABHA

- (2) Statement No. XLIX Second Session, 1990.
[Placed in Library, See No.LT-2369/2000]

TENTH LOK SABHA

- (3) Statement No. XLV First Session, 1991
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2370/2000]

- (4) Statement No. XXXVIII Second Session, 1991
[Placed in Library, See No. LT - 2371/2000]

- (5) Statement No. XLI Third Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-2372/2000]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

- (6) Statement No. XL Fourth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 2373/2000]
- (7) Statement No. XXXIV Fifth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 2374/2000]
- (8) Statement No. XL Sixth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 2375/2000]
- (9) Statement No. XXIV Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2376/2000]
- (10) Statement No. XXIX Eleventh Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2377/2000]
- (11) Statement No. XXV Thirteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2378/2000]
- (12) Statement No. XIX Fifteenth Session, 1995
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2379/2000]
- (13) Statement No. XVII Sixteenth Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2380/2000]
- ELEVENTH LOK SABHA
- (14) Statement No. XIX Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2381/2000]
- (15) Statement No. XVII Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2382/2000]
- (16) Statement No. XVII Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2383/2000]
- (17) Statement No. XV Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2384/2000]
- (18) Statement No. XIII Sixth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2385/2000]
- TWELFTH LOK SABHA
- (19) Statement No. XIII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2386/2000]
- (20) Statement No. X Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2387/2000]
- (21) Statement No. IX Fourth Session, 1999.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2388/2000]

- (22) Statement No. VI Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2389/2000]
- (23) Statement No. V Third Session, 2000.
(Vol. I, II and III)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2390/2000]
- (24) Statement No. I Fourth Session, 2000.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2391/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed In Library, *See* No. LT 2392/2000]
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
[Placed In Library, *See* No. LT 2393/2000]

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAND**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha:

- (i) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held today, the 21st

November, 2000, adopted the following motion in regard to presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999:—

"That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, be extended upto the first day of the last week of the second phase of the 192nd Session of the Rajya Sabha."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st November, 2000."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st November, 2000". '

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000 and The Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2000.

12.03 hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Summary of Work

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (other than Financial and Departmentally related Standing Committees)—Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 25 October, 1999 to 31 May, 2000.

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Ninth Report

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Thirteenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Functioning of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) relating to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

12.03³/₄ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL

Report

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999.

12.04 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL

Evidence

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the record of evidence tendered before the Joint Committee on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

12 04½ hrs.

Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi). Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khunduri ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule(3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khunduri ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juveniles in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this enactment."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I introduce the Bill.

12.07 hrs.

AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) REPEAL BILL*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill to repeal the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, introduce the Bill.

12.08 hrs.

RE: FLOODS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this august House to a serious situation that has arisen in West Bengal after the devastating floods that we had in September this year. I am sure, the House will not treat it as a party matter because it concerns

over two crores of people who have been very seriously affected by these floods.

The hon. Minister for Agriculture had taken the trouble- we are grateful to him - to have gone there during the floods, seen for himself and openly stated that the situation was extremely grave and required help from every quarter. He of course also assured help from the Central Government.

Nine out of seventeen districts of the State have been affected. The people who have been affected are over 2.18 crores; the standing crops damaged are over 19.20 lakh hectares; lives lost are 1320; houses damaged in the rural areas are about two lakhs costing about Rs. 438 crore. The Central Teams had also gone there. The total damage that has been assessed by the State Government is over Rs. 5660 crore. The State Government, it is known, has spent about Rs. 590 crore out of its own resources already.

You are aware that the Eleventh Finance Commission has said that a new Fund called the Natural Calamity Contingency Fund has to be created. Under the previous Fund, Rs. 110 crore was receivable by us and that has been received. Shri Patil has recently been there. But, that has been totally inadequate.

I cannot blame the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture can only disburse the amount after he gets them. But they have said that they have no money and there is no budgetary provision. They have written a letter saying that the State Government should spend out of its own funds. I can understand the agony of Shri Nitish Kumar also.

What is to be done? On our claiming of about Rs. 1580 crore, we have been given credit for whatever has been received. The former Chief Minister of West Bengal had made a personal request to the Prime Minister for even passing an ordinance for the purpose of constituting this Contingency Fund in terms of the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. I have recognised only Shri Somnath Chatterji.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Now the plea is, without that Fund nothing can be done.

Special assistance has been provided. We are happy that, when other States faced such a calamity, we discharged our duty in this House in supporting the demands of different States. Andhra Pradesh had to face a critical situation. The people of Arunachal Pradesh also faced a similar situation. Of course, in the case of Orissa, the entire country rose to support it. Therefore, it is not a party matter. We have done our humble bit whenever different parts of the country faced such a situation. But, unfortunately, only in the case of West Bengal, it is not

done. Bihar is also facing a similar problem. Such a calamity can happen anywhere at any moment. If Government of India says that it is the obligation of only the State Government to meet the expenses out of its own funds, then it is denial of minimum rights of the citizens of this country to be protected or to be given relief and restoration work to be done for the people affected by flood or other natural calamities. Therefore, not a single paisa of extra assistance has been given.

I am demanding that the Government should immediately release funds for which repeated reminders and requests have been made. Today, not only Members of Parliament of West Bengal from the Left Front has staged a demonstration but I am happy to say that many leaders of other parties also attended and extended their support to it. I am thankful to the Congress Party, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Chandra Shekhar and the Samajwadi Party — almost all of them - who had supported us and it was our unanimous demand. I am going to meet the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. As I said in the beginning, I am appealing to you not to treat it as a party matter. It is a human matter; it is a human suffering and human misery. It just cannot be discriminated against. We have not protested against release of funds for the farmers in Punjab or Haryana. We had said that if assistance is needed, it should be given. But that does not mean that different treatments should be given to different States on the basis of considerations other than merit. Therefore, through you, I call upon the Government to immediately send assistance for the purpose of meeting the expenses of relief, reconstruction and restoration work which are vitally needed in West Bengal. This is my demand. We are going to meet the hon. Prime Minister. Sir, I hope that he will also respond favorably. But it is the duty of the Government also and I appeal to all sections of the House to stand by the unfortunate people of West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi may associated themselves with what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said just now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is not provided even a single penny as an assistance ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu, please take your seat. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Shri Dasmunsi can also associate themselves with what Shri Somnath Chatterji has said on this subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, there was a devastating flood in West Bengal causing damage of lives and property of millions of people.

We still believe that the Eastern Region, and in particular Bengal, is the worst sufferer of regional imbalance since Independence. Each one of us is well aware of it. What happened this time? The flood caused damages, as mentioned by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I do not want to go into the details of fingers but there is no doubt that the hon. Minister for Agriculture flew to Calcutta and met the Chief Minister at his residence.

He discussed in detail with the officers. Naturally, the expectations went up to a certain extent that the Central assistance should go to that State now. We, on behalf of our party, certainly make a demand for more assistance ...*(Interruptions)* I have something to mention. I will take two or three more minutes ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got forty notices with me. Please understand it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, my notice is also there ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please see the anxiety of the other hon. Members also.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Let me finish my version. We certainly make a demand for more assistance.

I want to make a last point. The flood caused this time was a man-made flood ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that this was a man-made flood. I want to mention about the release of flood water. The release of flood water went up to 2,23,000 cusecs in one day. This is the failure of the Government ...*(Interruptions)* This was a man-made flood. I want to give a report of the Central Water Commission.

So, I demand that the causes of floods have to be investigated. It is not a casual matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious issue. Please understand it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: As I said earlier, the cause of the flood has to be investigated. The flood

was a man-made one. It is the fault of the Government because they released the water without my intimation. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I have not finished my speech yet.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, it is not a casual issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I will finish it in a minute. The State Government is to be condemned. It is because of the fault of the State Government that millions of acres of land, property worth crores of rupees have been lost and several lives have also been lost.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I want to convey to the House one thing. I request the House not to take the incident of the recent flood in West Bengal casually. This is an unprecedented one. Human lives, property, road and infrastructure - all these were destroyed. One of the major districts where things have been reduced to ashes is Murshidabad whose Member of Parliament Shri Adhir Chowdhary, is present here.

I would like to convey to the House that the damage caused due to this flood has not been addressed properly. The Government of India has not even responded to this issue even meagerly. I must say without scoring any political point that had there been enough outstanding planning and vision to protect the catchment areas, had there been any vision about the Master Plan long back, the West Bengal Government could have prevented this disaster substantially and objectively...*(Interruptions)* The Government did not give enough funds. It lacked certain things. Even the party people also told me about this. In Birbhum, Murshidabad and Nadia, the river bed was so high. In respect of the barrages of Mayurakshi, Tilpara and Kansawathy, they did not even give the signal that water is flowing above the danger level. This brought the human tragedy. We did cooperate with every one. I would have been grateful if the hon. Prime Minister had gone to West Bengal to see the plight or himself. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition had gone there. So, I sincerely demand, without bringing party politics into the picture, that the Government of India must ensure a substantial package immediately for West Bengal and thereafter to our people.... *(Interruptions)* Shri Adhir Chowdhary is the main victim of the entire flood.

MR. SPEAKER: He can also associate with the other hon. Members. Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. This is the 'Zero Hour'. I cannot accommodate all the Members during the 'Zero Hour'. Please understand it. Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not interested in his reply?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, let me have the opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is not a debate. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have got given any notice. Please understand it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I have already given a notice to speak about the real plight of the people. My point is that both the Central and the State Governments are responsible for this flood...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhary, you have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have the list of the Members. Should I call them or not?

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good on your part. What are you doing?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Adhir Chowdhary is from that area...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. It is unfortunate that you are politicising the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am also requesting the leaders of the parties to control their respective members. Everything is being politicised. Even the issue of national calamity is being politicised.

Now, the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker Sir, several hon'ble members have just discussed in the House about the damages occurred due to flood and the situation arisen after the flood in West Bengal. Hon. Members have themselves mentioned that a Central team was sent there to take stock of the situation of massive distraction occurred due to flood and afterwards as per the directions of the Prime Minister I myself went there. I myself take stock of the situation and whatever the situation I observed there, I expressed my views publicly there also as well as I apprised of the whole situation to hon. Prime Minister here. Nobody can deny this fact that massive destruction have occurred due to flood in West Bengal and we have also discussed it with the State Government. Even the representatives of other political parties have expressed their views about it in writing as well as orally. By mentioning all the losses either it was the damages of crops, infrastructure, roads or of the house of the people in large scale we have released all the fund immediately which was available with calamity relief fund... (Interruptions) let me finish first. Right now I am talking about West Bengal and not Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the Minister's reply would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We all give speeches here. This Lok Sabha is a place forgiving speeches. No other work is done here. If you have some other opinion about Lok Sabha that some other job is administered here then it is another thing.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PARSAD SINGH (Vaishali): It is we, who will give speeches, and you people will release money.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We will release money also...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, are you not interested in listening to the reply of the Minister?

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If Raghuvanshji is interested then I will reply to him as well but first let me finish. I am telling about West Bengal...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You have stated earlier that an Act will be enacted in this regard and the fund will be released. But neither the Act was enacted nor the fund was released...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Centre's share of Rs. 75.83 crore for the calamity relief fund in West Bengal for the year 2000-2001 has already been released.

[English]

An amount of Rs. 422.43 crore has been released as revenue deficit grant. Upto 20 per cent of the Fund released under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) can be spent on sub-Mission projects/schemes. 50 drilling rigs are available in the State for Rural Water Supply Programme. 'During current year, against the allocation of Rs. 78.95 crore under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, first instalment of Rs. 38.90 crore has been released. Further under ongoing Sub-Mission Projects, a sum of Rs.20 crore has been released.

Then, damaged Railway lines have already been restored for passenger as well as freight trains. An additional allocation of 87,080 tonnes of rice at BPL rates have been made for distribution to flood affected families at the rate of 20 kg. per family.

The National Highways No. 31, 34 and 35 have been restored to the traffic with effect from 06.10.2000. An amount of Rs. 7 crore has been released to take up emergent repair of flood damages.

Then, 10,000 kilo litres of kerosene oil have been dispatched to the State Government. Disinfectants and other medicines have been supplied by the Department of Health including 1,000 tonnes of bleaching powder.
....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

A Central team has been formed. After getting its report, the Central Government will take appropriate action.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tried to reply all the questions raised by Hon. Members....(Interruptions)

12.28 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Adhir Chowdhary and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I am appealing to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopal Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the CBI has raided the houses of Mr. Balasami Ekala, Chairman cum Managing Director BCCL and the four senior officials of the institute.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except Shri Raghunath Jha's submission.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your *modus-operandi*? I do not understand this. When the hon. Minister was replying you were not yielding and you were making noise. What is this?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats first. You cannot raise matters like this standing in the Well of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot conduct the House like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

12.32 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has raised the matter. I have asked the hon. Minister to give a reply. He has replied too and now you are stalling the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please ask your Members to resume their seats. This is not the proper way to raise matters in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me first. If you are not satisfied with the reply, you can seek clarifications from the hon. Minister, but not like this.

...(Interruptions)

12.33 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, there are a number of issues to be raised in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister of Urban Development make a statement regarding Delhi
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have called Shri Raghunath Jha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopal Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI has raided the houses of CMD of BCCL and four other officials of the Institute. In this raid the CBI has sealed 21 lockers and attached assets worth Rs. One crore exceeding his income from his residence. These assets include foreign goods worth Rs. Five Lakh and gold coins worth Rs. Seven lakh....(Interruptions) It is to be noted that 26 Members of Parliament have jointly signed a request to Prime Minister for conducting an

enquiry against this corrupt officer of BCCL. The Prime Minister has ordered for an enquiry in this regard. In the mean time the Minister of Coal by neglecting the order of Prime Minister appointed that officer as the Chairman of BCCL ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Raghunath Jha says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that such corrupt official should be immediately removed and should be sent to jail and the enquiry should be conducted about the whole matter that how the Ministry of Coal is protecting such a corrupt officials.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Kaliabor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been series of killings targeted against Hindi speaking people. Assam has been rocked by series of killings. Innocent people including women and children have been killed. Within less than a month, between 22nd October and 17th November, 41 persons including women and children have been butchered by the underground militants. Besides this, killings, abductions, kidnappings, and extortions have been going on unabated. These are all pre-planned and pre-meditated assaults....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you allow, then only I can call all the other names. Otherwise, I have to adjourn the House as there is no other alternative.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Sir, the Chief Minister of Assam claims that he has got the prior intelligence information. In spite of that, the Government has failed totally to contain these killings. This indicates the incompetence and inefficiency of the Assam Government and the Government has miserably failed to give protection to the innocent people.

It is also the duty of the Central Government to provide protection to the Indian citizens and to their life and property. The Central Government is not taking the matter seriously. So, we want the imposition of the President's Rule in Assam. The Home Minister should visit Assam immediately and make a statement, if you want to save Assam....(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Handique, you can also associate with Shri Tarun Gogoi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to you for having allowed us to mention our subject. We all associate with Shri Tarun Gogoi.(Interruptions) In Assam, innocent people have been killed. Children between 3 years and 12 years have been brutally murdered. It is the responsibility of both the Central Government and the State Government to jointly take action to stop these killings. I appeal through you, Sir, to the Home Minister that he should make a statement. We also want the removal of the hopeless Mohanta Government. The President's Rule must be imposed in Assam.

A BJP delegation also went there. The Central Government should take necessary action....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nagaon): Sir, kindly allow me to speak.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also raising the same subject?

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Yes, Sir(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, the Home Minister should respond to this(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is also raising the same issue.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Assam is very grave today. In the last 30 days, over 60 persons were killed in file mass killings.(Interruptions) In the last few years, due to weak State Governments in Assam, the ISI has grown rapidly in the State. The State Police Administration has totally failed to tackle the situation. Due to rampant corruption in Assam, money has become the prime move rather than the need to undertake positive steps to tackle the situation. The most dangerous development has been the fact that the ISI, in order to carry out its activities, has started to support ULFA, NDFB, MULTA, MULFA, etc.

Today many of these organisations are in the grip of the ISI which is hell bent on creating disturbance in the country and trying to make India weak. This is part of the proxy war that Pakistan has started against the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot read the entire thing in the 'Zero Hour' please.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Sir, only one more thing I want to speak. The present trend of criminalisation of

politics in Assam is also taking a dangerous turn. The politicians in Assam are today known to have links with extremist elements and the surrendered ULFA activists also.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there anything from the Government ?

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Central Government should look into this matter of politician-extremist nexus in Assam, and should expose all such political leaders(Interruptions) The Congress has nexus....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Let the Central Government set up a highball inquiry (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that should not go on record. That must be taken out of the record.

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything objectionable, definitely it will be expunged from the record.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please take your seat. This will not go on record please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please take your seat. Without the permission of the Chair, how can you speak? Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record please.

...(Interruptions)*

12.44 hrs.

RE: SHIFTING OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN DELHI

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, all

* Not Recorded.

Members of the House have expressed their concern regarding the situation in Assam, which I feel, is right. Many problems regarding Law and Order situation in Assam, life-style of people and their finances etc. have arisen there. It is natural that all members of the House are concerned about it. It has many aspects which is not possible to discuss in the zero hour, but I assure the members that I would definitely rise this matter before the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs with the same seriousness as has been shown by the members, and hope that the Central Government would not hesitate in performing its duties as has been mentioned in the Constitution. I can say only this much.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): What will the Government of India do for Bodoland?

[English]

I want to know this from the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is only as a result of the order of Supreme Court that people in Delhi have come out on roads during the last 5-6 days. As per the order of the Court, Government may take action on only the polluting industries and remove them out of Delhi. But the Chief Secretary of Delhi and Delhi Municipal Corporation have asked all the 1,26,000 industries to go out of Delhi due to which a lot of turmoil has taken place in Delhi. Number of small industries in Delhi which are running in the house are one lakh. Small scale and cottage industries are running in which only four or six people work, and their houses were sealed on the ground of pollutant industries. All the goods are lying inside the house and people are outside. That is why, people out of fury, are creating turmoil in Delhi. We are demanding that the Master Plan of Delhi may be changed. This Plan was made in 1961. At that time only 28 industries were mentioned and population of Delhi was 30 lakhs. Today the number of such industries has risen to one lakh fifty thousand and the population has increased to one crore fifty lakhs. Not even a signal industrial area has been developed in Delhi. Myself and Sahib Singhji had given an affidavit for changing the Master Plan of Delhi during our tenure of Chief Ministership of Delhi. The basic reason behind this is three basic problems of Delhi viz., regularisation of unauthorised colonies, secondly—the industries and thirdly regularisation of four lakh located in residential areas, all these problems cannot be solved, until and unless we change the Master Plan. So, I request that hon. Minister of Urban Development may come here and make

statement regarding the changing of Master Plan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say one more thing. I am not criticising anybody. The way Supreme Court stated in its decision yesterday that labourers in Delhi have created hooliganism, many of them are hooligans and this matter has been connected with the Karanataka issue, I think that this is really injustice with the poor labourers of Delhi. One advocate said that they have come here to earn their livelihood. But the Supreme Court said that we are more concerned about the health of the people and not their livelihood. We also want that the pollutant Industries may be shifted out of Delhi, but we do not want to make these 15 lakh poor labourers unemployed, who are working in non-pollutant industries, we will not tolerate this. So please shift the pollutant industries out of Delhi after changing the master plan, but the hon. Minister of Urban Development may kindly give statement how the remaining industries would be resettled in Delhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Shri Lakshman Seth and Shri Vijay Goel have also given notices to associate themselves with this.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, I also want to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER: I think your notice is not there.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): I want one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time. Please understand. There are 38 notices.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if four people can speak on the issue of Assam State, then why can't we speak on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, only one minute please.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: What would the common people say if we do not speak on the issue relating to Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: Khuranaji has already stated everything regarding this.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: My views are different from Shri Khurana. So please give me one minute time. Who is responsible for the turmoil that took place in Delhi—either the Supreme Court, or Delhi Government or the Union Government?*(Interruptions)*....Supreme Court issued orders to Delhi Government to implement it. Industries in Delhi were ready to go out of Delhi and re-locate themselves, but they were not given any place. What is the fault of small scale industries in it. Secondly, I want to say that at first the corrupt democracy does not stop anyone and such industries boom up, and later on the Supreme Court issues orders against them. Then this lethargic bureaucracy, which has no will-power, is all of a sudden, made conscious of the situation. So people should immediately be relieved of tension by changing the master plan and re-locating them somewhere else. Pramod Mahajanji should say something on this.

SHRI MADHARAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, situation in Delhi is very serious and tensed. You very well know that this matter is continuing since 1996. Supreme Court has issued orders on 19th April, 1996 that industries in non conforming areas may be re-established somewhere else. But in order to implement the order of the Supreme Court, neither any plea, application or suggestion was made by the Delhi Government from 1996 to 1998, nor the Government identified any land, any infrastructure has been made, any time was taken from the Supreme Court in this regard. The Government showed their lackadaisical attitude towards this problem from 1996 to 1998. The new government in November 1998 within three-four months, again filed a plea in the Supreme Court to make a change in the master plan and whenever 70 per cent industries are established, they may be shifted from non-conforming areas to conforming areas. Only these industries may be re-located, which are hazardous or which are polluting the environment. This plea was filed before the Supreme Court in 1999. Supreme Court deliberated on this issue and after that the Supreme Court gave its consent regarding changes in the plan. After that in October, 1999, we requested the Delhi Corporation to make changes in the land rules also. One year has elapsed, and now MCD decides as to whether land rules may be changed or not, and it takes one year. I do not want to mention here as to which political party's Government is in Delhi or MCD, I do not want to politicise this issue....*(interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Whether you are saying is wrong.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I fully agree with Khuranaji's comments regarding the plea of Delhi

Government to bring changes in the master plan as soon as possible and for which the Supreme Court had also given its consent to some extent. I fully agree with Khuranaji and wish to say to the Government that Hon. Minister of Urban Development may kindly state as to why did he suo moto filed a plea in the Supreme Court that he is not ready to make any change in the Master Plan. I support Shri Khurana's view point hon. Minister of Development may give reply that why did he suo-moto filed a plea in the Supreme Court without any consultation?

[English]

That he is not prepared to make any changes in the Delhi Master Plan when the Supreme Court was ready to consider changes in the Delhi Master Plan to give permission for more time for changes in the Delhi Master Plan. Why did the Ministry of Urban Development write this letter? I would like to know that. I, therefore, support what Shri Madan Lal Khurana has said.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is Supreme Court's order.*(Interruptions)* Supreme Court has asked to remove only those Industries which*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is replying.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I want that there should be a Calling Attention on this.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

....*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very unfortunate thing. I cannot understand the system that you are following. You are raising the issue and then making the noise. What is this?

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I have moved a Calling Attention on this. Can you tell me what is the fate of my Calling Attention?.....*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. He must say something on this.....*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not even allowing the Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I have given a notice on this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Minister. You can also associate yourself with the other hon. Members. Please understand that I cannot accommodate all the Members.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, please allow me for a minute. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister speak.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, allow me for just for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you for one minute. Please see the time also.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Thank you. Sir, this matter is very much drawing the attention of all people. I request the hon. Prime Minister, through you, to take a decision.(Interruptions) Two million workers are engaged in these small industries.. By closing down the industries, two million workers will lose their jobs. How will their interests be protected? This aspect has to be cleared. The hon. Supreme Court gave a verdict. Why is it that the Government of India and the Government of Delhi did not take any action with regard to the Master Plan and for shifting these polluting industries? I am very much concerned about the bread and butter of the two million workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. The hon. Minister has to reply.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, I want an assurance from the Government regarding the re-employment of these two million workers who will be displaced or retrenched. They will be out of employment and jobless because of shifting of these small industries from the non-conforming areas of Delhi.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, please give me also a few minutes to speak on this issue.....(Interruptions) My constituency has a population of 40 lakh.....(Interruptions) Many of the problems there

are result of the wrong policies of the Congress Government. They have interpreted it wrongly and sealed those factories also which are non-polluting....(Interruptions) All this happened due to the hon'ble Chief Minister.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, I have also given a notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called your name also.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret to say that the issue is being considered very lightly. Master Plan was formulated after much deliberations. When the development of Delhi was discussed in the year 1967-68, the National Capital Region was also discussed and it was said that the construction of new houses and factories will not be allowed in Delhi, but since then it has been isolated continuously. The result is that entire Delhi is becoming a huge slum. The people of Delhi and Shri Madan Lal Khurana ji also know that everyday 10000 people come to Delhi and settle down in the slum areas. I do not agree with most of the things said by the Supreme Court, but if it says that the environment should be given due consideration and Shri Jagmohanji makes efforts in that direction, then this should be done with as little injustice as possible. We ought not to indulge in mud-slinging. The proper course is to find a new place for them and only then they should be shifted from there. The criticism of Supreme Court or Shri Jagmohan ji can only be due to petty political consideration. It cannot be in the long term interests of the country and the capital. Sir, I know when it was decided in 1967-68 fortunately or unfortunately I was present there. It was not driven by political considerations but it was decided keeping in view the safeguard the future of Delhi....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Delhi have been agitated for the last two days, the causes of which have been put forth by Shri Khurana ji and Shri Chandra Shekhar ji and other Members have also contributed in it. In this connection, I can only say that only a detailed discussion would reveal why and how it happened and who is responsible for it. In this context, the Minister of Urban Development is ready to give statement on behalf of the Government.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, why not he accept a Calling Attention Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the duty of the Speaker and not the Minister regarding admission of Calling Attention Motions.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me first conclude....(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

He gave a statement there and after that Rajya Sabha has agreed to hold a short duration discussion of two and a half hours and the discussion has begun. The Government has no objection if the speaker permits a discussion this issue in place of statement in the Lok Sabha under any rule. Government has no objection whether you discuss the issue under calling attention or any other motion. Thereafter according to the conclusions of the discussion we would try to provide relief to the people of Delhi.

As far as the issue of amending the Master Plan is concerned, I would like to tell you that Government is not rigid about it. If the need arise, we are ready to amend the Master Plan by amending it in a flexible manner. The Government is also ready to go to the Supreme Court and ask for more time. Therefore, after the discussion in this House and that in the other House also, the Government will try to provide relief to the people of Delhi according to the sentiments expressed by the two Houses.

13.01 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Severe crisis faced by the Farming Community

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as I mentioned in the morning, I have received 77 notices of Adjournment Motion. I have given my consent to Shri Sujan Singh Bundela, who has secured first place in the ballot, to move the motion in the following form:

"Severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices."

Shri Sujan Singh Bundela, meanwhile in his letter received by me just now, has requested that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may be permitted to seek leave of the House and initiate the discussion in his place. I have accepted his request.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek the leave of the House for moving the Adjournment Motion.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, what happened to my notice? I have been sitting here since morning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If not today, I will call you tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek the leave of the House for moving the Motion for Adjournment regarding severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the leave opposed?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted.

Under Rule 61, the Adjournment Motion is to be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour. Under Rule 62, not less than 2 hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion. The discussion on the motion may be taken up at 2.00 p.m. I think, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, before you adjourn the House, I would like to submit one thing because there will be voting on this motion. You are starting the discussion at 2.00 p.m. and it cannot be less than 2 hours and 30 minutes, but it can be more than that. So, you may just tell the limit of hours you are likely to give and when the voting will be there so that Members can be present. So, it will be better if you can tell the tentative time of voting.

MR. SPEAKER: The voting is at 6.00 p.m. today.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can treat the "Matters under Rule 377" as laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue some time and not now.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Why do we not treat them as laid on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up this issue later and not now.

14.01 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Severe crisis faced by the Farming Community—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before Shrimati Sonia Gandhi moves her Adjournment Motion, I would like to inform the House that as decided earlier voting has to take place at 6 p.m. We have thus four hours available for this purpose. The broad distribution of time amongst various parties is as follows:

1. BJP and other parties represented in the Government	1 hour 58 minutes
2. Indian National Congress	50 minutes
3. CPI (M)	15 minutes
4. TDP	12 minutes
5. Samajwadi Party	12 minutes

6. BSP	06 minutes
7. AIADMK	04 minutes
8. NCP	04 minutes
9. RJD	03 minutes
10. INLD	02 minutes
11. Small Groups (CPI/RSP/ ABLG/ AIFB/ ML/ RLD) combinedly	06 minutes
12. Independent/ Single-member Party	08 minutes

I would urge upon the Members to stick to the subject and to the time limit to ensure that the House is able to complete the discussion on time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while you have fixed the voting time and such time needs to be fixed, six, o'clock may not be practical because this is an issue on which Members on both sides would like to express themselves. Therefore, please fix some other time; four hours will not suffice.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As of now, let it be six o'clock, but please make it flexible.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you mean by 'flexible'? We have already allotted four hour. Normally, only two-and-a-half hours time is allotted for the discussion on the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Let it be up to 8 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to speak.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Sir, I beg to move:

'That the House do now adjourn.'

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move our Motion of Adjournment on the crisis that has overtaken agriculture across the country. The worsening plight of crores upon crores of our *kisans* and *khet mazdoors* has failed to move this Government. The Indian *kisan* is being crushed in a *chakki* - the rotating stone below is the rising cost of production; the rotating stone above is the falling prices of his output. The Government is neither curbing the cost nor intervening to ensure a higher price. It is clear that this Government has failed on all fronts, as far as the agricultural sector is concerned. It is, therefore, our duty to raise the voice of the *kisan* and the *khet mazdoor* on the floor of this august House.

[Smt. Sonia Gandhi]

There is no policy; there is no foresight; there is no Plan of Action. All decisions are *ad-hoc*. None is sustained. Indeed, decisions are made and modified only under the partisan pressure of a Government that is at odds with itself. The crisis in agriculture covers every region, every single region of our country. In Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, the heartland of the Green Revolution, the procurement machinery has palpably failed and even if it was cranked up, it was not to serve the interest of our *kisans* but to keep this Government from collapsing under the weight of its internal contradictions.

Sir, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are in the grip of a drought that has by-passed the attention of this Government. The States of Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been devastated by floods which have not evoked even the sympathy, let alone the needed assistance of New Delhi. In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, the tea, coffee and rubber plantation industry is reeling. Nothing of note has been done to combat the pestilence and the disease that have destroyed and are destroying thousands of coconut trees all over the South. The Sugar Mills everywhere are failing to lift cane and pay due prices. The State of Uttar Pradesh is a particular case where the situation is very very grim. Sugar mill after sugar mill is being closed down. The workers are not being paid. They have not been paid their arrears for months on end. Their families have been forced to borrow, and worse, even to beg.

Sir, Horticulture and the Dairy industries are collapsing in the face of mindless imports. The worst sufferers, of course, are the small and marginal farmers who are eking out a living in the dry lands with little or no irrigation and where the output of oil seeds and pulses, coarse grains and cotton have been severely hit. As farmers' suicides reach alarming proportions the life itself is going out of our *kisans* and this Government does not seem to be at all concerned about the crisis that has overtaken agriculture. The root cause lies in the severe neglect and serious discrimination to which agriculture has been subjected to.

Sir, the Plan Outlay on agriculture has been slashed by Rs. 500 crore this year as compared to last year. In case of Animal Husbandry, the outlay is down by Rs. 60 crore. On Rural Development, the Budget provision is down by Rs. 100 crore. Public investment in agriculture has virtually dried up. Irrigation projects are neither being taken up nor completed. Ground water is fast depleting throughout the country. Credit to agriculture is hopelessly inadequate and so is our Budget provision for agricultural research and extension. In consequence, the technology

suitable to the needs of the poor and small farmers is not being developed. The State has even failed to make available certified seeds in adequate quantities and affordable prices, thereby, further affecting our farmers.

Sir, we believe that nation-wide crop insurance is both feasible and desperately needed. Tragically, even here little is being done to make this a reality.

Disaster relief is inadequate, inefficient and discriminatory, as seen last year during the super cyclone in Orissa; as seen during the floods in Arunachal Pradesh earlier this year; and as seen in West Bengal during the inter-session period. Equally unforgivable has been the callous attitude of the Centre towards the persistent drought in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra and even in the BJP-run State of Gujarat. No plea on behalf of the concerned Chief Ministers, no plea on behalf of the concerned Members of Parliament or the leaders of various parties has been able to soften this hard-hearted Government's attitude.

In the 80s, notwithstanding some of the worst droughts this country has suffered, foodgrain output rose by 40 per cent. In the last five years, the average growth rate has come down to two per cent or less, barely enough to keep pace with the growth of our population. The output of coarse cereals went up in the last decade by 15 per cent: now there is stagnation and even a decline. Output of oilseeds soared 85 percent in the 80s: now the growth rate is down to a third of that or even less. Growth rate of pulses is down to a tenth of what it once was. This slowing down in the pace of agricultural growth has meant a slowing down in rural employment. Actually, it not only meant a slowing down in rural employment but it has also resulted in increased social tension with many of our unemployed youth turning to Naxalism.

This Government has proved hopelessly inadequate to the challenge, obsessed as it is with selling of public sector units. This Government has neglected the foundation of our economy. It has forgotten that India lives in villages. It has forgotten Gandhiji's talisman 'worship of the poorest of the poor'. Decades ago Panditji said, 'everything else can wait, but not agriculture'. This Government has forgotten this dictum. This Government has grossly let down the *kisan*. This Government has grossly let down the *khet mazoor*. This Government must be taken for forgetting its primary duty to the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I call upon this Government to take immediate and specific measures to protect the interests of our farmers. I, therefore, urge all sections of the House to support this motion of adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

14.17 hrs.

"That the House do now adjourn".

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I start my speech, I crave your indulgence to quote from T.S. Eliot, the Nobel Laureate of the early part of the 20th century. In his 'Hollow Men', T.S. Eliot said:

"We are the hollow men

We are the stuffed men

Leaning together

Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!

Our dry voices, when

We whisper together

Are quiet and meaningless

As wind in dry grass

Or rats' feet over broken glass

In our dry cellar."

I hope I need not elucidate on the matter here, and the import could be quite obvious.

Speaking on the Adjournment Motion, Madan Sonia Gandhi has tried to stress upon certain points. I think, it would be better for me to start from the first point itself. The first point is about the subsidies that have been given in the agriculture sector and what type of support that has been given to the farmers in different categories — small, medium, marginal and others.

I would invite your attention to the Budget provisions made in the current year wherein it can be seen, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in the agriculture sector itself, something like Rs. 13,000 crore have been given as subsidy in different aspects. In urea, it has been about Rs. 8,000 crore. In fertiliser, it is Rs. 8,750 crore. In decontrolled fertilisers at concessional rates to farmers, it is Rs. 4,500 crore, and the subsidy pattern has been such that the farmers should not be put to any difficulty in going for his product or in going for agriculture.

It can be seen that in the agriculture and allied sectors itself, the Budget subsidy provision is Rs. 7,182.47 crore. This is not a mean amount that has been provided for keeping agriculture at its even trail.

Madam Gandhi was referring to the plan sector. I would invite the attention of the hon. House to the Ninth Plan Perspective. In the Ninth Plan Perspective, the hon. Members also might have seen the comment that Infrastructural Development in Agriculture in the Eighth Plan fell short of targets. Who was responsible for it? I think, I need not enunciate on that. Infrastructure in agriculture includes irrigation, electricity, agricultural research, roads, communication and marketing.

So far as irrigation is concerned, Madam Gandhi had made a passing remark about irrigation. All of us know as to what priority is being given to agriculture. With priority being given to agriculture, the watershed development, small types of irrigation facilities, and many other factors are being taken into consideration to see that there is sustainable irrigation of land. It is a fact that the water level has been coming down in certain areas of the country, and lots of research are going on to ensure that water level does not come down so that water is available to the farmers.

Recently, there were some surveys at many places. Those surveys have yielded good results, and irrigation is being tackled in a proper manner.

So far as communication is concerned, not only funds have been provided but in the Central Road Tax Funds, the Ordinance has also come. More funds will go in for communication and transport. Transport is more important for sending commodities from one place to another, and this is being tackled at a war footing. It can be seen that our roads are increasing in a better manner so that agricultural produce is carried from one place to another.

The Ninth Plan strategy has been to doubling the food production and increasing employment sustainability. Unless we have employment sustainability, neither the farmer would be able to sell articles nor the consumer would be able to buy it. So, all these things have been taken together so as to ensure that the farmer produces the articles and sells it at a proper price. That is why support prices have been fixed by the Government from time to time.

There was a mention about Punjab, Haryana and other places. Perhaps it has not been taken into account that bonus was given for wheat produce in Punjab.

Subsidies are also given in maize, in cotton, in wheat, in rice, in oilseeds and in many other grains so as to see that the farmer does not suffer. The subsidies are given so as to ensure that the farmer is not distressed.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

So far as power sector is concerned, what are the subsidies that are being given to see that a small or marginal farmer is not put to difficulties? The rate of power depends on cost and the methods. The methods include transmission and all other things; I need not elaborate on this. The cost and methods are such that the rate of power would go up, but it has been seen that within the last two years, by the combined and concerted efforts of the Central Government functionaries, the supply of power in the agricultural sector has been quite good and the price is only 29.66 paise to the farmer, compared to the other sectors where it is 242.85 paise per unit. You can compare it in whatever manner, but the farmers are getting subsidies on account of power so as to ensure that they get power and then they are able to irrigate their lands.

There are three types of rates of power for agriculture. That is a very elaborate process of description and I need not describe it here. But this is being done so as to ensure that adequate electricity is available to the farmers. The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Punjab have completely given free power to the farmers and in many other States, it is subsidised. Almost all the States have subsidised it. Although electricity is a State subject and the State Electricity Boards are supposed to fix prices, the Government of India, in its wisdom, has been advising the State Governments the manner in which they should supply power to the agriculturists and to the farmers. So, to say that the farmers are not getting support from the Government of India is not a proper thing. One has to take into account the whole of India while discussing the steps being taken by the Government of India.

There are three revolutions that have come up within the last two years in India. They are very important so far as the farmer is concerned and so far as agriculture is concerned. By concerted efforts, we have been able to get a gene revolution, to develop new process and products for agriculture.

Madam Gandhi was referring to seeds. We have made vast improvements in providing hybrid seeds and high-yielding variety of seeds. They are being given. The State Governments have also been authorised to set up corporations to procure, produce and distribute high-yielding variety of seeds. So, to say that proper attention has not been paid to the aspect of seeds and their distribution is, to my mind, not correct. As I said, there are three revolutions that have come up within the last two years of the tenure of this Government.

The first is the gene revolution; the second is the information and communication revolution. We have passed the information Technology Bill very recently. Since information and communication is the most important one for any development, whether it is in agriculture sector, whether it is in industrial sector, whether it is in educational sector or wherever it is, here, information and communication have been making giant strides to see that India is at the top of the world. I think, in the information technology, India has definitely gone to the highest place.

The third revolution is the eco-technology revolution that is blending the best of traditional knowledge and technology. We have always been saying that we must go in for *swadeshi* as well as to other ideas that have come up. So, this blending is being done in a proper manner so as to see that our agriculturists and farmers are not put to any distress at all.

Now, I come to the matters which have been indicated by Madam Gandhi in her speech on the Adjournment Motion. She referred to drought in Orissa and MP, floods in West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh and pestilence that has been going on in coconut plantations. The caustic remark is that there is no sympathy from the Central Government. I think it is not a proper remark. The Government of India has been giving all sorts of help. Take the case of cyclone in Orissa. The cyclone first took place in my district, Ganjam. The Prime Minister went to that place immediately. He gave not only Rs. 50,000 to the next of kin of the deceased but also Rs. 500 crore to the then Orissa Government, out of which Rs. 250 crore were for the ways and means advance and Rs. 250 crore for cyclone relief. I objected to it. I asked the Prime Minister as to why he is giving ways and means advance and I told him that all the Rs. 500 crore should go to Ganjam District and part of Khurda District which were affected. To that the remark of the Prime Minister was that the Government of that day was bankrupt. He did not say that in so many terms. He did not say 'bankrupt'. The Government of the day does not have money to run its administration. Unless we give this money, this Rs. 250 crore or Rs. 500 crore that we go for cyclone relief, will be eaten away and will be spent of rigging salaries to the employees. Now, you can make out the agony the Prime Minister must have felt for the cyclone-affected people of Ganjam District and later on to the whole coastal area of Orissa. Money has been given. If the work has not been completed, then it is not the fault of the Central Government. One cannot think that the Central Ministers, including the Prime Minister, will go to Orissa and other affected States and start the work there. It is

for the State Government to start the work. They have to start it. Money has been given to them. For West Bengal, more than Rs. 200 crore were given at one stroke. What work has been done till now? An hon. Minister has been telling that in West Bengal the floods are man-made. Maybe? But I do not want to get into controversies. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly allow me to speak. The hon. Member can rebut it later. But let me go ahead with my speech. It can be seen that at one stroke funds were given to see that flood-affected people were not put to any difficulty. There is no question of neglecting agriculture because agriculture is the main stay of our country. About seventy-five per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture. When seventy-five per cent of the people depend on agriculture, it cannot be said that we are neglecting it. Take the case of Crop Insurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Nothing has been given so far....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Kindly do not interrupt me *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. Hon Members can reply when they get a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Please allow me speak. Let them not interrupt me....*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. Let me say whatever I have gathered. If there is anything wrong in it, the Members are at liberty to rebut it at an appropriate time. So, there is no question of any discrimination. Crop Insurance is still continuing.*(Interruptions)* As I said earlier, at every step things are being done in a proper and systematic manner by the Government of India. Those people, whose Government did not do anything to implement it are bringing Adjournment Motion in this House which has to be deprecated.

We should take into consideration the scenario that is prevailing in the country, with 210 million tonnes of food produced. Production of millets is going up. Oilseeds's production is going up. I think, in her speech, the Leader of Opposition has said that the production of oilseeds is not going up. I have a book wherein it has been indicated that by 2001, large quantities of oilseeds will be exported as good produce has been achieved.

Taking into consideration the overall picture I may say that, as I said earlier, it is a hollow voice devoid of any truth. Let us come together. In the matter of

agriculture, let us not think of dry grass. Let us think of lush green vegetation. With a gentle breeze of developmental support let us hear the fine tune of *Esraj*.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Seventy five percent farmers today are on the verge of death and those who are sitting that side are speaking as if they do not belong to villages and as if they are not aware of the condition of our villages. There was a time when the slogan of *Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan* used to rent the air throughout the country. But today the situation is such that more than seven farmers had to commit suicide. What is the reason behind these suicides. All this has been because of Government policies. The price of milk powder was brought down to Rs. 60 from Rs. 100, of desi ghee from Rs. 160 to Rs. 100, of coffee from Rs. 50 to Rs., 30 of pepper from Rs. 2600 to Rs. 1300 and the price of coconut from which oil is extracted was slashed from Rs. 10 to Rs. 2. Now days the farmer is not getting remunerative price of sugarcane as well as of sugar. On the other hand we are importing everything. Palm oil was imported after spending foreign currency worth 40 thousand crores. Soyabean oil was imported and is being sold here. Now what will happen to our mustard or mustard oil. The companies which are extracting oil, they all are going to shut down. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of soyabean but everything is being imported including soyabean and cheese. Milk will also be imported. They say it is condensed milk and semi-condensed milk. All this happened when the plane was hijacked to Kandhar. Everyone here was worried, at that time and summer Israel of commercial department of America and NN Khan of our commercial department signed a memorandum through which ban on import of 714 items was lifted.

The import duty was waived on many items. This Government is very weak. Pakistan levies 200 per cent tax on the import of milk, similarly Bangladesh levies 100 per cent tax but we have levied a little more than zero. You might be aware of the impact of globalization on our farmers. Subsidies as well as grants are being withdrawn. European union is providing the grant of 760 U. S. dollars on milk, whereas USA is providing 706 dollors on milk. This Government has withdrawn all subsidies on milk. It has been stated that this will enhance the export of milk but what is happending is quite contrary; we are importing milk. I feel that even the Government is in favour of imports, no matter what happens to the farmers.

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

Nothing has been done in favour of agricultural labourers. No legislation has been enacted to safeguard their interests. Policies have been formulated to that foreign companies and foreign goods come to India. Nothing else has been done. The Government is not getting the loan from foreign agencies. More than 50-60 farmers have committed suicide in the country in the recent past. The tobacco, cotton and sugarcane growers are committing suicide and now it is the turn of paddy growers because the Government is importing rice. The Hon. Minister Mr. Murosoli Maran said that it was difficult in Seattle.

[English]

"After the Seattle, the question reverberating around the world is:

Has globalisation gone too far? There is a growing feeling that the decisions affecting the daily lives of millions of citizens, the farmers, and the small shopkeepers in street corners and the work force should not be hijacked away from our national Parliamentary institution and subjected to the vagaries of unbalanced international institutions and organisations."

[Translation]

If this happens then the farmers will be ruined. Tax on 714 items has been waived. From April onwards more items will be exempted from tax. In all 1429 items will fall in this category. The foreign companies have even started offering chicken and meat.

Nothing has been done for irrigation. On one hand the country is in the grip of drought and on the other it is facing floods. More than 1500 persons died in Bengal due to floods but there is no assessment of the houses damaged and the land that was washed away in the floods. There was death and destruction everywhere. Whereas Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat was in the grip of drought.

People die in large numbers due to drought and floods. The policies made by the Government in this regard need to be reviewed and steps should be taken to stop the entry of multinationals in the country. The Government is not providing seeds to farmers. The foreign companies will come to India for developing seeds and this seed can be used only once. If there is something wrong in these seeds which may destroy the fertility of my soil, the land will bear nothing in future. This is a matter of serious concern and we should think over it seriously....(Interruptions) Now what will be the future of

PDS? What about the prices of diesel? Where is my sister?(Interruptions) she is not present today.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Atleast I am here....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mahboob Zahedi's speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: The Question is what about the prices of diesel and petrol? The price of cooking Gas was rolled back by ten rupees and that of kerosene oil was rolled back by one rupee. Kerosene oil used by the poor men and agricultural labourers of the country and only one rupee was reduced and what will happen to diesel which is the most sought after thing by farmers.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: West Bengal Government has levied highest Sales Tax on this item....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding to you. If he is not yielding, nothing will go on record except his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Now the subsidy is being slashed in fertilizers. The factory of fertilizers is closed.....Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party was allotted two minutes.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Sir, I am concluding. On 30th the poor farmers and agriculture labourers are coming to Delhi from all over the country and they will surround you and tell you the truth. All the members of Parliament whether we are farmers or not, we are not serious about this issue. I would like to appeal to all the hon. Members to meet the poor farmers and agricultural labourers who are coming to Delhi on the 30th and see for themselves their plight. This would be an eye opener and you would realize why this adjournment motion has been brought here. One can imagine the plight of farmers in future after having a peep into country's economy. With these words, I appeal to all to pass this motion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Venkateswarlu, you have 12 minutes at the disposal of your Party. If you want to take the entire time, you may take it.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, it is unfortunate that we have been discussing about the legitimate fortunes of the farmers of this country at a most distressed situation. The fall in the prices of agricultural products across the country, in almost all the States, is the most unprecedented one. Never in the history of agriculture that the prices of agricultural products have fallen so much. It is not pertaining to only one particular crop but pertaining to several very important crops. The very survival of the population of different States is on the cultivation of certain crops. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I request that silence may kindly be maintained in the House because we are discussing a very very serious subject regarding the farming community of this country. I feel that it is not an issue pertaining to any political party but an issue pertaining to the farming community of the country. The situation is very paradoxical when one-third of the population of this country is starving for food. We have been very often discussing and seeing in the media that foodgrains are overflowing in our godowns. But, ultimately, what is the result? The farmers are at a very very distressed condition. On the one side, the cost of production is going up. It is increasing unabated. You may take into consideration any particular component which is required for cultivation of crops. It is going up right from the wages to the labour, right from the seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, to diesel. There is no exemption even in one particular input. There is no item where the prices have fallen down in the recent past. The prices have been going up very steeply for the past six to seven years. At the same time, the prices of agricultural products are in a diminished condition. There is no match between these two areas, namely, the cost of the inputs and the prices of products. At this particular point of time, the Government have to take into consideration the exact plight of the farming community and the steps that are to be taken. We should see whether the steps taken by the Government are adequate or not and if not, what exactly is to be done. Sir, this is the situation. So, under these specific conditions, we can just categorise the whole problem into three aspects. One is the production of crops, the second is output and prices and the third is the policies of the Government, whether it is at the State level or the national level or issues at international level like how they have been detracting the prices and having an impact on the agriculturists.

So, if we just take these things into consideration, the position will become clear. I am not going into the minute details for want of time. The point is that the cost of production, every year, has been increasing from seven per cent to twenty per cent depending upon various crops.

Next, with regard to credit, I would submit that with all the nationalisation of banks that had been done in the year 1969 and the subsequent nationalisation of banks done in the year 1980, in spite of the stipulation from the Reserve Bank of India, in spite of the specific guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India, no nationalised bank is sticking on to the guidelines. The 18 per cent flow of credit to the agricultural sector is never met by any bank. This has been debated in this august House on several occasions, but still it has not been done. The average total flow of credit to the agricultural sector from the nationalised banks is between 13 and 14 per cent. Even in certain cases it is less than that. For the rest of the credit needs, as it is the farmer is being driven to a moneylender who is lending money at usurious rates of interest. This position has not been corrected.

Next, spurious seeds, pesticides and fertilizers etc. are supplied to the farmers. Recently, this House amended the Pesticides Act. There is no perfect, genuine pesticide which is available in the market. Particularly in the State like Andhra Pradesh, pesticide consumption is very high. Even seven per cent of the total production of pesticides in this country is being consumed in Andhra Pradesh. Spurious pesticide is transported there to a very great extent and the business transaction is going on. The Act and the provisions are unable to meet this situation. They are not doing justice to this. In the case of cotton seed, spurious seed is supplied. We have been hearing on several occasions that the cotton farmers are committing suicide. This is mainly due to the spurious and substandard seeds supplied to them. Once the seed is sown, its genuineness can be realised only at the time of crop harvest. The farmer will not be in a position to have a correct picture unless the Government takes action with regard to its policies. The Seeds (Amendment) Bill is still pending. It is to be tightened. More teeth is to be given to the agencies which are exercising the authority under that Act.

The paradoxical situation is that there is a mismatch between the research and extension wings in the country. It is quite unfortunate that this is happening. We are not short of the technical know-how in this country. Very rich, experienced and competent agricultural scientists are available in this country. We have been producing a lot of technologies. We are the donors to as many as 54 countries as far as the agricultural technologies are concerned. Unfortunately, the technologies that are generated in this country are not reaching the farmers. So, we have got the rich research base and the poorest and weak extension wing in this country. I am not trying to touch upon the question of whether it is the responsibility of the State Government or the Central Government. If the Central Government says that

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

extension work is the subject of the State Government, I am not going to accept it. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Union Government to co-ordinate between the research wing and the extension wing. On several occasions, we say that extension work is an activity of the State Government. Unfortunately, at this time, let me take the opportunity of saying one thing. The greatest agricultural scientist Dr. Paroda has been removed. I do not know what had happened with this Government. The fact is that Dr. Paroda has been removed from service. It is shameful that a most highly qualified and competent scientist has been removed from service. It demoralises the entire agricultural scientific forum in this country.

It is not a welcome step. I think that the Government of India should think over as to whether this type of treatment has to be meted out to the agricultural scientists. On the other hand, I would suggest that the highest civilian awards have to be given to the agricultural scientists to boost the agricultural community. Such awards should be given to the scientists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. R.S. Paroda. Instead of awarding them, they have been removed from office on some flimsy grounds. It is really shameful for our country.

Natural calamities are taken for granted here. Inputs are available; crops are grown; but natural calamities are destroying the whole thing. It is squeezing the blood of the farming community. We have to take this aspect into consideration while fixing the prices to the agricultural produce. Even the Agricultural Prices Commission has taken into consideration as to how exactly this type of natural calamity is playing havoc to the farming community.

I would just take five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: My difficulty is that the time allotted is.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Let him take full time allotted to our party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has taken full time.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Andhra Pradesh is facing severe problem on this front. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): I would hardly take five minutes more, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Besides the Minister for Agriculture participating in the debate, if the Minister for Finance is present in the House, it would

have been more appropriate. ...(Interruptions) I do not know....(Interruptions) Even the Minister for Finance should have also been present in the House...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, as far as agricultural is concerned, you take the history of 100 years. For 27 years, crops have been lost. Once in four years, the farmers have been losing their crop. But this has not been accounted for at the time of fixing the agricultural prices. While fixing the agricultural prices, a realistic view is not properly being taken. This is a set back to the Indian farmers.

The House has debated the issue of crop insurance on several occasions. Village is to be considered as unit at the time of computation of the prices of agricultural produce. But it has not been done. The crop insurance is to be revised. A comprehensive crop insurance scheme is to be evolved and the same has to be implemented.

Coming back to the prices, as I have already mentioned, price fixation is not very realistic. Several essential steps have to be taken into consideration. There is no real farmer representing on the Agricultural Prices Commission and thereby, there is no realistic estimation.

Most importantly, there is a lack of coordination. This particular situation is arising for want of coordination between different Ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture is telling that we would have to produce more. The Ministry of Commerce, without having any coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, is just going on importing. We do not know how to coordinate in this particular situation. The Ministry of Food is not coordinating with two other Ministries, and the Ministry of Fertilizers is not coordinating with other three Ministries. Is there any coordination between these four or five Ministries? All these four or five Ministries are ultimately responsible for the welfare of the farming community. But the farming community is not being properly looked upon on this particular aspect.

During the First Plan the total budgetary allocation for agriculture was 34.5 per cent. Now, it has come down to 19 per cent. Gradually, this kind of treatment is meted out to the Indian agriculture. You can say, agriculture in this country is a neglected area. This has to be rectified. This is not such a shallow subject. This is a very deep-rooted aspect and Indian agriculture is to be given a proper impetus.

15.00 hrs.

What is happening today? On the one side, the farmers are crying that there are no remunerative prices for their commodities and on the other side, the Government is going in for indiscriminate import of many items from other countries. I had been to Kerala last

week and the coconut farmers were agitating there on the streets. They said that copra prices have gone down. What is the reason for that? The reason is that the Government is importing many items from other countries.

In Malaysia, the cost of production of palm oil is totally different as compared to India. Recently, four or five years ago, the Union Government had provided subsidy to palm oil producers. They have encouraged palm oil plantations and they now come up for harvesting. Now, the situation is such that the same farmers are uprooting their palm oil plantations because the palm oil is being imported from Malaysia and other countries at a much cheaper rate. Let this country take a warning that if this country is made dependent on other countries and importing of urea and other inputs are continued, the farmers will be in total distress and they will not in a position to maintain the domestic production.

I would now like to make some suggestions for the consideration of the Government. First, coordination between various Ministries of the Government of India is very important. Secondly, there should be relaxation of quality specifications for procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India. The relaxations that are there now are not sufficient. If relaxation is done in a particular State for various reasons, including political reasons, since they are demanding it, it is not correct. It should be done uniformly in all the States. The relaxation for shrivelled, immature, damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled rice should be increased from 3 per cent to 8 per cent. Then, relaxation for moisture content should be increased from 14 per cent to 15 per cent and for foreign matter, it should be increased from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent in the case of paddy and rice. Instead of purchasing rice, the Food Corporation of India can directly purchase paddy also from the farmers, as is being done in the State of Punjab.

I would like to refer to godown space. The godown facilities that are available at present have been created during 1980s. After that, the Food Corporation of India has not added any godown space and that is why, they are saying that the available godown space is overflowing. So, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has offered that the State Government would keep the entire godown facilities that are available with the State at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India so that they can go in for fresh procurement operations. If the procurement operations are further delayed, there will be a lot of glut in the market, because the new crop has already arrived and another crop is now being sown.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, we have got about 142 lakh tonnes of paddy production this year. The last year's paddy is still there to the extent of 30 to 40 lakh

tonnes. The total will be about 180 lakh tonnes. But what was the procurement by the FCI last year? Last year, the FCI had promised that they would procure 46 lakh tonnes, but then on our demand, they have procured to the extent of 55 lakh tonnes. This year also, they have promised to procure 55 lakh tonnes from Andhra Pradesh. It should be done immediately. Unless procurement operations are intensified, the farmers will be pushed towards distress sale. The situation is the same with regard to maize, soyabean, groundnut etc. If palm oil is imported from other countries, it will affect not only the palm oil producers, but it will also affect the producers of groundnut oil, coconut oil and all other edible oil producers.

Finally, I would like to say that if the policies of WTO that are going to be implemented from 1.4.2001 are not postponed and are not properly looked into, they are going to play havoc with Indian agriculture. If a level playing field is not going to be created between the developed countries and the developing countries, then the World Trade Organisation is not going to be meaningful. Then, the import duties have to be further enhanced. The import duty on palm oil has been enhanced today from 35 per cent to 55 per cent.

It is to be enhanced up to 90 per cent. Then only, a level-playing ground will be there. There is a provision in the WTO. There are obligations also. Unless we rise up to that occasion, the Indian farmer will be in disastrous situation. We will be doing a lot of injustice to the Indian farmer. Let the Government take it in a very serious way. Let there not be any view in isolation. Let them not take the production, the exports and the other inputs in isolation. This type of treatment is not correct. Therefore, I will request, on behalf of our party, that a better treatment is required. The Minimum Support Price, at any cost, whether it is by intervention in the market or through the FCI, is to be guaranteed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Venkateswarlu, please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Once you have expressed the Minimum Support Price for a commodity, that means, the Government will, at any cost, purchase that item. That is to be made so.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, is he supporting or opposing the Motion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule you raising the point of order?

SHRI ANIL BASU: You please hear me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am hearing you. You quote the Rule.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We do not have time. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There are several Ministries of the Union Government which are linked with the farmers. Now, which is the competent Ministry to answer all these questions?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your point of order is out of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C.JOS (Trichur): Sir, he has not completed. He has not said whether he is supporting the Motion or not. We would like to hear about it from him....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, I have called Shri Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. I have said that there is no point of order. But you are insisting again about it.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, you give a direction to the Government.

* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no direction business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Prof. Venkateswarlu has not given the verdict finally whether he is supporting or opposing the Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whether he is supporting or opposing it, it is his sweet will.

SHRI A.C. JOS: But you asked him to sit down. He wants to say about that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I will not ask.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He does not want to do it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): The judgment has been reserved?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, we are wasting the time of the House.

[Translation]

Ramji Lalji, your Party has been allotted only 12 minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here we are discussing the condition of the farmers. The kind of protection which the farmers and agriculture should have got, was not provided to them. Sometime back, the hon. Minister of Agriculture had announced a new Agriculture Policy but during the last ten years this Government functioned without any Agriculture Policy. It reflects that this Government was not having as much sympathy and caring attitude for the agriculture and farmers what it should have had.

15.09 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *IN THE CHAIR*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1994-95, the contribution of agriculture to the total GDP was 5 percent which have been reduced to 1.3 percent at present. The main reason for the pathetic condition of the farmers is that he is not getting the input and means of cultivation for his produce easily.

Uttar Pradesh suffered a drought recently but most of the blocks in Uttar Pradesh were declared dark. A

farmer who wants to seek an electricity connection can not get that for irrigation purpose. The State Government did not provide any funds for the desiltation of canals. Neither the canals were desilted to facilitate the flow of water upto the fields for irrigation nor could he get new connection for electricity, consequently his present crop is also being devastated like the previous one. The prices of fertilisers can be assessed from the fact that while the price of bajra per quintal was 250-225, that of fertiliser it was Rs. 470 per 50 kilograms. A well planned conspiracy is being hatched to devastate the farmers. Many cases of suicides are being reported in which the worst sufferers were potato growers. The number of potato producing farmers is more in the area from where I hail. The farmer invested their money to take potato crop looking at the high prices of potato in the last two-three years but when their produce were transported to Mumbai, Jaipur and other places, farmers were forced to leave their produce without getting payment as the transportation expenses were much higher than what they were going to receive by selling the potato crop. At least, it can be said that the farmers are facing the onslaught from all the sides.

Andhra Pradesh Government have forbidden the farmers not to cultivate rabi crop as it has neither the arrangement for procuring it nor for storing it, same is the case in Uttar Pradesh. The support price for rice announced by the State Government is Rs. 530 per quintal but it is not more than Rs. 300 per quintal at procurement centres. The farmers are being looked and harassed throughout the country and the present state of availability and the exorbitant prices of electricity, water and fertiliser has broken the backbone of the farmers. Our country is deficient in production of pulses but we import as well as export it. During 1998-1999, we imported 62847 tonnes of pulses 'while in 1990-2000 we imported 83784 tonnes of it. Due to the import of pulses' the prices reach skyrocketing heights. There should be a definite policy in this regard. India has almost double to triple of our buffer stocks for foodgrains. Result is that we will export it. It has come to my knowledge that we are exporting at Rs. 450.15 per quintal while the Indian Consumers are buying the same commodity at Rs. 9 per kg.

To sum up, the situation is such that the farmers are being tormented from all sides and they are not getting the desired protection from the Government. I would like to say that every Government have its priorities but this Government is evading the responsibility of extending its protection to the farmers and agriculture and resolving on priority basis, the problem being faced by the farmers of the country. The attitude of Samajwadi Party is quite clear in this regard. The attitude of Bhartiya Janata Party and Congress is not very different over economic issues. Hence we find both of them on the same platform. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today our country is self reliant in the matter of foodgrains and we have excess foodgrains in our buffer stocks. The credit for all these things goes to the farmers. Had the farmers not cultivated the foodgrains with their hard labour, even today we would have to import the foodgrains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the leader of the opposition through the "Adjournment Motion" given an opportunity to discuss the condition of the farmers of our country. The country is run according to the policy framed by the Government whether it is present Government or the previous Government. Today the farmers are facing in different States. To say that, only the present Government is responsible for the present state of affairs is not right. The farmers are directly affected by any policy framed by us.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, natural calamities directly affect the farmers and mostly he becomes a victims of them. Sometimes it is flood, which destroy their crops at all and sometimes their crop is destroyed due to drought. The costs of commodities are rising day by day but this thing is to look into as to what the farmers are getting who produce all those things. The farmers are suffering and unhappy in each State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our farmers are dependent on agriculture. I hail from Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. Through entire Maharashtra is facing a drought like situation, my constituency where maximum rainfall used to take place is also facing drought this year. This situation is such that the entire rice crop has been damaged there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maharashtra produces maximum quantity of cotton, sugarcane and rice. My constituency produces a lot of coconut also as well as maximum rice. The farmers are not being given the support prices of crop announced by the Government. When the farmers do not get the proper price for his produce which he produces with so much of hardwork, it proves highly discouraging and disappointing for him.

Hence the people are leaving the fields and are migrating to the cities in search of employment which in turn is increasing unemployment. The Government needs to seriously ponder over it. If further the farmers are happy and we paid proper price for their produce, the sons of farmers do not have to migrate to cities in search of employment. It will also check the growing unemployment as he will get the employment from land. Hence we are to give priorities over several issues, then the top priority is to be given to the problems of the

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geeta]

farmers. When a farmer demands proper price for his produce, we are not able to pay him. The Centre should delegate some powers to the States in this regard. Though the States have been given powers but there is a need to under the scope of these powers. For example Maharashtra which is the biggest cotton growing State. Had the States been given the right to export the cotton, thus the farmers would have got proper remunerative price for their cotton crop. Besides, the timely payment could also cause spurt in production. Sugarcane is also extensively produced in Maharashtra. If the States are given the power to export the sugar then the sugarcane growing farmers can get much more price for their produce in turn, can encourage them for better harvesting besides making them happy and prosperous...(Interruptions) I am also telling about onion. Today the farmers are dependent upon nature. You might remember that onion have produced a big political storm. You are also aware about the elections fall out in four States which occurred due to the issue of onion. Today the same situation in regard to onion prevails in Maharashtra...(Interruption)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): It will happen after that...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Only time will tell as to what will happen. Ramdas ji I am not saying anything in political terms. Whatever I am speaking in favour of farmers and is trying to put forward, before the House, the harsh realities and the problems being faced by the farmers. Today the same situation is prevailing in Maharashtra in regard to onion. The onion crop was devastated due to untimely rain. The prices of onion have started increasing. When there is shortfall in onion production in our country we export it while it is produced in abundance, we import it. The Union Government needs to seriously ponder over this thing. See the plight of our agriculture products today, such as potato. Which uncle's this Uncle Chips is, today none eats our wafers. Today one packet of Uncle Chips can be made with just 100 grams of potatoes but its price varies from Rs. 9 to Rs. 12. And none cares for potatoes. A farmer is not getting kits remunerative price. The Government should consider these issues very seriously. Large difference exists between a trader and a farmer. A customer has to pay more price in the market which results in dearth. Consequently, the traders get maximum profit whereas the farmers get minimum price. There is a need to remove this disparity and to provide maximum price to the farmers. Reduction in Kerosene Oil price by 1 rupee will surely give some respite. Similarly, reduction in cooking gas

price by Rs. 10 will also give some respite to people. But demand of the farmers to roll-back of Diesel's price rise is justified. It does not matter whose demand it is - but it is a fact that the demand is on behalf of farmers who have to face these problems. It is causing price-rise. He has to buy pump set for running tube-well for irrigation. And pump set needs Diesel, whose prices have increased.

Today the farmer does not want to work in fields but he wants to work in factories in the cities because the wages have increased there. Farmers are not getting remunerative price for their products therefore they are dismayed.

Today, plight of farmers is being discussed here. I assure on behalf of my Shiv Sena Party that we will definitely extend contribution, if required, for betterment of farmers. But, politically, I oppose the motion moved on the plight of farmers which states that present Government is responsible for this poor state of farmers. This would not be appropriate to blemish the present Government. Because various wrong policies adopted by different previous Government have put farmers in a bad shape. I oppose this motion and I convey my sympathy towards farmers.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, anti-farmers policies of present Government have made the condition of farmers quite critical. Consequently, our farmer brothers and sisters have to face lot of difficulties. I still remember, in 1990 when BJP was fighting elections in Madhya Pradesh they gave a slogan, "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Karja Maff". It is needless to say that after BJP came to power, loan of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh were waived but only upto 10,000 Rs. At the time of election, there was no such condition.

Even today, I remember that slogan and I reiterate the slogan that - "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Karja Maff", is no more relevant. Today, in fact the slogan is - "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Patta Saaf". Today, the condition of our farmer is such that right from North to South and East to West they are appealing frantically for mercy. Our hon'ble Ministers do not often visit the villages. Perhaps, Member belonging to ruling party may not be visiting villages. But, since I hail from rural area, therefore, I would like to reiterate it...(Interruptions) I am not yielding, it is wrong to say so. Neither I interrupted Shri Sahuji nor anybody else. I have no such habit. I would like to request you that we should work as per the rules of parliamentary procedure and should keep our traditions in mind.

I have great respect for Nitish Kumarji. He is a gregarious and laborious person. But, it is quite unfortunate that why hon'ble Prime Minister puts him in such a crucial situation. When any crisis is about to come and anyone's downfall is nearing, he is put on test. He was performing very well here unnecessarily he was sent to Bihar for 12-13 days. What a sort of drama it was, the poor fellow returned back to Delhi. I have great regards for him, he has so much of patience. Today, in such a situation when our farmer is stood on the cross-road of downfall and our Government do not seem caring for this sector and are not hesitating pushing them to the corner, you are again at the helm of affairs of Ministry of Agriculture. I feel pity on you since i have great attention and regards for you...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): What Congress has done in Bihar atleast they have not done that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is needless to say since everyone know it. I take it very seriously. But the production cost for farmer's is increasing day by day and everyone in the House raised a voice against fertilizer subsidy. I know that allies of ruling party, too, are dismayed at it. I was very happy to hear Shri Venkateshwarlu and Shri Anantji's view and I have come to believe that some people put their ideologies in cold storage when they become power-hungry, but ultimately their inner-soul rebels and finally it emerges victorious. Views of Shri Venkateshwarlu and Shri Anantji have roused confidence in me. It is not too late, it is only six O'clock and you have reserved your judgment. Everything will come to light when you deliver it. But farmers will be at a great a loss because of cut in fertilizer subsidy. His production cost is increasing. Take the case of Diesel within one year its price is increased by 64 percent. How the farmer is going to operate his tubewell and tractor. Even transportation charges have increased. Who is going to bear this burden since he has to carry his produce to the market.

Since Government expenditure has increased many fold and it is necessary to control physical deficit but do not put so much burden on farmers since they are foundation and back-bone of our economy, and if you weaken them, our entire economy will dwindle. There is so much fuss about subsidy but I would like to tell you that subsidy for agriculture sector is provided even in developed countries which have gone through industrial as well as manufacturing revolution. Be it Japan, Australia, European Union, United States, there is an international criteria for assessing subsidy, which is a very difficult process. This complicated criteria is known as Aggregate Measurement of Support (A.M.S.) As per that criteria an estimate is made as to how much subsidy is provided

for agriculture or any other sector in each country and whether it is in plus or minus and also whether there is a level playing field or not. It has become clear through AMS that in O.E.C.D. countries, which are economically advanced, large part of subsidy is in plus-factor whereas in India subsidy is Minus 24 Billion dollars. when you talk of subsidy you do not propogate that farmers in India are given heavy subsidy which has become a burden on our economy and our expenditure has increased. Therefore, a cut in this subsidy is imperative, because in comparison with other countries we are getting our minus subsidy. America provides 26 Billion Dollars subsidy to her 6 million farmers whereas India provides 24 billion dollar minus subsidy to her 700 million farmers. Therefore, I would like to request you humbly that it is in the interest of the farmers and the nation as well. You have no consideration and you increased the price of Diesel. But, since people have raised this again and again therefore, I would not like to take more time.

Now I would like to speak on open import. Just now Shri Anantram Geeteji has told that though we had a record bumper crop of onion yet the Government are importing onion. I do agree with his point. When there is a record crop of any particular commodity and the Government resort to its import then naturally we got suspicious about the intention of Government.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You are talking about import or export?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am talking about import and not about onion. I just gave an example that during bumper harvest the Government resorted to import. During 1998 our wheat production was a record 74 million ton, which was all time high. I would like to ask the Government as to what prompted the Government to import eight million ton wheat from Australia, that too on Zero duty when we had a record output of 74 million ton. Yet we do not wish to suspect your intention.

Quite naturally a question arises in my mind. Similarly, when we had a record production of sugar in our country the Government imported sugar on Zero percent duty. I would not like to reiterate that even during Kargil war why sugar was imported from Pakistan. It was imported from several countries. It broke the back-bone of our farmers from Uttar Pradesh. Our sugar factories went in loss. Factory owners could not make payment to farmers and farmers had to burn their sugarcane crop. Why did you resort to import of sugar when there was a record harvest of 15 million tons? We have not got its reply so far. If at all it was to be imported then you should have increased the duty atleast. People's cries went futile. After a gap of six month the duty was increased from Zero to 27.5 percent and still when there was hue and cry it no as again increased to 60 percent after five months?

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

I say it is still less. In America there is 130 percent duty on sugar, in European Union it is 200 percent; in Bangladesh it is 200 percent, in Thailand it is 100 percent, in Columbia it is 130 percent and in India after lots of hue and cry, from Zero percent it was brought to 27.5 percent and again it was brought at 60 percent. I want to know why it is so? You are resorting to subsidised import and killing our farmers. Why is this delay? About Edible Oil, it is reported that duty on Palmolein has been fixed at 65 percent.

[English]

Why is this delay? That is why, the question crop up in our mind, and we get suspicious as to what these big deals are.

[Translation]

Rajivji had launched a Technology Mission for oil seeds. From 1986 to 1989 within three year production of oil seeds increased by 85 percent. And during the regime of present Government import of Edible Oil increased by 128 percent breaking the backbone of farmers. What is the reason behind?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though I am not stopping you, yet there are six more honourable Members from your party who are to speak, so kindly take care of time constraints.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): It is very important speech, who would raise such issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not stopped him.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I understand the reason behind such sort of subsidised import when we have a bumper harvest in our country. And if there is an import, then why imposition of duty is delayed? Until and unless we do not get a reply to these questions, we got to suspect as to what is the real reason behind such import. I feel pity on Nitishji. I do not raise a finger on his honesty, least you become victim of a big conspiracy.

[English]

You are casualty prone, Shri Nitish Kumar. You have to be very, very careful.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: For quite some time you had been Minister for various departments. Despite knowing the duties of an Agriculture Minister well, still you are saying such thing.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Therefore, he is giving a friendly forewarning.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am ready to accept it. In case of fixing a responsibility, blame will definitely come on you. So be careful ! Question have been raised about the team which went to Seattle and signed an agreement.

It was a strange agreement even it was not given a wide publicity. What the Government did, it appointed a spokesperson for the Cabinet, namely Shri Pramod Mahajan. Though there was lot of publicity but not about this aspect. Why, such an agreement was signed, which provided for liberalised import of agriculture product.

[English]

Liberalisation of agriculture imports has been signed at Seattle by the negotiating team in December last year.

[Translation]

This Liberalised agreement was totally against the interest of our agriculture products. Certain sections putting restrictions on imports were just removed to pave way for open import. Today everything, such as wheat, Rice, Milk, Jawar, Bajra, Tea, Coconut, Poultry products, Eggs, Maize including Vegetables and Fruits can be imported under Open General Licence, and nothing is left. This all has been made possible under WTO agreement. Now you do not say that WTO agreement was signed during Congress regime, so what can we do. WTO is an umbrella agreement wherein there is a full scope of bilateral negotiations for Tariff and Trade Restrictions. As per this agreement upto 300 percent duty can be imposed on certain products. But, why these products have been put under OGL? I would like to ask you - why did you not apply tariff barrier and took anti-dumping safeguard measures in this regard. Why this all was done so secretly and no wide publicity was given in this regard? Be it foreign policy, economic-policy or agriculture-policy we are totally pressurised by developed countries. Many observations have been raised in this connection. Where there was much hue and cry, gradually the duty was increased. Nowadays, when you go to the market, you will see in all the domestic products, no matter, they are agro based products of farmers, you will find.

[English]

You will find Swiss chips; you will find apples and

milk products from New Zealand; you will find biscuits from Thailand and you will find Brazilian chocolates.

[Translation]

What will happen to our domestic producers. This Government is recreating history by pushing again towards slavery. Specially we have to think about it otherwise the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, wheat growers of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, Soyabean growers of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, paddy growers of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and Palmoil and coconut growers of Southern India will become of nowhere. The price of coconut has come down to its half and the plantation are being burnt there. The life of farmers has become miserable. The rate of betel nut was between Rs. 15000 to Rs. 18000 per quintal but now it has come down to Rs. Four to six thousand per quintal. In forecoming months, you will see the intrusion in the area of milk.

[English]

They have opened the floodgates. There is going to be an avalanche of milk and milk products from the outside.

[Translation]

Most of the women in our country are earning their livelihood through milk and milk products, where shall they go. Right now, one of my colleagues has talked about poultry. The tea is being imported from Kenya, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh due to which the people of south, north and north-east are going to loose their jobs. I wanted to say much more but according to your instructions, I am cutting short. I would only like to request the Government that when they lifted the Q.R. from 714 items on 1st April, you did not take steps towards duties, tariff, anti-dumping measures to safe-guard domestic products in favour of farmers. Small scale industries or other sectors as a result thereof, they were adversely affected. Now, you are lifting Q.R. from 715 items from first April 2001, then atleast this time you can take preventive measures. So, we should identify our weaker sectors so that we may protect them. You should set up your tariff and duty structure right now as to what you are going to do in February and March. For this, we seek a white-paper from you. Please bring it as early as possible as to what tariff and duties you are going to impose so that our farmer are not put in troubles again. 200 farmers committed suicide in Punjab. Some reports have been received from Andhra Pradesh and also from the whole country, such reports are coming. Nitish Kumarji, I request you that this situation should not be repeated.

Sir, at last, I would like to say about what Shri Sahu has just stated that our budget amount as increased. I have stated in my budget speech last year that it is not true, the situation is just opposite.

[English]

Cut in the budget for development of oilseeds was 40 per cent; on foodgrain development programme the cut was 75 per cent; on agricultural marketing and marketing infrastructure it was 25 per cent; on soil and water conservation it was 65 per cent; on cooperative in credit programme it was 60 per cent; on animal husbandry it was 30 per cent; on dairy development it was 35 per cent ; on rural employment and employment assurance scheme it was 30 per cent to 40 per cent; and on horticulture and vegetable crops it was 50 per cent. This was the Budget last year. There have been massive cuts. I wish Shri Sahu had read my speech on the Budget last year. If he had, he would have found all the statistics there and he would not have said what he has said here today.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to request you that 70 percent of our population is living in villages and their condition is getting worse. The economy of entire nation depends on them which will also weaken completely owing to it. At a time, when subsidy is being deducted, budget is shaming, the cost of production is increasing, infrastructural investment is falling an indiscriminate exports are being undertaken, a sad state of procurement can be seen in Punjab and Haryana. Even the minimum support price of procurement was carried out only after the hue and cry and agitation by the people. I would like to say that in these circumstances, the resolution brought before us is quite correct. I would also like to request all the allies parties to reach any proper conclusion which your conscience allows. No matter, your decision is correct or not, but if you like to save the interests of farmers, I firmly believe that your conscience will win and by supporting this resolution, you will also show your resentment against the policies of this Government.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through adjournment motion moved by the opposition, we are discussing here the problems of the farmers of our country. Hon. Sonia ji and other Members have expressed their views in this regard. Just now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia has expressed his views. Whenever we discuss the problems of farmers in the House, we generally forget that after independence if anybody is responsible for not improving the economic condition of farmers in the country, it is Congress...(Interruptions). At

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

the time of India's independence, the freedom fighters as well as our farmers had thought that now the government of our own leaders will be formed and priority will be given to agriculture. Today, I regret to say that after independence, our great leader Pandit ji, despite being a very learned person was not acquainted with the farming system of the country. He was brought up in western culture and hence therefore he had no experience of how a farmer cultivates his land. In the name of development, he tried to benefit the industrial sector of the country whereas in comparison to other countries, India is neither properly developed in industrial sector nor in the field of agriculture. I can give many such examples where many smaller countries have attained more developments in these fields. The countries such as Nigeria, Israel, Canada and Australia have produced more foodgrains than we do. Here I am not talking about America and other bigger countries where per hectare production of food grains is two to three times in comparison to our country.

I would like to ask those people of Congress who were in power for 40-45 years that, why the production of our country is less than these small countries? Now, they have tried to create disturbances by pulling the leg of the government for what we have done in the period of one and half years and they are not fulfilling their responsibilities of opposition properly. They have lost the faith of people in them. Whereas hon. Nitish Kumarji. has moved the resolution in Lok Sabha for discussion on agriculture policy. When the resolution was moved by the opposition, the government made it very clear that government is prepared to discuss it under any rule you choose. The decision of the Chair was ignored by them because they wanted to show that how much sympathy they have for farmers. What was the condition of our farmers two-three years back? If you compare, then you will find that this government is working better than its predecessors. Hon. Madhavrao ji, I would like to ask you that Central Government is providing subsidy on Kerosene, diesel and L.P.G. whereas the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Digvijay Singh who is running the government in your alliance may not listen to you. Probably he might listen to hon. Sonia ji.

16.00 hrs.

He has imposed 8 percent sales tax on diesel, kerosene and petrol. Do you have the courage to ask them to withdraw that sales tax in favour of farmers. If you are the sympathiser of farmers, then I would like to request you to direct the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to withdraw the sales tax from petroleum products. It will benefit the farmers. In the last budget of Madhya Pradesh, 4 percent, 8 percent and 10 percent

tax has been imposed on the inputs of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh. If you have courage, then you may ask the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to withdraw the above tax. All the farmers of country need sufficient water and electricity. The water must reach and every field. But why it has not been possible till date. For the last several years, many proposals have been brought to solve the problem of flood and drought in which it was suggested that the water of perennial rivers should be diverted to the places where the water is scarce during summers and winters. Whether your government ever made any efforts in this direction? The rain water flows from small nallahs and rivers into bigger rivers and ultimately into the sea. Have you made any effort to stop the falling water level? If so, then why this problem is existing till date? Are you willing to consider it. I can establish this fact by giving numerous examples of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments. You are anti-farmer. You have nothing to do with farmers. You are a supporter of all the big-wig capitalists and businessmen. You run the government in princely style and have been the supporter of that style...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho):Gehlot ji, keep on speaking whatever you want to. Nobody will stop you.

16.04 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN IN THE CHAIR)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am enjoying in passing this information to Chaturvedi ji about the Digvijay Singh government in Madhya Pradesh.

The day before yesterday all the members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh discussed the drought situation prevailing in Madhya Pradesh with the State Chief Minister. Various related issues were also discussed. The State Government have neither made any efforts to provide relief to drought affected people, farmers and agricultural labourers nor took any initiative in this regard...(Interruptions) The same situation is prevailing in Maharashtra also. When we talked to them in this regard, they stated that the State is in the grip of drought and they required an assistance of Rs. 715 crores from the Central Government. We told them that we were with them in the hour of crisis and ready to help them in getting the assistance from the Centre, but we would like to know as to what steps have been taken by them till now. I am sorry to say that the results of crop cutting experiments from 17 districts out of 45 drought affected districts have not yet reached the State Government. Results of crop cutting experiment has not been reached

till date. We all are aware that there was no rains in Madhya Pradesh after August which has badly affected the crops. Results of crop cutting experiments should have been collected well in time so that relief could be provided to the farmers but that was not done on time. Rains ended in August and the crops were ready by September and sold in the market by October. Chief Minister stated that the results would be collected within two days. Farmers have harvested the crop and sold it in the market so how they will collect the results of crop cutting experiments.

Such a careless attitude is being adopted by the Madhya Pradesh Government. No efforts are being made to meet the drought situation. I told them that Central Government would certainly provide assistance to the State but the main question is as to what arrangements would be made by the State Government. We told them that though we do not have the funds but we would try to give the relief by imposing cuts in various departments. Such a situation is prevailing not only in Madhya Pradesh but in Rajasthan and Maharashtra also. Then how they are blaming that the Central Government is not working in the interest of farmers. My submission is that the present Government have accomplished various works in the interest of the farmers and have taken certain decisions in the interest of farmers. It is clearly evident from the new agriculture policy announced by the Union Agriculture Minister in which several suggestions have been made to develop agriculture and to protect the interest of farmers. I am confident that Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji will work for the upliftment of the farmers. They will protect the interest of farmers and make the country prosper. You have pushed the county on a wrong path but we will not do so.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the adjournment motion moved in the House regarding the miserable condition of farmers in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole House is aware that our's is an agricultural country. Most of our population depends upon agriculture. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to work in the interests of farmers. Problems of the farmers are not related to agriculture ministry alone but to other ministries also. It would be much better if other concerned Ministers would also remain present here alongwith the Agriculture Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to make a lengthy speech. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this House towards two-three points only. What are the main requirements of the farmers in this country? They require agricultural equipments at cheaper rates. They should get the remunerative prices

for their produce in the market irrespective of area to which they belong or the type of agriculture they are engaged in.

Every farmer wants to purchase agricultural equipments at cheaper rates and to get remunerative prices for his produce. However, Government has failed to do so, that's why farmer is distressed in every field. National Agricultural Policy is formed by the Union Government in the interest of the farmers but instead of protecting farmer's interests, Government pays more attention as to what extent the party in power and the persons associated with the party would be benefited by it. The National Agricultural Policy should be formed cutting across the party lines so as to provide full benefits to the farmers.

Secondly, while deciding about the import and export of Agriculture produce, the Government consider its own benefits rather than protecting the interests of farmers. That is also a cause of distress to the farmers. Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugarcane producing State of the country and the present Government of BJP in the state have sold out many sugarcane mills at throw away prices. Now what will happen to the farmers and their crops? Where the labourers working in various mills will go? Central Government should make it mandatory for the State Governments to take prior permission from the Union Government if it propose to sell any mili directly relating to farmer's crops. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is very bad. There is no such restriction on the Government and the mills are being sold one after the other.

Like sugarcane, potato is also produced here in large quantity. This time also there is a bumper crop of potatoes. However, the farmers are worried whether they will get remunerative prices for their produce or not. Cold storages are also in a poor condition. Not only in Uttar Pradesh, but in the every state of the country farmers who are engaged in the production of any main crops are living in a pitiable condition. We have seen the attitude of the Union Government at the time when any natural calamity occurs be it a drought situation or flood. Relief works are also politicized. The BJP Government at Centre pays more attention towards that drought or flood affected State where BJP is in power. And the states where other parties are in power, it does not pay much attention. That's why people from West Bengal were demonstrating on the main gate of Parliament House regarding the havoc created by the flood there. These Members have also expressed their concern regarding the problems of the farmers during Zero Hour. People in West Bengal are in miserable condition because Union Government has adopted step motherly attitude towards that State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today farmers are living in a pitiable condition. One part of the country is affected by

[Kumari Mayawati]

floods and the other part is in the grip of drought but Government is doing nothing for the welfare of the farmers. Government belonging to any political party has the responsibility to work in the interest of farmers and take decisions in their favour cutting across the party line. Through you, I would like to submit in the House that farmers are distressed today because necessary agricultural implements are not being made available to them on reasonable rates by the Government. The prices of agricultural implements are sky-rocketing and the goods produced by the farmers are being sold at a very low price.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from all angles, farmers of our country are most distressed and dejected. The Government has failed in this regard. Therefore, through you, I request the Agriculture Minister to seriously ponder over the problems of farmers and solve them. We are ready to extend you the cooperation you need, but the miserable condition of farmers in the entire country should immediately be improved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this 'Adjournment Motion' has been moved in the House, keeping in view the pitiable condition of farmers in the country. We are neither supporting the government by opposing this motion nor supporting the Congress Party by supporting this motion, but we are simply supporting this motion in the interest of farmers because today the farmers are in great distress in every field. If we observe the policies of the Government, then we would find that the government always think about its own interest, be it national agriculture policy, import-export policy or any other policy, it does not consider the interest of the farmers. So, it is my request to you that government should take appropriate decision in this regard. Most of population of the country depends upon agriculture today and agriculture is the backbone of our country. So, it is very essential to pay attention towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 'Adjournment Motion, today has been moved in the House to discuss the condition of farmers, but the views expressed by the Congress people and the opposition members in their speeches regarding the farmers have a question regarding their political ideology too. When Scindiaji was speaking, then also I felt that he is politically motivated while delivering his speech on agriculture.

Sir, I belong to the rural area and that is why I know the actual condition of farmers. Today the position

is that people are not buying the agricultural produces of farmers in the market. The shopkeepers are not ready to buy any agricultural produce of farmers in the market, may it be rice or maize. I am unable to understand as to why foodgrain is not being purchased in Bihar. What is the reason behind it? Is it due to the agriculture policy or the policies being implemented by us or is it due to our way of working according to the international market that our farmers are facing difficulties. This needs to be considered and looked into.

I don't think that it should not be considered. We know through the newspapers and even the government has also announced that the godowns of FCI have so much of foodgrains that now it is not possible for the Union Government to procure any more foodgrain. Now, the point to be considered upon is - how to use that foodgrain, how to sell it, which would be its market and where shall we get such an appropriate market and if we are not getting market, then what is the reason behind it. Therefore, when a discussion goes on regarding the removal of restrictions on 714 articles under the pressure of WTO, then we should also see that out of these 714 articles, which is a product of agricultural produce or which is directly an agricultural produce. If any foreign item is directly coming into the Indian market without any restriction and is being sold here, then we should see that it does not make any impact on our farmers. So, now when you will remove restrictions on 715 articles more then please check as to how many of them are agricultural products. Moreover, this also needs to be checked that direct selling of these products in the market is affecting our agriculture or not. That is why rice, maize and other crops in Bihar are not being purchased in the market. I am unable to understand the reasons behind it. If businessman or shopkeepers are not purchasing the foodgrains, then why the State Government or Union Government are not making some arrangement for it so that small farmers may be able to sell their produce in the markets. When businessmen ask for money from the farmers, they say that we get money only after selling our grain. Thereafter, we buy Oil, Salt and other consumables with that amount. How shall we buy these things if our produce is not purchased. I want to ask as to whether the State Government or Union Government would make any arrangement to procure the agro produce at each block or not?...(Interruptions). The reason behind the difficulties prevailing presently in Bihar is non-procurement of the foodgrains. Therefore, the State Government and the Union Government should make some immediate arrangement at block level for the procurement of foodgrains of the farmers.

Similarly, the farming is lagging far behind in Bihar. Even today, more than 95 percent of our agricultural

land is tilled through plough. The fertiliser in our State is used in much less quantity as compared to the other States. Similarly, the use of tractors or harvestors is much less in Bihar in comparison with other States of the country. So, if Bihar has any so called town, it is a rural town, like that of Patna. Patna is not an industrial town, but is a rural one. Despite this, we call it the capital of Bihar, but actually it is a rural town. Scindia ji has left, I am asking my Congress brothers that Patna, today, is a rural town, what have they contributed towards its development? Patna could not become an industrial city even after 52-53 years of Independence, and to which extent this government is responsible, which is here for the last one and a half or three years?

If the capital had been invested in the agriculture sector of Bihar and then cultivation would have taken place, Patna would also have become an industrial town. But even in this modern age, our capital is a rural capital. So, it is not good to think about the farmers under a political outlook. We should always think that 70 percent people of our country live in the villages. Our rural way of living, our traditions and our culture, all are diminishing. If any new culture has to replace this old one, then is there any proper planning therefor or not. I think that no such plan has been chalked out for it. I want to add one basic question along with it. We are probably going to discuss upon the agriculture policy announced here right now. The discussion would be on agricultural reforms and land reforms. But I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that whether this policy has also affected the condition of the farmers or not? This should be considered upon. A comparatively bigger land on lease is proposed to be given to private sectors under the agriculture and land reforms. I don't understand why agriculture is being given to private sector. Every farmer has small and big holding. I don't know whether it relates to private sector-industrial and commercial houses or international world or corporate world. If it is so then it is going to bring a basic change in our life because it will bring changes to the life of the entire nation. I would not like to take up the issue whether it should happen or not, that will be discussed later on but I would like to submit only this that the international corporate must have studied the corporate world of Indian and its impact on the market of their impacts are there then what measures the Government propose to take. We will have to contrive some measures. The major change that is to take place on account of the Agriculture Policy is that from peasants to big farmers, they will have to decide as to whom they will leave the land. What system should be evolved if the change takes place in the entire rural life whether it is agricultural labourers or rich farmers. Was this scheme prepared at the time of formulation of Agriculture Policy?

I would like to submit that farmers are facing hardship, the sugarcane are not being purchased so what to say of remunerative prices. The farmers should get remunerative prices to their products, modern technology should be employed in agriculture, per hectare production should be increased, but all these things are not possible in near future.

Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture that this should also be taken into consideration. Political ideology and one upmanship should not come in the way. There was flood in Bihar. My constituency Munger is there in that region and Bhagalpur, Jamui and Sitamarhi are adjacent to it. The entire northern Bihar is badly affected by flood. The district magistrate of Munger said that only in Munger there is loss of life and property worth Rs. 148 crore. Bhagalpur, Lakhisarai, Kargaria and Sitamarhi have also suffered heavy loss due to flood. I don't know whether the State Government have submitted any report to the Central Government regarding the loss of life and property. However if the State Government have submitted the report then, how much financial assistance so far has been provided to Bihar? Kargaria and Bhagalpur are worst flood affected districts which have suffered severe devastation. Only in my district 50 thousand mud houses have collapsed. It is not my report, rather it is the Government report. The situation is such that the people have no shelter. The Central Government's assistance should be provided to restore and rebuild infrastructure, means of irrigation and houses that have been destroyed in flood.

With these words, I conclude and I am not supporting the adjournment motion as it has been moved with some vested political interest.

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am quite aware of the time factor. So, I will be very brief. I will make only three points.

Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Unfortunately, adequate attention is not being paid to this sector. *The Economy Survey* of Government of India says that the growth of economy would be sustainable only if the average annual rate of growth in agriculture would be of the order of four per cent. What is the present scenario? If you look at the growth rate of agriculture in the last 15 years, you may find that it had stagnated at 3.6 per cent.

Whereas the *Economic Survey* says that it has at least to be four per cent. From 1990 to 1997 the annual compound growth rate of foodgrains production has been

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

1.7 per cent whereas the growth rate of birth has been 2.1 per cent. I am making this point just to remind this House that though we are very proud of our self-sufficiency in food production yet the fact remains today that the growth of population is higher than the growth rate of food production. Therefore, I think we will have to be very careful. There is a need, according to me, for a second Green Revolution in our country. That is what Dr. Swaminathan has emphasised. He has suggested that the Green Revolution has to be taken to the Gangetic East, the Brahmaputra Valley and the Central India. But in order to take the Green Revolution to new areas naturally there is the question of investment. The *Economic Survey* itself has said:

"In order to ensure this growth, the *Survey* call for encouragement of high investment in rural assets and channelling of public expenditure towards supported infrastructure including rural roads, irrigation, agricultural research and extension services, soil conservation, irrigation and watershed management."

So, these are the areas where we will have to make adequate investments. As has been pointed out by the earlier speakers, unfortunately adequate investments are not taking place in agricultural sector. Therefore, the management of agriculture in our country would need a lot of strategic thinking. It will need planning and monitoring.

The second point that I would like to make is that the current situation is an extraordinary situation, a crisis situation. The *Economic Survey* of 1999-2000 also says that the money that will be required to subsidise food will be to the tune of Rs. 8,500 crore or something like that. I do not know about it...*(Interruptions)* I think it is Rs. 8,200 crore. So, on the one hand, we are spending so much of money towards procurement for subsidising food, on the other hand, there are no takers today. The FCI godowns are overflowing with surplus stock. The oil depots are overflowing with surplus stock. The same is the case in the edible oil sector. There is a lot of surplus with the NAFED. On the other hand, we are spending and investing so much of money. Why? I think the reason is very obvious. It is a failure of management. I reiterate that it is an absolute failure of management. I do not know how today the market price of foodgrains and oil is cheaper than the subsidised food of the FCI or the NAFED or the Public Distribution System. On the one hand, we say that we are surplus in food production, on the other hand, we have millions and millions of people living below the poverty line. The reason, I think, is just mismanagement. We will have to improve our distribution system in the country. We will have to professionalise the functioning of the FCI and the other agencies.

The third point that I would like to make, keeping in view the time factor, is this. As has already been pointed

out, I think one of the main reasons for the crisis has been the import of foodgrains and oil.

Indiscriminate import of essential commodities, whether it be sugar, whether it be edible oil, in the last two years, we have been importing sugar from Pakistan, Brazil. Last year, I am told that the edible oil import is next to the import of petroleum products. Many members have already pointed out the plight of our farmers. Be it in the area of sugar, wheat, and rubber growers of Kerala and other places. We will have to be very careful.

I am aware of our commitments to the WTO, but we did not have the framework of the WTO. I think the Government can and should take appropriate steps. One of the reasons, as Shri Madhavrao Scindia has already pointed out, is that we have the power to levy import duty. Why did we allow the oil to come without any import duty? Only yesterday the Government have decided to levy the import duty on the import of oil. It may be because the House would be discussing the issue today. Therefore, there are areas which can be utilised and Government can take corrective steps...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to repeat the points that have already been made.

I would like to remind the Government that in Mexico— I think that we should draw our lessons from them - seven to eight lakh livelihoods were lost due to fall of maize prices consequent on the cheap import under the NIFTIER. That is what has happened to the economy of Moscow. In Philippines, the foodgrains sector underwent steady marginalisation, which is happening in our country today. It happened in Philippines in 1998 and the result is that the situation came where the share of rice imports in Philippines rose up to 35 per cent of the total agricultural imports just a couple of years ago. Therefore, we should be very careful.

I am not at all in favour of indiscriminate imports, which will lead to so many problems and sufferings to our farmers. But when we talk about farmers, when we are talking about the agricultural sector, I think, sometimes we forget to remember those who are agricultural labourers, those who are daily wagers. We have 315 million working force in our country, out of that, 110 million of them are the agricultural labourers. They earn their livelihood on daily wages. I think the Government should think about that.

I have been in the Ministry of Labour for sometime. I know the conditions of the agricultural labourers. We had held a number of conferences of Labour Ministers' of the country as to what can be done for them. And a suggestion was, as Kerala has a legislation for the welfare activities of the farm workers, a similar thing for the agricultural labourers can be done by the Government of

India. I think that it is at the final stage of drafting and the Government should expedite that particular Bill, which would regulate the welfare measures for the agricultural labourers.

We have done well since Independence in the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, in the last few years, as I said, it has remained stagnant as far as growth rate is concerned. Much of the credit, not only goes to our farmers; not only goes to our agricultural labourers, but I think the credit also goes to our scientists. Our scientists have done exceedingly well in their research. Unfortunately, today I am given to understand that our scientists are absolutely demoralised.

The manner which Dr. R.S. Paroda, the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Secretary to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education has been sacked from service is not correct. He is also the President of the Indian Science Congress Association for the current year. The Indian Science Congress is going to meet shortly and the Prime Minister is going to inaugurate it. I do not know how the Prime Minister is going to share the dais with the person who has been sacked by his own Government. I am really very much concerned about the sacking of Dr. R.S. Paroda, after the reported writing of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. Abdul Kalam, Dr. Khush etc. expressing their shock. Many eminent scientists not only from India, but also from abroad, including the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug have expressed their shock and anguish over the way such an eminent scientists has been treated.

So, I would urge upon the Minister to please review his decision. We cannot afford to bring in demoralisation among the scientists of our country, who have done so much service to this country. Therefore, I would personally plead with Shri Nitish Kumar to have a relook at his decision. If he can rectify his decision, it will be a great service not only to our scientists but also to Indian agriculture, which is the backbone of our economy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balua, Bihar): Mr. Chairman Sir, the discussion is going on regarding the issues related to agriculture. Just now the leader of opposition has expressed his concern and moved an adjournment motion. It is good thing that the House is seriously discussing the issues. Presently the deputy-leader of the Congress Party, Shri Scindia is not present in the House. He was stating that the present Government have increased the prices of fertiliser and diesel which has adversely effected the farmers. If he were present here he would have

realised that the price rise had occurred at the time of Shri Rao's Government in 1991. In 1991-92 the consumption of phosphetic fertiliser was nearly 3.25 million metric ton. They decontrolled phosphetic and potash fertiliser on 25 August, 1992 as a result of which the consumption of phosphetic fertiliser reduced from 3.21 million ton 2.61 million ton in 1993-94. Similarly, the consumption of potash was 1.391 million ton in 1991-92 and when it was decontrolled, its price shot up and its distribution and consumption reduced to 0.99 million ton. Earlier the price of the DAP fertiliser was Rs. 4700 per ton but in 1992-93 when it was decontrolled its price shot up to Rs. 8300 per ton. Then N.P. ratio was drastically reduced and that adversely affected the agricultural land and its productivity. Even Government have acted towards increasing and decreasing the price. Similarly he was discussing about the diesel price. The price of diesel in Delhi in 1973 was Rs. 0.83 per litre. Its price increased to Rs. 2.28 per litre in 1980 and in 1981 it became Rs. 2.67 per litre. Again in the same year i.e. 1981 it increased to Rs. 3.02 per litre and its price kept on increasing till in 1997 when its price was Rs. 10.34 per litre. You please tell me who was in power from 1980 to 1991? You had imported the foodgrains from foreign countries when there was record production in the country in 1996-97. Who was supporting that Government at the centre? We all know that NDA was not in power, that was your Government. Be it a matter of import of wheat or import of sugar, you did not formulate any concrete policy on Agriculture.

It is a fact that the production of foodgrains has increased in the country, and we have become self sufficient in it, but it is also a fact that per-capita consumption is going on decreasing. No concrete policy on agriculture was formulated during the 50 years of independence and the importance of agriculture was also not realised in right perspective. In 1951 our share in world trade was 2.6 percent and presently it has reduced to 0.6 percent. We did not give due importance to the agriculture and all these things happened during the 50 years of your rule. Presently the situation is such that everybody is demanding for the land reform in agriculture sector. But the problem of farmers have not been properly understood by them. What talk of the farmers who have two-four acres of land, even the big farmers who have 100 of acres of land and do not have other source of income cannot marry their daughter or provide medical facility to ill son without selling their land. On second October I was in my constituency. There the tax superintendent was telling that when he goes to farmers to recover loans, the farmer tells him to accept wheat as he does not have money. He told me that the farmer had 100 'man' wheat, 50 'man' maize and 25 'man'

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

mustard seed. He wanted to sell them but nobody was there to purchase. That is why he can not purchase cloth even worth Rs. 5 for his children on the occasion Durga Puja. Sir, the price rise of sugar and onion leads to the changing of the Government but nothing happens when lakhs of tonnes of potatoes is rotten and the sugar canes of the thousands of acres of lands are burnt. I would like to ask as to after all for whom this system is existing?

You will be amazed to know that if any farmer takes loan for pumping set, tractor, fertiliser, seeds etc. and due to some circumstance fails to repay the loan, then he is sent to jail and the entire expenditure is recovered from him. However if any one commits dacoity in the bank and is caught then the Government bears the cost of his feeding. The entire expenditure incurred on the recovery of the loan from the farmer is borne by the farmer himself.

These days the lack of irrigation facility and electricity is discussed, but only these things are not going to solve the problems of the farmers. Haryana is the example of this. In 1987 when Hon'ble Devi Lal was contesting election in Haryana, there were sufficient electricity and irrigation facility, but the farmers were burdened with debts. Before election he had announced that if he was elected, he would waive off the debt of the farmers upto Rs. 10 thousand and he got two third majority in the election.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Government of India and the Minister of Agriculture that at least they have taken initiative towards the formulation of the agriculture policy and that will also be passed in the current session,

Till now no price policy has been formulated in the country. In 1949 when there was drought and the situation of famine was there in the country, the then Prime Minister hon'ble Jawahar Lal Nehru had constituted a committee for the price policy under the chairmanship of hon'ble Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. The report says that the comparative prices of agriculture products and industrial products should be fixed. It has not been done in 50 years till today. I would like to give one example. Between 1960 and 1965 the price of wheat was Rs. 40 per 'man' and the cost of a tractor during the same period was nearly Rs. 15 to 20 thousands. The farmer could purchase a tractor by selling 400-500 'man' wheat. Presently the price of wheat is Rs. 200 per man and the price of a tractor is Rs. 3 lakh. Earlier he had to sell 400 to 500 man foodgrain to purchase a tractor while now he has to sell 1500 man foodgrains.

16.56 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the CHAIR*)

In 1960's the price of wheat was Rs. 40 per 'man' and the price of 10 gram gold was Rs. 100. The farmers could purchase some gold for their daughters-in-laws by selling 2.5 to 3 'man' wheat. Today the price of wheat is Rs. 200 and that of gold is Rs. 4400-4500. Now he has to sell 20 to 25 man wheat for that. The price of the commodities manufactured in factories keeps on increasing and the price of agriculture products keeps on decreasing. There is no any balance between the two. If you want to protect the interests of the farmers then there should be balance between the two.

We have not paid attention to the post harvest technology for last 50 years. There would not have been such situation if we had paid attention towards that. We have lost our control over production, storage and the distribution. All these things are happening due to this.

Now we should once again conduct the study of climate. The natural climate cycle has been disturbed on account of several scientific experiments conducted so far. Presently our agriculture is based on traditional method. We should pay attention in this direction.

I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture and the Government that import and export of agricultural products should be planned carefully keeping in view the agriculture production. Otherwise the poor farmers will suffer. I oppose the Adjournment Motion and request the Government of India that it should pay attention to above mentioned points.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Here you are opposing, there you are requesting and we are obstructing you.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: What can you do apart from that?

At the time of formulation of the policy, you must keep in mind that the country can not progress unless the farmers are prosperous. Choudhary Charan Singh used to say that the way to progress of the country passes through the agricultural prosperity. Unless the farmers and the agricultural labourers are prosperous, the country will not progress. The Government should make such policy to take the country on the path of progress.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Madam, this is an extraordinary discussion on an extraordinary motion. As everybody knows, an Adjournment Motion entails an element of censure. This motion has been taken in a lighter vein by the Government

My friend, Shri Nitish Kumar is present. I would like to record my protest against the studied absence of Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and above all Minister for Consumer Affairs and Civil Supplies. This is not only a case of benign neglect, it is a case of open contempt for the cause of farmers. I think the Government should be stung into attention, if not action.

Madam, this is a Government-made disaster, which the farmers are facing.

17.00 hrs.

This has been waiting to happen. Only a Government, which is utterly unresponsive and unimaginative, would have let this to happen. The plight and the predicament of peasantry today has no precedent, has no parallel in the annals of free India.

As has been mentioned by many friends here, the cost of inputs, more particularly those administered by the Government, namely of diesel, fertiliser, and power tariff have gone up steeply in the last one year. This is only year in my memory - if my memory is not serving me right, I am prepared to be corrected - when the prices of all the crops in the country have crashed in every part of the country. This is an agonising irony of an embarrassing plenty. This plenty is not in the country. It is in the godowns of FCI because if you look at the records, you will find the per acre yield has not increased significantly, the per capita availability of foodgrains has not increased very significantly, and yet there is no off-take from FCI.

Sangmaji has rightly drawn attention to farm labour. The problems of farmers and farm labour are inextricably intertwined. If the prices of farm produce plummet, the wages for farm labour would simultaneously plummet.

We are looking at the whole agricultural sector. It contributes nearly 30 per cent to our GDP nearly 65 per cent of the labour force in the country is employed in this sector and yet, this sector has been 'immiserised' and impoverished. I must say that this is one of the few occasions when my command over words is failing to convey the degree of plight the farmers are finding themselves in. When the farmers and farm labour get deprived of their purchasing power, this would have an adverse impact on the industry. Who will purchase your products? Who will purchase your soaps even cheap Nirma detergent soaps, your clothes and your textiles? There is a symbiotic nexus between agricultural prosperity and industrial growth. They cannot be seen in discrete parts.

This problem was anticipatable. Many friends on the other side wanted to say that his problem is not created today.

I am not amongst those who say that farmers have been in the seventh heaven during the last 50 years or on cloud nine during the last 50 years. I am one of those who believe that the farmers never had it as good as they deserved. But today their lot is much worse than ever before. This deterioration has come about on account of the conscious policies pursued by this Government in the last two years.

Let me refer to facts. Let me refer to only one statistics. In Delhi, in 1998, the wholesale price of the Parmal rice, *deshi*, was Rs. 868. This was in 1998. In September, 1999, the price came down to Rs. 862. So, you knew well enough in 1999 that the prices of rice were dwindling, were plummeting or were nose-diving. What is the price of Parmal rice? I am only referring to one variety. I do not want to burden you with minute details. Today, in October, the price of this rice is Rs. 842. Is it not a matter of shame? I am sure Shri Nitish Kumar has been alive to this. I have known him in our respective, different incarnations. I have also seen in the Press that Shri Nitish Kumar has had his own in-house battle with another friend of ours, Shri Shanta Kumar; we are not concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Apart from Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am talking of ideological battles, not of factional battles which are endemic to our tradition.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I see, it is ideological battle.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are not bothered about, you in-house battles. We are bothered about results; and the results are nil because you have no political will. Where is the will? The same is the story with wheat. The same is the story with maize, palm oil, soya beans, groundnut oil and so on and so forth. I will come to details if we have time.

I wish my friend, Shri Yashwant Sinha, were here. He has, of late, become a fiscal terrorist. He is all the time reminding us of the fiscal deficit. As one who knows some economics, I am also concerned about it. Does he know that more than 50 per cent of European Union's common budget goes even now in financing the common agricultural policy of Europe? Import duty on agricultural

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

products in the United States, which is the Mecca of liberalisation, goes up to 245 per cent. Our friends were asking, what have we done during the last 50 years? The average annual production for the triennium, that is, for the first three decades, that is, upto 1968-69 was 68-69 million tonnes.

For 1998-99 it is 198 million tonnes. Our production has gone up by three times.

Shri Sangma was pleading for a second Green Revolution. I was also dreaming of it. Today, the talk of a Second Green Revolution sounds like a nightmare. If we cannot deal with the implications of the first Green Revolution, how are we going to deal with the implications of the Second Green Revolution? I am not saying that we should stop producing. In Andhra Pradesh our high-tech Chief Minister has already announced a crop holiday for tobacco. He may soon announce a crop holiday for paddy and so and so forth. It may be for the good.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Crop holidays are in the interests of farmers only.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: All right, I am supporting you.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The High Court is also supporting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The High Court is always for the progress of farmers.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Shri Yerrannaidu, you are pleading for a crop holiday because, in spite of your numbers-because of which this blessed NDA Government is surviving-you are not able to influence this policy-less Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are surrendering.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: And, you cannot have the cake of criticising the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Today you heard my speech. You might have also heard my colleague expressing his view frankly.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to tell you, Shri Naidu here—in Lok Sabha - and Shri Naidu there in Hyderabad that you cannot have the cake and eat it also. You cannot be a critic of the Government and oppose our Motion. We will judge you in just one hour from now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: We are ready to oppose. But opposing is not the solution to the problem. Across the table we have to discuss and we have to advise the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without the permission of the Chair you are all going on talking. Already, we are pressed for time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam my friend, Shri Madhavrao Scindia has referred to the problems posed by the lifting of quantitative restrictions. But I am astounded by the gathering clouds on the farming horizon. In April 2001 the quantitative restrictions on paddy and wheat will be completely lifted. What will follow? Three per cent of the total national produce of India will have to be compulsorily imported. We have no option in the matter. If the productivity this year and last year together was more by only two per cent - four million tonnes - and we are not able to handle it, how will we handle the compulsorily imported six million tonnes of foodgrains from next year?

In the FCI, we have 40 million tonnes. Where is that Minister for FCI? Has he come? Yes! I salute Shri Shanta Kumar for his masterly inaction. He has been sitting pretty on his plenty! There are places in the country which are drought-stricken, there are places in the country which are devastated, and ravaged by floods. But no grain goes from the FCI godowns.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): His proposal has been rejected by the Cabinet.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let him say that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, will he do with the stocks in the FCI godowns?

I come from Miryalguda constituency which is served partly by the waters of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project.

Let alone the farmers, the rice millers have incurred huge losses. There is nobody to buy. Mr. Agriculture Minister, do you want to tell me - 'Look Shri Jaipal Reddy, I have increased the procurement rate?' Shri Nitish Kumar, I want you to get our paddy procured by the F.C.I. at last year's procurement rate and not this year's procurement rate. This is one of those rare years when the market rate is found to be far lower than the procurement rate.

Therefore, this is not a problem which can be wished away. I do not think this is a problem that has arisen incidentally. It is, in my view, germane to the genetic character of the B.J.P. It is indicative of the class bias of the B.J.P. because the B.J.P. has always represented the creamy layers of India's listless conturbations. They do not understand the consumers in the urban areas nor do they understand the farmers in the rural sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I am just concluding.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is speaking such an excellent English.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are right...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter as to what language he is speaking in.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: One disturbing phenomenon which our Minister, I am sure, would be alive to - the global prices of foodgrains are declining which was not the case before, which has never been the case before. This is a new development of momentous significance, as the option of easy exporting of foodgrains is no longer available to you.

But whatever that price levels are, please export and empty the godowns. Please empty the godowns in drought-stricken areas. Though the godowns are full, the people are starving for want of foodgrains. Here I would like to remind you of the depression that the United States and the Western world faced in the Thirties when people starved in the streets while the godowns were full...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The American example is the right example...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is the only way they can understand. The only language is the language of Uncle Sam. Unfortunately, thanks to Shri P.A. Sangma's community's efforts we were all trained in the Queen's English and we will have to learn some American English too.

Now the State Government - at least my friend Prof. Ummareddy Venkateshwarlu has said - is prepared to make the storage space available from its own sources. Please use that.

Madam, I have one last word. Shri Nitish Kumar is very happy that he has got a wonderful Agricultural Policy

in his pocket. I have burnt the midnight oil to study his Agricultural Policy. What did I find? I found nothing new. It is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is full of pious platitudes; it is full of glossy generalities, it is full of bombastic banalities and it is full of innocuous inanities.

I am sure the same will be repeated in his reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Madam Chairman, presently the discussion is going on in the House regarding the miseries of farmers. However I feel that the discussion is much more academic and the area which should have been paid more attention are getting comparatively less attention. I would not like to deliver a long speech. In spite of all the discussion it is a fact that our country have become self dependent in respect of food production. Jaipal Reddy was telling that all the storages of the Food Corporation of India are full with food grains. There is no doubt in it...(Interruptions) It is a fact that the Government of India have sufficient quantity of food grains. However it is also a fact that several areas of the country are suffering from starvation as the report of starvation deaths are coming from Orissa. Now even the farmer having land holding of nine-ten acres is also leaving their villages. Presently the condition of the western part of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and some part of Gujarat is extremely miserable. We are discussing the condition of the farmers here in the House. During the discussion several Members expressed their views regarding the problem of floods. There is flood in Bengal while Gujarat, Orissa, Chattisgarh and some parts of Maharashtra are in the grip of drought. We were also discussing this. Sangma ji was telling that in comparison to the population growth, our agricultural production is not sufficient as it should have been. However it is also a fact that for last many years we have achieved remarkable success in the field of agricultural production. It is a peculiar situation in the country that some parts of the country is full of food grains as is the case of Punjab and Haryana where the farmers were doing agitation because there is sufficient storage facility as there was over production of wheat. The wheat are being sent to Orissa for storage. The people are dying of starvation in the country where there are no sufficient space for storage on account of over production of food grains. I do not understand what is wrong. Either our policies are wrong or there is something wrong with the implementation of the policies.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was expressing her sorrow for the misery of the farmers. I remember Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited Kalahandi when there was a famine in 1966-67. Her visit was much publicised but the condition

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

of the farmers there is the same as it was some 25-30 year back. In 1986 late Rajiv Gandhi had also visited that area. As far I recall, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was also with him. It got world wide publicity. There a woman named Phanas Phungi had sold her son for Rs. 40 arranging food for self. There people used to eat food which we call stale rice. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had taken that food. His photograph was published in the international newspaper and the people of that region thought that some pleasant changes are going to take place in their lives.

Now the year 2000 is going to end but even today the condition of the farmers there is the same. Nothing has changed. Today, the Members of opposition party are blaming the ruling party whereas their party remained in power for most of the period since 53 years of independence. I do not understand how long we will continue to blame each other. Today when we are discussing the famine, I would like to take you towards Orissa. I was listening to Shri Sahu in the morning. He was telling that wherever there is famine or flood, the people of that region allege that the Government are not providing any assistance as the Members from West Bengal made uproar. In Orissa the crop worth Rs. 500 to 700 crore were destroyed. There are at least 150 villages in my constituency where I had visited before the onset of the current session and I found that there were many such farmers who did not possess any food grain. You will be amazed to hear that the farmers there are leaving their villages and migrating to Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. If you visit Phatabaji and Titlagarh railway stations, you will find that thousands of farmers are leaving their places. I donot know whether the Central government is aware of the fact or not. I also do not know whether the Central Government is aware of the situation or not and whether any responsibility lies with the government in this regard or not.

[English]

Everyday, thousands of farmers are migrating to other States. Not only in Orissa, but even from the adjacent area, that is, the Chattisgarh State which you have formed recently, thousands and thousands of farmers are migrating every day. They are leaving with their children, ladies and old parents. Everybody is leaving the village; whole villages are deserted now.

[Translation]

There is over production of wheat in Punjab and it become surplus whereas the report of starvation death are coming from Chattisga and Orissa. I do not understand where did we do wrong. The Government should pay attention to this.

[English]

There should be some self analysis on this.

[Translation]

I would like to raise one-two more issues. There is crop insurance for farmers, as far I think, every farmers should be given compensation of the crop insurance.

[English]

Almost all the small farmers are loanees. When they take the loans either from the society or from the bank, two per cent is deducted as insurance deposit

[Translation]

I do not understand as to what type of insurance policy it is.

[English]

Year after year, the farmers are not getting any compensation on account of this insurance. The small things which are hitting the farmer the most have to be taken care of by the Government.

[Translation]

My last word is that my constituency.

[English]

The Western part of Orissa is now reeling under severe drought condition. As you know, Madam, just last year, two-third of the State was completely devastated due to the super-cyclone, and this year, the entire Western part of the State and some districts even in the coastal area are seriously reeling under a severe drought condition. The economy of the State has been totally shattered. I do not understand when the Union Government will come to the rescue of such poor States like Orissa, Chattisgarh, and Gujarat.

[Translation]

I am not excluding Bihar also but the Adjournment Motion that has been moved today.

[English]

I cannot support this Adjournment Motion - I do not know whether it is my fortune or misfortune - because I belong to the NDA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you support the sentiment !

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Technically, I cannot support it, Madam, but I would utterly fail in my duty if I do not ventilate here the miseries of those poor farmers who are on the verge of dying due to starvation in the drought-affected area.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Madam, Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Adjournment Motion in support of the farmers.

Sir, a great Tamil poet, Thiruvalluvar, some 2000 years back, had written a poem and I would like to first quote that in Tamil and then I would tell the meaning of it in English. He wrote, '*Uzhutsundu Valvare Valvar, Muttvellam Thozhutsundu Pin silvar*'. It means, those who plough and produce are alone eligible to live on this Earth but others can only follow them. This was what was written by the great poet Thiruvalluvar some 2000 years back. Now, what is the position of the farmers in our country? This NDA Government has disinvested everything, right from the high technology to the farming sector.

Sir, I had put an Unstarred Question some two weeks back regarding the import of milk products. Only yesterday I got an answer from the hon. Agriculture Minister. My question was whether this Government was ready to withdraw the 1992 Milk Products Order or not. The Minister replied in his written answer that the Government was not going to withdraw that Order. What does that mean? They are encouraging foreign farming but the Indian farmers are being let down by this NDA Government. I charge this Government for that.

Madam, farming is not an organised sector. Industry is an organised sector. The Industrial sector has organisations like the CII and the FICCI to voice their grievances and problems, but does the farming sector has any Chamber of Commerce to ventilate their grievances and problems? Is there any such organisation in India or in any State? No, it is not there. The prices of the producers are not sufficient to meet their cost. They invest so much of money but they do not get sufficient return. Take for example the case of the sugarcane growers. They are demanding Rs. 1000 per tonne for their produce. But they were not able to do it. So also is the case with the tea growers. They are suffering. They have been subjected to an economic torture.

Sir, I agree with the points raised by my friends here and I would not like to repeat them. What is the reason for the migration of these farmers to the urban areas? Some three to four generation back, they all were farmers. But now they have either chosen to become doctors or lawyers. They have given up farming.

Sir, what is the position of the tillers today? Are the tillers able to enjoy the right to ownership? When my party, the AIADMK was formed in the year 1972, we had formulated a principle - this was enunciated by the late *Bharat Ratna* MGR - that tillers should have the right to ownership. There were agrarian reforms made by the late Chief Ministers Dr. Anna and Dr. MGR. But the present Government are not able to formulate schemes for the benefit of the farmers.

The Congress and the BJP ruled at the Centre one time or the other. Though we are a regional party we supported many agrarian reforms at the central level. But they have not come true.

The Central Government has failed to protect the interests of Indian farmers. What is the Indian farmer doing? He is in no position to do anything. There is a lack of leadership among Indian farmers. I knew of a *kisan* march that was held in Delhi twelve years ago. That march was conducted from Chandigarh to Delhi. Another *kisan* march was conducted from Bombay to Delhi. The political power at the Centre has failed to protect the farmers. Farmers are in a majority but do not have the economic strength to have a lobby of their own. Farmers have no lobby with the Ministers.

While asking for their votes we promise the farmers that we should give them land and we would give them many concessions. Did the Government at the Centre waive excise duty on tractors? No, excise duty was not waived on tractors, but the milk products import order facilitated zero duty import in 1995. It is raised to 15 per cent now but at that time it was there at zero duty. The Government could have waived excise duty on pump sets. The Government could have waived Central Sales Tax on pump sets. The State Governments could have waived Sales Tax on pump sets.

Government encourages the car industry. There were advertisements in the media saying that anybody could go and take home a new car by paying just Rs. 9,900. Can a farmer get a tractor so quickly? No. Can he get a pump-set so quickly? No. He has to approach the Block Development Officer who must certify as to whether that pump-set would be able to lift enough water. There are many hurdles at farming level.

During this Adjournment Motion we ventilate the grievances of farmers rising above all party affiliations because the farmers are gradually giving up farming activity. If all the farmers march to Delhi to settle in Delhi, who would be there to conduct agricultural operations in the field? If all agricultural operations come

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

to a stand still, who will feed you? Farmers are the feeders for the country. Shri Sangma has said that farmers are the backbone of the economy. I beg to differ with him and say that they are the feeders for the country. We can live without the car industry but we cannot live without farming community. Right to life is guaranteed only by the farmer.

Farmers produce food but marketing facility is not available for agricultural produce because farmers have no lobby. They manufacture raw material for manufacturing foodstuff. A poor farmer gets about Rs. 10 for his rice and about Rs. 5 a kilogram for his vegetables. What are the amounts charged in star hotels? How much does a chicken of one kilogram cost in a poultry farm and how much does it cost in a star hotel? It is because they have a lobby and they have enough support. They have the support to the Government. The Government has failed to protect the farmers in India.

On behalf of AIADMK I would urge upon this Government to come to the rescue of farmers.

We raised our voices on the streets of Tamil Nadu regarding tea growers, regarding sugarcane growers' fixation of price at Rs. 1,000 per tonne, and also Cauvery issue.

So, I want to reiterate that there are different concessions. The Centre has released Rs. 10 crore for tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 50 crore for rubber farmers of Tamil Nadu and Rs. 350 crore package for Punjab farmers. But where is the package for paddy farmers? There is a wheat lobby here but there is no paddy lobby. For paddy, we depend on this Government. The farmers of Tanjore district, Tamil Nadu, the farmers of Punjab and other States like Andhra Pradesh have no lobby for paddy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: They have no lobby. So, only during Adjournment Motion we can raise our voice on behalf of farmers.

Madam, Chairperson, kindly give me two minutes more to finish my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandiyan there is no time. There are others also to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Madam, the distressed farmers are committing suicide. I would say that a distressed farmer commits suicide and not a distressed industrialist or a distressed defaulter. It is the distressed farmer who commits suicide. What for? It is because he

is not able to be supported; he is being supported by the Government. There is no supporting price for his produce.

So, that way, the Government, in all circumstances, should support the farmers whether he is cultivating paddy, wheat etc.

Madam, Chairperson, there is one more thing to be mentioned. The WTO came into being in January 1, 1995. It is going to be completed by December 31, 2004. So, it has got still four more years. So, till 2004, all these essential commodities are going to be imported through the WTO.

On behalf of my party, I want to know from this Government about this WTO. What is this WTO? What are those articles they are going to import? We have raised this issue on many occasions in this august House...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Which was the Government who signed the WTO for the first time?...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: That is why I say one time it was the Congress and now it is the NDA...(Interruptions) ... Though we are regional parties, we are supporting people on all-India level. Let the Government place a White Paper on the floor of this august House telling about the articles that are going to be imported and the concessions that are going to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.H. Pandiyan, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Madam, one of the conditions in the WTO is withdrawal of subsidy...(Interruptions)... I am talking about *kisans*...(Interruptions)... We sold our lands and we became lawyers. I was having 20 acres of land in my village. Basically, I am a farmer. In the last three generations, we were farmers but due to migration, we sold all our lands. What for?...(Interruptions)... After wearing coat, you cannot plough. (Interruptions)...

The position of farmers should be upgraded. What is the status of a farmer at the national level? It is not because of industries. Farming is not an industry.

So, in that way, I support this Adjournment Motion and also urge upon all the Members of this House including the NDA Members that they must support this Adjournment Motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): We cannot support this Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: You are getting the votes of farmers. So, you should support the cause of farmers by casting votes in favour of this Motion on the floor of this House.

With these few words, I support this Motion.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Madam Chairperson, I am very much thankful to you on behalf of the DMK party for allowing me to participate in this very important discussion.

In our country, more than 75 per cent of the population is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture. It plays a vital role in the all-round development of the country.

During the last two decades, the Government investment in agriculture has been very poor and has been showing a falling tendency. The Plan allocation for agriculture has been coming down each successive year. Concern over inadequacy of capital in agriculture has been expressed in the National Agriculture Policy also.

I strongly believe that there is an urgent need to step up investment in agriculture, which plays an important role in the economy of the country.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its various Reports on Demands for Grants has strongly recommended arresting the trend of falling investments and raise the Plan allocation of this sector.

The credit facilities available to farmers are not adequate. Small and marginal farmers do not have easy access to the lending institutions and they take loans from money lenders who exploit them. The interest charged by the financial institutions is also very high. The co-operative banks charge a very high interest rate of 15 per cent to 18 per cent. In this regard, some of the State Governments are ready to bear the loan burden of the farmers but the NABARD has not permitted the State Governments to do this. At least, during the course of this discussion, the Government should come forward to write off the interest on all agricultural loans.

The agricultural labourers and the landless farmers are the backbone of India's agriculture. But the Government has ignored the interests of the agricultural labourers and landless farmers. With the result, the condition of the agricultural labourers is miserable. The National Agriculture Policy, laid in Parliament recently, is also silent on the interests of the agricultural labourers and landless farmers. Unless some steps are taken for

protecting and safeguarding their interests, the progress made in agriculture will have no meaning. I am very happy to say here that the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the eminent leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, has given free electricity to the farmers. I am also happy to say that for the welfare of the farmers, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a Farmers' Welfare Board.

Agriculture requires incentives in the form of better remunerative prices for the agricultural commodities. Substantial stress should be given to this aspect. Over the years, agriculture has become less and less rewarding because of the apathy of the Government towards giving remunerative prices to the farmers to sustain their production and meet their livelihood. The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the great leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, has created farmers' markets known as *uzhavar chandai* in each and every *taluk* in Tamil Nadu.

We have also seen that the Technology Mission on Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton have not delivered as per the expectations. The farmers have not been able to raise the production as new technology has not been disseminated to them. The latest Technology Mission on Cotton that started last year has not yet made its impact. The cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States continue to commit suicides every year due to crop failures and the Government is a silent spectator.

With the coming up of the WTO, the agriculture trade has become very complex. Here, the Government has full responsibility to protect the interest of the farmers against the unfavourable consequences of the WTO. But it is already found that the farmers' interests are affected due to cheap import of edible oils and milk products. We strongly desire that the Government should rationalise the import duty, keeping the farmers' interests in mind.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairperson, a discussion on the Adjournment Motion proposed by the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, is going on and eminent M.P. Shri Jaipal Reddy, while supporting it, he has said —

[English]

"Adjournment Motion is equivalent to censuring the Government."

[Translation]

He protested and that is why some Ministers came here. Ministers are arriving here only when the time of voting is getting closer. What a carelessness it is? One

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

point is very clear by the discussion that the condition of the farmers is miserable in this country. Their condition is very bad. Members from the other side have also accepted that the condition of farmers is very poor. Why is it so? We should discuss this issue. I would like to say something in brief about the solution to this problem. BJP and its allies have been in power for the last three years. I can challenge that they have not given a single decision in favour or in the interest of the farmers. If anyone has the courage, he may tell us. No one can give even a single example. They have given decisions against the farmers. And if it is not so, then they may mention any of the pro-farmer acts of the Government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Kisan credit cards were issued.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is very clever. He says that the Kisan credit cards has benefited the farmers and the farmers are happy. I was listening to the speech of his party members. They should speak the truth here. This Government call fall on the said proposal but there is no other option at this time. We do not want that an immediate voting may take place on this. That is why we are tolerating all this. We are talking to other parties. They cannot give even a single example of doing anything in favour of the farmers. They increased the prices of diesel, kerosene oil and domestic gas. Prices of kerosene oil and gas has been reduced only because of hon. Mamataji. It is being said that the price of diesel would be reduced by the efforts of Yerrannaidu ji and Chandra Babu Naidu ji. A rumour is in the air that the price of diesel would decrease when Shri Chandrababu Naidu would give a threat of withdrawing support of his party. I wonder under these circumstances how the country will prosper. It was said that their prices were increased because of the oil pool deficit. Now their prices would come down with the threat of resignation. Does any country run with such a policy? In this situation what will be the destiny of country's farmers? This needs to be considered. Farmers in the entire country are in a very miserable condition. Coconut growers and rubber producers in Kerala, cotton growers in Maharashtra and sugarcane, paddy and wheat growers in Andhra Pradesh and Uttara Pradesh are on the verge of destruction. Even in Bihar, all cultivators as well as jute growers are ruined. Farmers are committing suicide out of frustration. Why don't you understand this problem? this is an anti-farmer Government. Prices of diesel, rates of electricity and irrigation facilities and seeds have gone up. Amount of subsidy given to them has also been reduced. This Government has taken all its decisions against the farmers. No one is ready to buy the produce of farmers. Rupees 510 were fixed as the rates for normal paddy (rice), but

the people will not buy even at these prices. This is cheating under these circumstances farmers are compelled to sell it at a rate of three or four rupees per kg. four crore tonnes of foodgrain is stored in the Government godowns. Foodgrain has also been stored outside the godowns in the remaining open space...(Interruptions). How can they say so? I cannot say that they are mad. Price of wheat in the market is five or six rupees per kg. despite that its price at the Government shop is nine rupees per kg. So what should we say is it madness or conspiracy? What is the logic behind such a difference?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): I think it is unparliamentary. It should be expunged from the records...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not call anybody as such. He is talking about the act.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I only want to say that its rate in the market is Rs. 6 and at the PDS it is Rs.9 per kg. What is the calculation, is this technology. From where will the people buy. Godowns of the Government are over stored with food grains and the Government is thinking as to how to reduce this burden of excessive foodgrains. So with the view that its price may be decreased and it may be sold to the traders at lesser rate, the price of wheat in the market is Rs. 5/- per kg, but it was sold to the traders at the rate of Rs. 6/- or 6.50 per kg. Now you tell me who will buy? So in this way price of wheat at the Public Distribution Shop is Rs. 9/- at traders shop is Rs.6/- and in the market, it is Rs. 5/- per kg. No one buys this wheat. Now we have information that Government is thinking of exporting wheat in foreign countries. International rate of wheat is four or five rupees per kg. Shri Prasanna Acharya was saying that wheat would be exported abroad. A poor man in the country was getting wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 or 2.50 per kg. Now they are not ready to give wheat to the poor at cheaper rates, but will export it abroad. Lakhs of people in Kalahandi area of Orissa are dying of hunger but they will not get this wheat. It had not mattered if the Government had increased the rate of foodgrains by 20-30 paise, but this is not proper that they have altogether doubled the rates of wheat. Government has raised the price of wheat for APL. I do not understand the intention of the Government.

Madam Chairperson, I give warning to the Government for doing fraud with the farmers. Government does not have space to keep foodgrains and so the Government is cheating the poor farmers. It shall not give foodgrains to the farmers at the minimum support price. With this act of Government farmers would be discouraged and they will take little interest in cultivation. Now the country is going to face a food security crisis. We are presently facing danger due to the policies of the present Government and would face it in future also. They have ruined our present and are going to do the same in the future also. So, I would like to caution this anti-farmer Government that farmers are going to revolt in the entire country. A few days back Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Surendra Mohan had called a meeting of farmers and they have formed Kisan Vikas Manch in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Let him speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government's acts are against the farmers and you are accepting all these. What solution do you have to this problem? You are sensible and intelligent citizens of the country. We should give to, priority to the food security of the country. 100 crore people live in this country and this problem is for all of them. They can become the victim of food weapon. Farmers are raising this question only to avoid such a danger. I want to put an example before you that in 1997, 123 centres were opened in Bihar for purchasing paddy, but now 100 out of these 123 centres have been closed down and it has been said that only 23 centres would buy paddy. If this question would be asked to the Minister of Agriculture, he would say that this matter is related to food and I am not responsible for this. We are not for procurement and then he will say that what is in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture?

18.00 hrs.

He will show his helplessness. How can we understand that this would lead to the welfare of farmers of the country? And when the hon. Minister of Agriculture would say that this is not in his hands, we will say that they are doing service in the Government. You please tell me whether Minister are doing service in the Government? Sometimes they go to Bihar and come back on lien. All intellectuals and learned persons have said that farmers are the backbone of the country's economy and we have become self sufficient only by the diligence of farmers but every decision has been taken against the farmers. In the WTO more than 300 items like agricultural tools and equipments out of total 714 items are of the farmers and item No. 715th is coming from the foreign country. Oil producing farmers are also facing destruction.

When there was a shortage of only 12 lakh tonnes of oil then why 40 lakh tonne of oil was imported. Can anybody answer? Potato growers are also ruined now. No one is ready to keep it in the cold storage. 2 crore 40 lakh tonnes of potato is produced and there is no space in the cold storage to keep even 50 per cent of that. Because of this all farmers are in great problem and the Government have not taken any action against the black marketeers or persons having black money. They have increased the prices of diesel and fertiliser and thus have burdened the farmers but on the contrary, they have not taken any action against the people on whom income tax amounting to Rs. 52000/- crore is outstanding. Rs. 58,000 crore is due on NPA. What action did you take? That is why all their decisions are in favour of the black marketeers and against the farmers. So, we want that this anti-farmer government should be defeated through this motion, otherwise the farmers would rise in revolt against them. This Government is giving the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan' but in contrary working for the slogan - Kshaya kisan, Kshaya Jawan and Kshaya Vigyan'. They need to be taught a lesson. All the allied parties together asked this Government to roll back the prices of foodgrain in the PDS but the Government is not going to listen to anyone. They did not reduce the prices and the godowns of FCI are full of foodgrain, but the farmers are not getting minimum support price. Existence of this government would lead to a danger to food security and so we shall have to remove this Government if we really want to save the country.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, since it is already six o' clock, I request you to take the sense of the House in extending the time for discussion till all the Members have finished their speeches ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me take the sense of the House. There are a few more speakers. I may also tell you that the names of a number of Members, who are raising their hands, have not been sent to the Chair by their respective Whips. So, their names are not on the list before us. Now, if they wish me to give them time to speak, I cannot do that. Even otherwise, we still have got six speakers listed and a number of others are waiting. I feel, if you all agree, we will have to extend the time for discussion by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us extend it by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us agree to have the voting by seven o' clock.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allot the time according to the party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Malhotra ji, the list you have sent, includes the names of the Members of your coalition parties also. I will have to invite everybody in the first round. Then we will see in the second round.

[English]

We are doing that very carefully.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Madam, you can increase the time limit of all parties in proportionate to the total time limit, you are going to increase.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Madam Chairman, the House is discussing the problems of the farmers and the farmers themselves are not being given the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you time to speak.

[English]

After we finish with all the speakers, there would be reply by the Government and the mover. That is going to take another hour. Everybody wants to speak, but everybody cannot be allowed.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Madam Chairman, I rise to speak on the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Madam, at present the farmers of the country are severely affected and are facing difficulties through out the country about which we are deeply concerned. Unless we react at the appropriate moment, this situation is supposed to go out of their grips. It is good that the Adjournment Motion has been brought at an appropriate time. We, who are in the Treasury Benches, also did not oppose the motion when the Leader of the Opposition moved it. It has naturally been reflected that the whole House and all the Members of all the Political parties of this country are deeply concerned with the problems of the farmers.

Madam, if agricultural sector of the country is neglected then certainly the whole country is affected. The farmers of this country mostly get affected due to flood, drought as well as due to high prices of diesel

and fertilisers. So, we have to pay proper attention to it. While adopting any decisions regarding price rise, we have to certainly keep in mind that the poorest of the poor sections of this country are not affected.

Madam, recently price hike took place in domestic gas, petrol, diesel, and kerosene. Ultimately, the price of domestic gas has been reduced by Rs. 10, i.e. by 25 per cent and in the case of kerosene by Re. 1, i.e. by 35 per cent which we fully appreciate. We thank the hon. Prime Minister who had taken the decision at an appropriate time. But still we would be happier if the price of diesel could have been reduced by certain extent so that the farmers could have been really benefited. I would have been happier if this proposal could have been projected and ventilated in this House by every political party who had taken part in the discussion on this motion. It is because diesel mostly affects the farmers. But we would wait for further decision by the Government which could reconsider the decision so far as the price hike of diesel is concerned.

Madam, we want to raise a few important matters. Firstly, we broadly require cold storage facilities in the country in maximum possible numbers. I can tell you the experience of potato growers of West Bengal. The farmers grew maximum potatoes in the State of West Bengal.

But, for lack of cold storage facility they had to proceed for the distress sale and sell potatoes for Re.1 a kilogram. Then the farmers decided not to cultivate potatoes in future because they had to sell everything and face tremendous difficulties.

Another proposal from our side is that the Crop Insurance Scheme should be made compulsory as far as farmers are concerned. Recently the West Bengal farmers in the flood affected areas could not get a single paisa from insurance companies because this Crop Insurance Scheme has not been implemented in the State. This has been broadly criticised. The Central Government has also written about this to the State Government and the State Government has admitted their fault that it was a great mistake on their part not to have brought the farmers of the State under Crop Insurance Scheme. Therefore, all the farmers throughout the country have to be compulsorily brought under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Kisan Credit Cards were proposed in the last Budget for fifty lakhs of farmers. We propose that these cards should be extended to at least 25 lakhs of farmers in the next Budget.

18.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

We fully appreciate and associate ourselves with the issue raised by Shri K. Yerrannaaidu to impose maximum Customs Duty on important materials used by the farmers. Otherwise the poor farmers will certainly be badly affected.

Subsidy on fertilizer has to be provided to the farmers to the maximum possible extent. The flood affected people should get maximum assistance from the Central Government. We made a demand for this in the morning today on the floor of the House. The eastern region has always been neglected after Independence and the regional imbalances have fully been reflected in this region. We would like to appeal to the Central Government to extend all sorts of cooperation to save the people of Bengal who have been particularly affected by floods.

Today morning I wanted to raise one issue. This is about the release of flood water by two barrages from 18th September to 20th September this year. Millions of farmers have been affected by floods in West Bengal. They have become homeless. They have no scope of survival unless the Central Government assistance reaches them.

I would take just two minutes to give the facts and figures about what happened there. On 18th September 2000 the Tilpara Barrage released 43,167 cusecs of water without any warning. On the next day it went up to 1,29,238 cusecs of water and on the subsequent day it was 1,57,903 cusecs of water. On the Durgapur sector it was 33,200 cusecs on 20th September. On 21st September it was 1,07,850 cusecs; on 22nd September it was 1,66,000 cusecs and on 23rd September it rose to 2,23,292 cusecs of water.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, there was no control over water and the barrages were left open. So, this has been a man-made flood...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It was done because of the rainfall. It shows the intensity of rainfall...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This was a man-made flood and millions of farmers had to suffer in West Bengal. This is the style of functioning of the State Government...(Interruptions)

Sales tax charged in West Bengal is the highest in India. The Government of West Bengal is charging the

highest sales tax in the State. It should be immediately withdrawn...(Interruptions) Sir, what is the problem and what is wrong. If I mention these things?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): All these figures have been submitted to the Central Government by the Government of West Bengal. What is the problem of my good friends now?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So, Sir, this was a man-made flood in West Bengal. Lakhs and lakhs of farmers have been affected. And what are we doing about it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is a very serious matter. Every section of the House has been discussing a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, how can he speak now? Have you allowed him to speak?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am on a point of order. No irrelevant matter can be said in the House. He is misusing the floor of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt like this.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So, West Bengal Government is charging the highest sales tax in India so far as petroleum products are concerned. But they are saying that theirs is a pro-people Government and making big promises. I hope that the State Government will take all measures to see that the farmers of West Bengal are getting relief and not being charged uneconomically by the State Government of West Bengal and vis-a-vis the Central Government should extend all kinds of assistance to save the farmers of West Bengal. This is our positive demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Rama Pilot may speak now. This is her maiden speech. So, please maintain silence.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing an Adjournment Motion. While according my approval to it. I would like to place a few facts before the House through you. In our childhood, when we go to schools, we had to go through a number of books, one of the subject we taught and most of the Hon'ble Members would agree to it that India is primarily an agrarian country. It means India depends on agriculture, the base of the country is agriculture. The discussion is continuing since the afternoon, and since

[Shrimati Rama Pilot]

then, almost all the hon'ble Members have expressed their views and have raised all the issues regarding the farmers' problems. I don't want to waste the time of the House by repeating them. I agree with all the views which express the problems of the farmers. On my behalf I would like to add that it is something to be regretted to increase the sufferings of farmers by the Government. When ordinary farmer is already in trouble. A farmer who feed his family by cultivating on the land when become so frustrated and compelled to commit suicide, in Andhra Pradesh. Many such farmers had committed suicide who could not get proper prices of their agro products or who could not get loans for cultivation or for buying agricultural implements....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that this is her maiden speech. So, please do not interrupt her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Farmers of Andhra Pradesh had also suffered many problems. Many deaths also occurred in Andhra Pradesh. Punjab was also no exception to it. Central Government has provided subsidy to the farmers, but what proportion of that subsidy was received in Punjab? Some of it was given here, some of it was given there and whatever remains goes to the corrupt officials. The farmers did not receive even a single paisa of subsidy. The farmer there was frustrated. They produced paddy with the labour of their own and their family, took loans for cultivation and that produce was ruined in front of them. Was there no law under the Central or the State Government which would have allowed it to show mercy to the farmers. The farmers grow paddy by labouring with their children of about 10 years of age and it should have been procured by the Government. The farmers could not even get the support price determined for them. The price for paddy has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 500 per quintal. I also own some land in Uttar Pradesh. I also cultivate it and I have also produced paddy crop. But my paddy is still lying idle in my farm. Not a single weighing machine was set up by the Government in the 4-6 districts of Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Meerut etc. to procure the produce of the farmers. They were compelled to go to private traders. The private traders paid them on arbitrary rates and they had to accept it. It means that they could not recover even their investment in agriculture. More than 70% population of our country depends on agriculture and lives in villages. How the farmers of such a country are supposed to earn their livelihood for themselves and their children.

I don't know what will be the future of our villages if the Government tries to do what it is doing these days. Under the liberalisation, goods are being imported. Agricultural commodities are also being imported which are purchased by the affluent persons and families and they take those commodities to their homes. Poor farmers and poor people are compelled to buy sub-standard goods from the market. At present, the country is importing apples on the one hand and the produce of farmers of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir is not procured on to other hand. They have to keep their produce with themselves and most of that gets spoilt. Apple is being sold in the market at Rs. 100 per kg and people are buying it because it is attractive in looking. The farmer who toils round the year to maintain his orchards, invests his money, with his entire family, is not getting market. This situation is existing not only for foodgrains and fruits but for oilseeds and pulses also. Today, the House has discussed this issue in detail. Many of hon'ble Members have put forth their view on the condition of oilseeds. About a month ago I had read an article in the newspaper, wherein a person was stating that once he went to the market to buy a bedsheet and found an attractive one. When he asked the shopkeeper about its price, he was told that is Rs. 300. He found that the bedsheet was made in some other country, the name of which he does not remember now. He looked of another bedsheet and the other one was priced at Rs. 500. The other bedsheet was made in India. If the foreign manufactured goods cost less in our country, the consumer will naturally buy those things. In this case, which market, consumer will buy the goods of our farmers. What I want to say is that the farmer is being suppressed from all sides, be it the matter of market, or that of production of goods, or that of fertilizers, or that of electricity, or that of seeds he is being compelled to suffer in all matters.

Since these issues have been discussed in the House, I don't want to waste the time of the House by repeating it. But I must like to say one thing. 30% of the population of the country lives in the cities. Everybody gets worried if they have any difficulty. This is happening in Delhi for the last 3-4 days. The issue was relocation of the small scale industries out of the city and it led to chaos in the national capital. The House is also aware of it. Agitations were conducted, there were shootouts and the buses were burnt. In monetary terms, huge damages were caused. Only 30% of the population lives in cities and yet there have been many occasions when the Government had to reverse its decision to appease this 30% population. On the other hand, the 70% population, which lives in the villages, were compelled by the policies of the Government, on many occasions to burn their crops. They could not get market to sell their crops and they had to burn their sugarcane. But they never undertook processions, nor showed any lawlessness which was seen in the national capital recently. Even then, the Government is not aware of the problems of the farmers.

On the other hand, it is very much aware of the problems of city-dwellers and is conducting meetings and formulating plans about the steps to be taken in future. No step was taken for the farmers by the Government. I fail to understand why the 70% population of the country is not being treated similar. I resent it and want the Government to reconsider its policies, which are making the farmers more and more indebted. I appeal to the Government to formulate policies which facilitate the farmers to get loan. Banking system should be more convenient. A farmer is usually illiterate, unaware, and there ought to be a system where he can easily get loans from the bank and thus is able to get his work done in time. A farmer also has to take loan for the marriage of his daughter. It will be better if he gets 100% subsidy and no interest accrues on it till his crops are bought. The interest should accrue only after his crop is sold. Farmers are always cheated. If he is given some facility in getting loans from the bank and he goes to the bank to avail it, touts approach him. If he wants a loan of Rs. 5000, the touts demand a commission of Rs. 500 for doing the work. Since most of the farmers are illiterate they pay Rs. 500 because he has to marry his daughter on fixed date and he has no other option.

I would like to say that it is not a political issue. No party should make such policies in its own interest, nor should they speak for it. We ought to formulate policies for the welfare of the farmers rising above narrow party-politics. All party meetings should be held. The specialists and the intellectuals should be asked to participate in such a meeting and thus a policy should be formulated which does not create problems in any manner to the farmers. It should enable the farmer to recover from its indebted condition and to grow crops using latest technology.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. All members have stated that our country is predominantly agrarian country, there is no doubt about it. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. Leaders of the farmers from Congress party Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, Shri Jaipal Reddy and Smt. Sonia Gandhi have expressed their concern for the farmers. Several other leaders of the farmers have also expressed their views regarding farmers(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): She is leader of the farmers....(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Smt. Sonia ji is the leader of the country....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: There is no doubt that she is not a leader of the farmers....(*Interruptions*) I have stated so because just now Shri Buta Singh has told me to

Speak truth. I called her leader of the farmers, perhaps it is not true, that's why he has pointed out. Perhaps, unguardedly, I did not utter truth, that's why he is shouting. Kumari Mayawati has also expressed her views. Several members have placed their views. It is true that since our independence, none of the Governments worked for the welfare of the farmers. If they had worked for the welfare of the farmers, they would not be in such a plight. Even the Land Acquisition Act which was enacted during Britisher's time in 1894 to grab the land of the farmers against a compensation of meagre amount in two-five years, is still intact today. Nobody bothered to solve the problems of the farmers otherwise this Act would have been repealed during the last 50 years. Unfortunately, it has not happened till date. The present Government in considering to do so but still the Act is prevailing. It is an open truth that farmers in our country have always been remained under burden of debt. We all are aware that the loan once taken by the farmer continues to be repaid even up to tens of generations. That's why the famous revolutionary Shri Chhoturamji had made a law that the debt on the farmers would be waived off. Once our Government had also waived off their debts. It was a very good step. However, it is also a fact that even today to cater their financial needs, farmers have to mortgaged their crop for getting loan and when they failed to repay, the resort to suicide, or sell their kidney or blood to repay the loan. I would appreciate the present Government for implementing some schemes since it has come into power...(*Interruptions*) Agriculture policy is a separate issue but nobody can deny the fact that till today 70 lakh farmers have taken credit cards because they need money. How these 70 lakh farmers have got credit cards? Which Government have issued them the card? The issue of crop insurance scheme was under discussion for the last 50 years but only the present Government has implemented it. Even the Agriculture policy has been formed after 50 years by this Government. Nobody can deny this truth. However, I would also like to mention as Shri Sangmaji was also telling that the schemes formulated in the interest of the farmers are not being planned and monitored properly.

Nobody can deny this fact that in this country the crop depends upon the nature god and the fate of the farmer. By God's grace sometimes he get bumper crop but sometimes vagaries of nature destroyed his crop. Hence, only by God's grace we get food quantum of foodgrains. Farmers should at least get the minimum support price to cover their cost. He will be ruined if he does not even get the support price for his crop. Previous Government did not pay attention towards this aspect. The present Government have implemented various schemes for providing support price to the farmers. The goods which were not considered by the earlier

[Shri Sahib Singh]

Governments are being purchased by the present Government and farmers are also benefited by it. Government have tried to provide funds to each State. Some members have complained that funds are being provided only to those States where BJP is in power. A policy should be formulated to provide funds to the States according to their needs.

Sir, prices are fixed on the basis of demand and supply. Prices will definitely come down if supply is more than the demand. At present our godown are over flowing and there is a need to seriously ponder over the problem of storage. Even the people living below the poverty line are also not purchasing these foodgrains. Foodgrains are lying in the godowns. This is also a fact that still there are several people in our country who are not having sufficient food to satiate their hunger. We should identify such States and such people and foodgrains should be provided to those needy. Government should also decide to provide the foodgrains at a very cheap rate of Rs 2/- per kg but State Governments should also take interest in all this. Farmers are not an organised people. Other organised people take advantage from the Government. Then who will work for the farmers if they are not an organised sector. Parliament is aware as to what extent farmers should get respect in an agriculture based country. I viewed the discussion initiated on this subject as an important one. The issues which have come up during discussion are required to be pondered over. Though the prices of Petrol and Diesel have increased in some States but in some States sales tax on these items is also very high. Those States are required to look into the matter. If State Government of West Bengal really wants to help the farmers, it should reduce the sales tax on diesel instantly.

Sir, so far as export and import is concerned, our Government have taken a decision to increase the import duty on edible oil. 15 to 25% hike in import duty has been made on palm oil and on other goods it has been increased from 35 to 65%. I would like to mention here one thing that had the import duty been increased some time earlier, it would have benefited the farmers more. During the past few years mustard crop was sold at the rate of 2000/- per quintal. At present it is being sold at Rs. 1000-1100/- per quintal. Undoubtedly prices of some foodgrains and crops have been increased. Last time prices of chana, urad, sugar and cotton have been increased, but it is also true that prices of rice and wheat have come down. There is a need to seriously consider the issue import of foodgrains so that we may control the prices of these items. There is a need to a system for expeditiously framing the policy of enhancing import duty on agricultural commodities. Files in this regard should not remain pending for 6 months. Immediate action

should be taken by the Government. With these words I oppose this motion.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I rise to speak while giving full support to the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Leader of Opposition.

Sir, the faulty policies of the Government and indifference to the repeated pleas that were being made to it have led to the situation in which there is a serious deterioration in the plight of the farmers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the liberal unrestricted subsidised imports of various agricultural commodities at zero or low duty has presented the country as a dumping field for the foreign nations. There are several other factors. We find the cruel attitude of the Government towards subsidies for the farmers irrespective of the fact and irrespective of the extent to which other countries give protection to their farmers.

Sir, there are umpteen factors that can be placed before you. We find more than 700 items placed thoughtlessly on the OGL and with a determination to place an equal number on the OGL in the next year also. We have also this disastrous phenomenon of Government being reluctant with respect to the fixation of the minimum support price and a total lack of management in the matter of procurements from the farmers. There have been an increase in the prices of inputs, particularly the administered price, like those of kerosene, diesel and so on.

For all these, as a result, as a consequence, the thoughtless, heartless policies of the Government have led to serious crises and such an escalation that is there in plight of the farmers. There has been a disastrous decline in the prices of agricultural commodities for the farmers. The farmers throughout the length and breadth of the country have suffered.

Because of the time constraint, I may refer to only Kerala. In Kerala, we have crises in coconut, in rubber, in the case of pepper, coffee and all these articles over there. Indiscriminate import of palmoil has led to such a crash in the prices of copra and the coconut oil, which is the lowest in the past ten years. Such is therefore, the position. In the case of coconut - Sir, you know Kerala's economy - nearly one-third area of the total crop area is covered by the coconut. Nearly five million people depend upon coconut for their livelihood. And here we have a Government, under such a phenomenon of a crash in the prices because of the wrong policies of the Government, being not responsive even to the fixation of

the minimum support price for the green coconut in the interest of the farmers and to come forward with procurements of green coconut from the farmers.

Therefore, I say and I emphatically put it before the House that the Government has miserably failed in the protection of the small, marginal and risk prone farmers of the country. My party, therefore, strongly supports the Adjournment Motion that has been brought by the Leader of the Opposition.

This Government does not deserve to continue in office in the interests of the farmers and in the interest of the national economy.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the Adjournment Motion today we are discussing the bad condition of farmers. If we look at it in real perspective, then the previous Governments have been responsible for their bad condition. In our country, we failed to make a policy to improve the condition of the farmers. If appropriate policies were formulated, the condition of the farmers would not have been so bad. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana are considered to be prosperous, but even then they are in debt. In other States, such as the Government of Andhra Pradesh advises its farmers not to grow Rabi crops because of the lack of storage facilities. Because of that reason the Government would be unable to buy the foodgrain. In the case of Bihar, the paddy is procured at the rate of Rs. 250 to Rs. 275 and the farmers do not get proper price for their produce. In the case of paddy Uttar Pradesh, the Food Minister himself said that paddy is bought at the rate of Rs. 300-350. What is its reason? What caused such circumstances? In reality the godowns of the country are filled with grains. Everybody says that India is principally an agricultural country. The farmers have increased the production by their hard labour. Our godowns are full. If we look back on the past and see the case of wheat we would know that once we had to import wheat. Along with the production of wheat, we also increased its import which led to the increase in the storage. According to the records, the quantity of stored wheat was 105 lakh tonnes in 1996. Total import in the year 1996 was 10 lakh tonnes. In this way every year wheat was imported, sometimes it was 10 lakh tonnes, sometimes 15 lakh tonnes and sometimes it was 20 lakh tonnes. Thus the stores continued to increase and that is why this situation has arisen. The aim of the politicians and intellectuals was to ensure the prosperity of the farmers. At present the farmers of our country consider Chaudhary Devi Lal as their saviour. Why? Devi Lal ji tried to make the farmer prosperous through his policies.

During the formulation of all his policies he kept in view the interests of the farmers. He provided them electricity and water round the clock so that they could increase their crop production. He made available for the farmers other means of irrigation. At present the Haryana Government is one which professes to work on the principles enunciated by Chaudhary Devi Lal. At present the price of sugarcane is Rs. 110 per quintal there, which is more than that at any other State in India. It is in the interests of the farmers. As far as the procurement of paddy is concerned, last year the Haryana Government procured 60% of the paddy production to ensure the farmer's interests. If our Government makes policies to ensure the prosperity of the farmers, give facilities to them there is no doubt that the farmers would respond with toiling hard to increase their crop production.

It used to be said that India is backward in foodgrain production, but the farmers, with their hard labour have enabled in India to export grains to other countries. I would like give example that in the year 1997 the productivity rate of wheat in the USA, Australia, Brazil and Canada was 2673, 2996, 1846 and 2360 respectively while in case of India it was 2689. In spite of it, our country continued to export wheat. Recently we imported wheat from Australia, Brazil and Canada. What are the reasons? Food Corporation of India was responsible for it as it could not fulfil its role properly. I would like to term it as 'mismanagement' because it led not only to increase in the stocks of grain but also caused distress among the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the decision of the Government of India to establish a foodgrains committee in which there would be a number of experts. They would find out the ways to utilise the foodgrain stock. Before I commend Shri Nitish Kumar, I would like to express my resentment that in the previous years no agricultural policy was formulated as was done by this Government. It is a matter of farmer's right. I am also apprehensive of the ill impact of W.T.O. on the foodgrains Committee formed by the Government. People of the country are scared that under the W.T.O. regime the farmers will become a labourer in their 2-4 acres of land holdings. My suggestion is that such a policy be formulated for the betterment of the farmers that they get not only diesel but also everything on reasonable prices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that just as the Government helps the farmers of Punjab in their distress by making available for them crores of rupees, it should also not turn its head from the woes of Bihar or Haryana. Such discriminatory policies should not be followed. The Agricultural policy of the Government is not going to bear fruits in just one year because the condition of farmers has not deteriorated in

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

a single day or even in one or two years. The seeds of it were sown much earlier. It is going to take time before the advantages of the new policy are materialised and the Government should take measures for the welfare of the farmers. We only want the prosperity of the farmers and the Government should ensure it. Therefore, I oppose this Adjournment Motion.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. I have heard the speeches of my colleagues who are opposing it and came to know about their feelings towards farmers. I respect my friend Dr. Sahib Singh Verma but he has said something which is neither factual nor based on history.

While opposing Congress, he said that the old policies are responsible for it. Through you, I would like to tell Verma Saheb as well as the august House of this country that if through green revolution, this country has become self-sufficient in the production of food, then it happened only due to the policies of Congress. This is the report of World Bank which states that if this country can treat it as an achievement that a revolution has come in the field of agriculture, it has been possible due to the policies of Congress. You cannot deny the efforts of the great leaders of Congress. You cannot deny the speech given by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on Bhakhara dam, the contribution of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi towards farmers...*(Interruptions)* They are killing my time.

The Congress Party has honour for one of its highly honest leader, Lal Bahadur Shastri who gave the slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan on behalf of the Congress Party. Therefore, there is no point in this argument. I would also like to say that at the time of our struggle for freedom when the majority of people including farmers were participating in it, Ajit Singh, uncle of martyr Bhagat Singh gave the slogan of 'Pagri sambhalo desh ke kissano' and 'Dana dana hind ka, videshi brother le gaye.' But today, I would like to accuse N.D.A. and the partners of N.D.A. that they are extracting the blood of farmers and snatching every grain from them. I would also like to keep my view in the House. As history repeats itself, I would like to mention the words of farmers Urdu poet Iqbal about farmers:—

"Jis khet se dahkan ko mayassar na ho roti

os Khet ka har gosha-e-gandam ko jala do".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a ninth down batsman. As the time is less I would like to complete my statement in short. I would like to give four examples. Thousands

of sugarcane growers of Lakshmiganj near Gorakhpur, U.P. are agitating against sugar mills on whom their Rs. 2000 crores are outstanding. On one hand the farmer movement is on there and on the other, 14 out of 29 sugar mills are closed in the rule of N.D.A. Government. Why the coconut growers are blockading shipyard of Kochin in Kerala on 11th October? That is because the coconut is being imported from Malaysia and they are protesting because it will ruin them. The third example is of the thousands of tea and rubber producers who have called for a mass agitation on 12th October at the Mangalore port of Karnataka. Despite this, what your Government is doing? I want a reply from you. Now, I come to the operative part.

It would have been my pleasure if from my neighbouring State, Shri Shanta Kumar had been sitting here. He has left the House for sometime. I would like to invite the attention of the House towards the procurement of the paddy in Punjab.

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot explain the loot of farmers which took place in Punjab. Now-a-days, the Bhakhara dam and canals of Punjab are not producing foodgrains, on the contrary they are being used for committing suicides by farmers because after roaming around the market for a month or so, they are not finding any agency to procure their harvest. The agency of Central Government also reached there late by 15 days. The Centre declared a package of Rs. 370 crores but before that the farmers of Punjab was compelled to sell its produce of Rs. 540 per quintal to as low as Rs. 400 per quintal. The root cause of this was that the procurement agencies of State and FCI of Central Government were 15 days late in purchasing paddy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can challenge in this House today that out of the Rs. 370 crore package declared by Central Government, not a single rupee reached the farmers of Punjab. We cannot find a worst situation like this, whereas this Government is talking about farmers. It is not necessary that only a jat or a person like me can talk in terms of farmers, even Mahatma Gandhi has spoken about farmers who belonged to a family of bania and invoked the country with a single 'lathi' but even he was not spared by BJP and RSS. I would like to tell Sh. Sahib Singhji that, we have people here who work on with tractor upto twelve hours everyday before coming to House and then about farm and farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite your attention towards three-four matters. There is a very sensational story that the Chairman of FCI went on a tour to Punjab and after roaming thoroughly he recommended that 80 per cent produce of Punjab is not

worth purchasing. The fact is that he is the man who migrated to America after changing his passport and was involved in Fairfax and other scams and also he undertook his Punjab tour without the advice of the University. Nitish Kumarji, I would like to say that who has given this right to the Chairman of FCI to declare that 80 per cent product of Punjab is not worth purchasing and that too without the advice of University?

Sir, today in this House I would like to directly accuse the Government that when the Ministers of Akali Dal have purchased paddy for Rs. 400 per quintal, then this Government purchased paddy from Punjab @ Rs. 540 per quintal. As a result, the Ministers of Akali Dal sold lakh of tonnes of paddy to the Government agency @ Rs. 540 per quintal which they purchased @ Rs. 400 per quintal from farmers. I would again like to accuse the Central Government that they have taken the decision of purchasing paddy @ Rs. 540 per quintal in Punjab in favour of the Ministers of the Akali Dal. The irony is that the ordinary farmer received nothing out of this. There is no shameful act than this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to accuse the Government of BJP and its NDA partners that this Government is exploiting the farmers. Here, I would like to appreciate the Cabinet Minister Shri Shanta Kumar for suggesting that FCI should open its buffer stock of foodgrains worth crores of rupees for the poor people of the country one or two rupees cheaper. Since the policy of BJP is based on America and farmers of foreign countries, they refused his proposal and instead let that stock of foodgrains get wasted. This is the policy of the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I would like to say in the House that if the lakhs of tones of foodgrains are not removed from the godowns, then in future the crop of wheat will go wasted due to it. The work which was done during the period of Congress specially in the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi and earlier Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri cannot be undertaken with equal zeal by this Government at any cost. Therefore, I support this 'adjournment motion'. There is one more point I would like to mention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at last I would like to say one thing...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the House was extended for discussion up to 7.00 p.m. only. So, I would request that the House may please be extended further...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time till the completion of the discussion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.... (Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, there is only more point which I want to raise...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, we may extend it by half an hour....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Since this discussion is on Adjournment Motion, this cannot be postponed. Therefore, we will sit for another half an hour and complete it.

...(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Brar, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I would like to add a point to the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi, that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in the House for enquiring the suicides committed by the farmers in the country and thus we can fight for them.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): I would try to speak in Hindi...(Interruptions) Today we are talking of farmers but I am very sad to say that farmers are not only those who do agriculture related work. He who speaks for farmers is a farmer. And who is a farmer, he who own a Farm House. Feudal System was prevalent in pre-independence India. Before, independence there was August uprising in 1942. INA was formed under the leadership of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, a war was fought against the British Yoke. Many rebellions, including Postal uprising took place, but after 1947 agricultural land in India has been under the ownership of landlords. We need to do something in this regard. A person who is a tiller at least, he should own some land. After independence nothing like social or cultural revolution took place. Since we are in the Opposition, so we raised this issue. I congratulate Shri P.A. Sangma who raised, the issue relating to land reforms in the House. Land reforms, which should have been done earlier, have not been done. Very few people have large agricultural land holdings. Most of those engaged in agriculture are agricultural labourers.

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

[English]

Sixty percent of the total population dependent on agriculture are agricultural labourers or workers.

[Translation]

We should think what did we do for agricultural labourers. Merely talks will not help. I am telling this thing to you and I would certainly tell them also.

What have you done? Yes, you have framed a law but what sort of law is it. Estate Acquisition Act and Land Reforms Act were passed in 1953 and thereafter you forgot everything. After Sixth Plan your party also came to power but you did not allocate anything for land reforms. Except West Bengal and Kerala, nowhere land reforms were undertaken. You say, you want to do good to the farmers and the poor people. It can not be done at this rate. You must take positive steps if you want people to work in the fields. And land reforms is the first step in this direction. Today, look at Andhra and Bihar, naxalites are increasing their activities. Main reason behind such activities is the land reforms, which we could not do...*(Interruptions)* We carried out land reforms in West Bengal. Earlier, when Congress was at the helm of affairs, they said that they would finish it through Licence, but when Shri Jyoti Basu came to power he decided to carry out land reforms...*(Interruptions)* He said that merely cursing nexalites won't help and hence land reforms should be carried out.

Where is hon'ble Minister dealing with Agriculture Marketing Policy? Farmers are committing suicide because this time rice is being sold at Rs. 7 per kg...*(Interruptions)* Paswan ji, your Government is in power. Rice is imported from Thailand at Rs. 6 per kg. It is not a way to save the farmers. It will further make farmers poorer. You should have announced minimum support price for commodities such as wheat or jute etc. and the market price should not be allowed to go below MSP.

Tomatoes and green chillies are extensively grown in my area. Daily two hundred truck loads are sent from this area. But what is the state of affairs if these are not sold in market then farmers would throw their tomatoes on the way itself, since it does not fetch even 25 paise a kg. Something should be done in the interest of the farmers to avoid such situation. I am not talking about big farmers, I am talking about small farmers who have only one acre of land. If the Government want to save agricultural labourers it will have to change its agriculture policy and a new way will have to be found out - it

should be done at the earliest, otherwise the productivity will decline and we will not get food even. You are happy to have become a Member of WTO, but you remember PL-480. This time it will be WTO-880 and not PL-480. So it should be stopped. India is a great country which have enough cultivable land and water. And if we make a proper use of it and provide our agricultural labourers with adequate work then I am sure we would be able to produce enough to export even. It should be done in the interest of the nation.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the House is discussing a very important issue and adjournment motion has been moved by the opposition.

Of course, on several occasions the problems relating to farmers are discussed. If there is a flood or drought any where, it is a problem relating to farmers. Some where or the other we discuss problems relating to farmers. Today I had made up my mind, that even if I was to vote against the Government, I should do so since it was a question of the interest of farmers. But what I saw was that Sonia ji initiated the discussion on issue relating to farmers and she has nothing to do with farmers or with agriculture....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): What are you talking, you do not know anything.

[English]

This is total.*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you provoking him?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am telling a very nice thing.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What does he mean? *(Interruptions)* He is talking total*...She has been to every single...*(Interruptions)* He cannot say like this...*(Interruptions)* It is completely untrue...*(Interruptions)*

19.18 hrs.

At this stage Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, no, this is not acceptable...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is any objectionable, then I will expunge that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is any objectionable remark, I will expunge it.

19.20 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,...

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): There is nothing wrong in what the hon. Member has said. Why are they interrupting like this?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that it is a very serious issue. Lakhs of our farmers are victims of this. I would like to make a humble request that let us desist from making personal comments and take up this issue, keeping in views the dignity of the House. Therefore, there is no need to make personal comments.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many people objected to it when Sahib Singh ji called Sonia Gandhi ji as leader of farmers during his speech. But when I said that she had no knowledge of agriculture, why there is so much hue and cry. What wrong did I say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak on the subject.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): If our hon'ble Prime Minister speaks on Science and we say that he has no knowledge of Science, will it be appropriate or will you allow it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Farmers of different States face different type of problems. These 70 per cent farmers bear the burden of entire nation. But all are not farmers among them. People associated with the occupation of agriculture are also included in this category. It includes agricultural labourers also...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdas ji you will not get a chance like this. I had thought of giving you a chance.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Agricultural labourers have their own problems. They toil hard right from sowing till harvesting. In Bihar they have a share in the produce. Their effort is to ensure maximum yield. Similarly, a middle class farmer has his own problem. It is of different nature. Though they produce, yet it is inadequate to sustain them for a year. Farmers those who have limited harvest, which is just sufficient for catering to their needs only, they face problems relating to education, medication marriage etc. of their children and they expect the Government to provide some facilities so that agriculture output can be enhanced. That's what I want to say...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Congress Party does not like me speaking, if you too desire the same then I would stop my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. Time is very less, that is why I am saying so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Though this question relates to farmers, yet the people who do not know anything about farmers get more time to speak...(Interruptions) whereas people like us should be given more time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What do you know about farmers?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to place the problems of farmers before you and the House as well. I would like to apprise you of the pitiable condition of the villages and agony of farmers. I would like to urge the Government to provide some facilities to middle class farmers but the facilities have not been provided by the Government. The farmers are experiencing lot of difficulties due to rise in prices as a result of recent withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers and like with prices of Diesel etc. Merely by shouting before the Government or the House, the problem of farmers cannot be projected, we will have to solve their problems. There are no sufficient canals in Bihar, if at all these are there in some of the areas, these are not at all successful. If we raise a finger at Congress, they will be annoyed. During Congress

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

regime canals were dug up and entire funds went into the pockets of leaders and contractors and thereby farmers suffered a great loss. Farmer's land was acquired in the name of digging a canal but the digging work was never completed. Many offices were opened, large buildings were constructed, officers were deployed but the farmers never got water for irrigation. When farmers need water for their crops, water is not provided whereas when water is not required, water is released in the canals causing flood like situation thereby causing loss to the crops of farmer which means a loss to the Government and damage to the crops. On the contrary farmers are served with a notice that water worth so much amount was supplied to them and their cattle folk are taken away so as to recover the water charges. Farmers go to jail for fault of the Government. We need to pay a serious attention towards the problems of the farmers. The farmers are neither able to produce more nor able to get facilities provided by the Government. The prices of Diesel as well as fertilisers have increased. I would like to say that there are three categories of farmers. Farmers under the third category are those who have enough agricultural land and sell their produce in the market. Their condition is critical. The condition of farmers, especially in Bihar, is such that they find no taker for their produce.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Though Government agency procures food and godowns are also there yet procurement cannot be done through this agency properly. Farmers are using wheat and maize as fodder for their cattles. Grains are rotting. I would like to urge Central Government to open a procurement centre at the Block level.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is just beginning. A procurement centre should be opened at Block level so that they can sell their produce at these centres and get appropriate prices. The matter relating to the determination of prices of foodgrains need a serious thinking as the farmers belonging to the second category will be a loser if higher price is fixed and if lower price is fixed then the farmers with big land holdings who produce enough and sell their stock will have to suffer a lot. Therefore, we will have to think seriously while determining the prices. New generation is running away from agriculture and they get a job for Rs. 1200 to Rs. 2000 in Delhi and Gujarat. Therefore, the Government need to give more incentives to the farmers.

New generation is leaving villages for getting job for Rs. 1500 and Rs. 2000...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If you do not permit me to speak then ultimately through you I would request the Government to give a serious thought to the problems of the farmers and their pitiable condition. In several cases the farmers could not get appropriate facilities due to the clash between Acts and Rules framed by the Centre and the concerned State Governments as these create hurdles. Therefore, I would urge the Government to take appropriate action for augmenting productions and providing adequate facilities to the farmers by relaxing these Acts and Rules through better coordination. I would also like to congratulate our agro-scientists who have played major role in increasing our production. With these words, I convey my thanks to you also...(Interruptions) People say that politics should not be dragged into such issues but what this is going on, people are playing politics only. People from Congress have brought this motion with a political motive, therefore, I strongly oppose this motion and support the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): None of these persons can claim to be a genuine farmer. We do not just put nail polish on these hands...(Interruptions) We plough the fields with these hands...(Interruptions) It is a matter of great shame that they laugh at ladies even on such occasions, they are not human beings. They have no right to laugh like this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a lot of noise in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, why do you not allow a woman Member to speak in this House?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Some senior Members were saying here that those who have no knowledge they do not want to speak. Are they not aware that even women work on half of the area with farmers. What are they taking. Are they not aware of the fact that today our country is passing through a critical phase even mothers like me are thinking of committing suicide.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I seek the cooperation of the leaders. This is not the way to treat an hon'ble Member.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I wish to place on record my utter contempt for such behaviour.

[Translation]

Now-a-days the condition of farmer has become so bad that nobody wants to marry young daughter of a farmer.

They think that this girl will not get anything in future.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, you may have to extend the time of the House now. Please let us have the final extension now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, I have to extend the time of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, the time of the House is extended by an hour. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury may continue.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Today it is being said in Andhra Pradesh that crop holiday in regard to Rabi crop should be taken. Perhaps the Government has failed to understand its meaning. It does not mean that we should go somewhere to enjoy holiday. I would like to ask as to what assistance the Government will provide in case the farmers go on crop holiday. What will happen to those farmers and labourers who are dependent on agriculture because they earn their livelihood only from it. There was the time when the farmers used to be given a lot of respect and the slogan like "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" was raised. It is the farmer who is the mark of National glory and it is only due to him that we were never forced to go to other nations with begging bowls. Today the farmer of the country is in a position to feed teeming millions of his country. I am getting the impression that the House is responding in a stereo type behaviour over this Adjournment Motion ... (Interruptions) Today, India is in a position to feed its millions of hungry masses. There is no agriculture policy in our country today. The tilt of the agriculture is towards cash crops from food-crops.

Unless we pay attention towards it, we will not be able to get rid of the ongoing situation of crisis prevailing in some parts of the country. Though we have adopted the technique of tissue-culture but we are unable to carry it through second generation or re-generation phase. The farmers are being devastated due to spurious pesticides. Today a farmer takes the same crop as the one being grown by his neighbouring farmer. But when we adopted the modern technique we never gave thought to the fact as to how we will provide minimum support price for various crops once its bumper harvest will be ensured due to adoption of superior technology. Though the rural banks do not lend money to the farmers, they keep pressing the farmers to repay their so called debts. At least 60 farmers in Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide due to this problem... (Interruptions) Are you aware that the reason for our insisting for crop holiday for Rabi crop is the non-availability of water for irrigation purpose. How can we claim to provide facilities to the farmer in such a scenario. What is it that we can do? In such a phase it is our duty to provide assistance to the farmers. We had among us, the parliamentarians like Shri. N.G. Ranga and late Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel who had gone on Satyagraha for the farmers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This kind of running commentary is very bad. I am sorry to say this. A lot of noise is coming from this section.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If this continues, nobody will be able to speak continuously. If anybody starts giving running commentary from this side, then somebody from that side also will start giving running commentary. We are not here to see our muscle power. It is only an intellectual exercise.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, please hear me.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Sir, how can she describe other Members like this? You are allowing and that is why running commentary is coming from this side.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I will expunge all those remarks. I will expunge it. I will not allow anybody. I will not allow anything of that kind.

... (Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is only the farmers who live in the remote corners of our country where there is no infrastructure even for their families.

[Translation]

Their children can not go to convent schools. There is no hospital to take care of the elderly in case of their falling ill. They are migrating to every nook and corner of the country. They shower their blood to take crop for feeding their countrymen ... (Interruptions)

[English]

We need a comprehensive policy approach. Land laws are not equal. Agriculture land laws vis-a-vis industrial land laws are not equal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, now you have to conclude.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes.

The State Governments, particularly that of Andhra Pradesh has not allocated any funds for agricultural sector in this financial year so far.

[Translation]

Electricity supply is not proper in Andhra Pradesh but the State Government there talk about computers ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): If Madam Renuka Chowdhury wants to accuse only Andhra Pradesh, then she does not know the facts. It is because she does not know agriculture at all. ... (Interruptions) Maximum attention is being paid to the agriculture sector. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, in this House we have given the particulars of what the Andhra Pradesh Government has done to protect the interests of the farmers. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: She says there is no electricity for agriculturists. How is it possible? ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is on record that spending for agriculture has dropped. I will challenge it. I will prove it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, you can conclude now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All the 'challenges' are removed from record.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I will present my colleague a dictionary to see that the word 'challenge' is not unparliamentary. His English is weak. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Everybody knows how strong you are. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I request through you that the Governments must immediately become pro-active, remain more sensitive and create infrastructure for the farmers. Banks have to be directed on an emergency basis that recoveries should be banned for sometime. Pressure should be brought on the State Governments to see that power supply to farm sector is given priority. There should be stable power supply. It is because due to unstable power supply and fluctuations, motors have burned down. Small farmers cannot afford to spend Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 5,000 every time for rewinding of motors. With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the last speaker. Mr. Speaker has pleased to allow Shri Bhadana to speak for two minutes.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I may also be given two minutes to speak. ... (Interruptions) Sir, my name is also there. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the leader of the opposition has brought this Adjournment Motion to draw the attention of the country to this very important subject of the plight of the farmers. In this regard, I would only like to say that the discussion on this subject is taking place quite late and this important subject is not being taken seriously.

19.46 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

I would like to request you people that you must also be careful for maintaining the decorum of the House. Hon. Vajpayeeji has always played an important role as the leader of the opposition and he has never been treated in this way as he is being treated now in this House. You are setting a new convention in the House. If you set this type of convention it is not right to do so ... (Interruptions) It is a matter related to the farmers. The farmers in the entire country are facing problem and we have gathered here to discuss their problems being faced by the farmers. You must take this matter seriously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and last time also I had mentioned about the dismal condition of the sugarcane farmers. BJP lead Government is functioning in Uttar Pradesh as well as in the Centre. The farmers are being treated very badly by the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh. The mills are not procuring the sugarcane of the farmers and mills have not even paid the outstanding dues of the farmers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to apprise the entire House that Maukhas mills at Meerut has not been revived and restarted and those mills which were functioning have also been closed. Due to it the farmers are in a dismal condition. I am of the opinion that the farmers cannot fulfill even their basic needs in the absence of any payment to them. While on one hand, crore of Government money are outstanding against the farmers, on the other their belongings including their tractors and cattle are being forcibly snatched away from them and they are being forced to languish in lock up. Such type of discriminatory treatment is being met with to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh. I request all the hon. Members in this House to rise above petty politics and to formulate a policy for the welfare of the farmers so that the farmers could be saved from being rained ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister will speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, I have called the Minister.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the way.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. This is a serious issue.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the past six hours, discussion is being held in the House on the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition. During the discussion, problems of farmers have been discussed widely. One or two specific points have not been raised rather several issues concerning them have been raised. A number of Hon'ble Members have thrown light on several issues ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you, please take your seat. There is no time now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you once again. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It shows that you are not serious about the issue.

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am once again appealing you.

... (Interruptions)

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

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, this is too much.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several issues have been raised during discussion and it is not possible to take all of them in a limited time period. The House as well as you Mr. Speaker are aware that for the first time after independence a National Agriculture policy has been adopted and announced by the present Government and is placed in the House. I have also given notice during the last session and expressed my intention that National Agriculture Policy should be discussed in the House but the same could not be done. I would have been happy had the discussion held on it during the last session but we did not get the time. I want that this issue should be discussed during this session ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I am on a point of Order, Sir. I may be permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please show me the rule first. Tell me the rule position.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am raising my Point of Order under Rule 376 of the Rules of Procedure. I would like to submit that the time allotted to the various parties is given clearly. But, all the parties have exceeded the time allotted to them. Some of the one-man parties like Kerala Congress also represent the farmers. Therefore, I cannot sit quiet without mentioning a few things on the subject.

In fact, the hon. Commerce Minister Shri Murasoli Maran is not here. But the Minister of State in the Commerce Ministry should have been here. Tea, coffee, spices; all these items should come under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. But, just because they come under the Commerce Ministry, nobody is going to respond to the issues pertaining to these commodities.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order. Now the Minister may continue his reply. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, this is too much. Once again I am appealing to you to please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am not challenging your orders. But, in protest against not allowing me to speak for the farmers, I am walking out from this House.

19.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas left the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may please continue his reply.

... (Interruptions)

19.59 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion continued for 6 hours. Several issues have been raised and there is a problem before me as to which issue I should take up first. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has raised many issues and I was listening to her. Apart from her I have listened to other members also. Therefore, I expect them to respond in the same way when reply from the Government is given.

20.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramdas Athawale left the House.

Shri Madhav Rao Scindia has also put forth his views. He is the Deputy leader of Congress Party. I hold him in high esteem but he has stated that Members and

* Not recorded.

Ministers of ruling Party can understand the problems of rural people only if they visit the villages. I am the Agriculture Minister of the country. I do not belong to any affluent family. I was born in a village and belong to a very ordinary family. Therefore, when we decide to visit a village, we definitely visit there. And I would give reply keeping in mind by both the sides since most of the Members belong to rural areas, therefore, it is inappropriate to blame a member whether belonging to Janatantrik Gadhbandhan or to any other Party that he does not visit villages. Members of Lok Sabha have to go their respective Constituencies and all hon'ble Members of the House are aware of the problems of their respective villages though it is a separate issue that how much interest they take in regard to them. Therefore, the statement made by you that the Members should visit the villages to understand their problem is not proper.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I had stated that the attitude of your Members shows that they are not visiting villages. I didn't mean that they do not to villages, however, I fully agree with the clarification given by you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I thank you for that but now stated about the attitude. You have levelled many charges against us. So from which point I should start speaking. I think your main point of emphasis was that the huge imports have deteriorated the condition of the farmers and the inappropriate policy adopted by the Government is responsible for the excessive import of commodities. Another charge has also been levelled that prices of agriculture produce are going down which also mean that the excessive import is affecting the agricultural products. We all are aware that the negotiation with WTO had not taken place during the tenure of NDA Government. You have also mentioned that this issue will be raised ...*(Interruptions)* I have stated that but you please listen to me first. I have listened to all the Members. If you are satisfied with my reply then division will not take place otherwise it will. First you listen to me. Shri Scindia Ji, W.T.O. or GATT negotiations were held during the regime of the same Government of which you were a Minister. Whatever happens at that time... *(Interruptions)* I will not level any allegation rather I will place the facts. Whatever happened ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You did not understand the meaning of WTO even now ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Various agreements had taken place under World Trade Organisation and Agreement on Agriculture was one of them ... *(Interruptions)* We all know you very well, there is no need to give a fresh introduction. All members of the House know each other very well. Therefore, we all should listen to each other. There is no harm in it and also to oppose the

objectionable statements, however, I have not completed my sentence. Is it not a fact that GATT Agreement was signed during the tenure of Congress Party. You mentioned about umbrella agreement. Various agreements were signed at that time under WTO, one of them is Agreement on Agriculture ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. You must be practising as advocate at Chandigarh. You will be sent as Indian representative to WTO for dispute settlement. If you are so much interested, you will be sent to WTO for dispute settlement on behalf of the Government as and when required. To present our country's stand in an effective manner there, you please listen to me first and then express your views ... *(Interruptions)* our market is not being opened for agriculture produces under any agreement included in Agreement on Agriculture. You can confirm it from your party member Shri Manmohan Singhji that why the markets are opened.

It is being said repeatedly that we had time upto year 2003 for lifting the Quantitative restrictions from trade. But you have lost your case in the WTO dispute settlement tribunal. You are supposed to do away with all the restrictions by 2001 and open up your entire market. In this context only that the market is being opened up and not because the NDA government has reached any agreement with WTO. Nothing can be further from the truth than this claim made by you. The entire market is being opened up because your Balance of Payment position has improved. You could have relied on the plea of adverse condition of 'BOP' for postponing the opening of market till 2003 but you lost the case in WTO dispute settlement. You have to completely open up the market by the end of 31st March, 2001. WTO or GATT Agreement was not made by hon. Vajpayeeji's government but by that government in which you were an honourable Minister ... *(Interruptions)* you will again get an opportunity. Hence no accusation can be more irrational than blaming this government for opening the flood gates of the economy to the foreigners ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: (Mahasamund): Why do not you abolish the agreement? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shayamacharan Shuklaji, you better try to convince your brother Vidya Charan Shuklaji in Chhattisgarh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nitishji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Today the market is opening up and our government is not at fault. It is completely true and if you don't think so then let it be confirmed

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

from Manmohan Singhji who the Minister of Finance at that time.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: You increase your balance of foreign exchange and raise import duties and adopt anti-dumping measures ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR. Scindia Saheb, we will come whenever you give us an opportunity. Now the issue is that the market has opened up. But we have two instruments in our hands as controlling measures, one is tariff restrictions and second is anti-dumping measure. You say that we must use them. It is being said that government opened the market to such an extent that our market has created a lot of problems for the farmers. I would like to present some facts and figures for your knowledge. The total value of agricultural import in 1998-99 was Rs. 12,584.08 crores which reduced to Rs. 11,510.09 crores in 1999-2000. So during our reign agricultural import has decreased instead of increasing. As far as the question of the share of agricultural import in the total import is concerned it was 7.05 per cent of the total import in 1998-99 and it was reduced to 5.63 per cent in 1999-2000. These are our figures. You can challenge them if you want. These figures are based on the import. Now the question is as to why the import duty was not increased? Now the issue is to identify the problem areas ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): You tell as to what was the total import.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already told you about that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have told you the total import made during 1998-99 and even the share of total agricultural import in it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Bhurijaji, what is going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: These are incontrovertible figures and are enough to prove that agricultural import has decreased instead of increasing during Vajpayeeji's regime. Our farmers will not be exposed to face any kind of threat or problem with the ongoing GATT provisions. I would like to present more facts before you. Hon. Sangamaji, I beg your pardon for you were our hon. Speaker, but let me clarify that contrary to what you said

import duty is already imposed on it. This year the import duty has been revised twice on many articles. Once it was revised on 12th June and then on 21st November ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members can seek clarifications after Minister completes his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is true that if any agricultural produce has been most affected due to the import it is edible oil. There is a wide gap between demand and production of edible oil. Despite the fact that the Technology Mission on oilseed and pulses is still on, we have not been able to become self-sufficient in regard to oilseed and pulse production. Steps are being taken in this regard. I will dwell on this subject later on, only if the House have the time to hear it. But the oilseed productions has to suffer losses due to import. Three times the duty has been revised and twice this year only in regard to edible oil. Import duty was also increased on pamolien, but one problem which crops up is that when it comes to increasing the import duty on edible oil, the Ministry of Agriculture is always in its favour keeping in view the interests of the producers. But the Ministry of Finance has to take care of the interests of the consumers as well. I remember the days of onion crisis. You were raising this issue every now and then at that time. Onion was exported in 1998 as your government had made commitment to do so and due to the adverse climate, onion crops were damaged and there was a great dearth of onion in the market. The then government was blamed for exporting the onions without taking into consideration the internal demand. You have been in power for longer duration and you are well aware that the export market does not wait for you. If you have made a commitment to export and if you do not keep your commitment in regard to the perishable and edible commodities like onion then the other parties are not going to wait for it too long. Hence the export of onions has to be done every year in the interest of the farmers. But what happened in 1998 was that the prices of onion increased and these Congressmen raised such a hue and cry over the issue of onion that BJP had to suffer electoral defeat in three States. The whole issue of onions abruptly came to an end with the electoral defeat of BJP. Today, when the onion farmers are not being given proper

remunerative prices for their onion crop then why are they not concerned about it? Yesterday you were shedding tears over the crises of costly onions in Delhi markets but today when the farmers are not getting the price for his produce you are sitting silently. Export of onions was stopped due to the hue and cry raised by you on this issue and it resulted to the losses for the farmers. This time the export was permitted without paying any heed to your hue and hoopla. The permission for a total of four lakh fifty thousand tonnes of onion to be exported in four instalments of 1 lakh 50 thousand tonnes each has been given this year. The prices had increased for a brief span of time; in the meanwhile I have just come back from Haslagaon in Maharashtra, considered as the biggest onion market in Asia and met with the onion farmer there. The problem was there for just to one and a half week. The issuing of No Objection Certificate which was discontinued, has once again been started immediately and now the export of onion is being made so that our farmers could get proper remunerative price for their produce. Today the problems are being faced in regard to increasing the import duty. Today, we debate this issue with the Minister of Finance, but when we come out of the House we say that though it may be increased on Pamolien but we cannot increase it more than 45 per cent on Soyabean for it is the bound rate for it. Who is responsible for fixing this bound rate- is it Shri Yashwant Sinha, Shri Murasoli Maran or Shri Vajpayeeji? No, it was fixed by your government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You are telling a lie. You should not misguide the people ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What I am saying is true. You can bring in privilege Motion against us if we are not speaking the truth ... (*Interruptions*) You have got the weapon in your hand to counter any lies being told by us and you can use it. But you can not prevent me from Expressing my opinion. When agreement on GATT was taking place no consensus could be arrived at for fixing bound rates on agriculture and at that time people accepted to fix the bound rate and put restrictions on imports. Japan could have fixed a bound rate from 200 per cent to 500 per cent of their import duty. At that time why did not you pushed through your agenda any further ? The bound rate of import duty is 100 per cent on primary products, 150 per cent on processed products, 300 per cent on edible oil except Soyabean, on which it is 45 per cent.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You are in government you give its reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are telling it that it was your government which fixed the bound rates. You people

have tied our hands and we cannot go beyond certain point. When the debate over this issue used to take place in the House, we used to sit on the opposition benches. We used to say this then ... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, except Soyabean oil on which 45 per cent duty has been fixed ... (*Interruptions*) It is the real problem that it is 45 per cent on Soyabean oil but I want to assure you that we will not lay behind in to being whatever steps we can take in this regard and for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

Here, the reference was made about dairy products. Probably, Soniaji also mentioned about it. You are aware that the conventionally the sound rate on milk was zero percent. It was quite natural. Since the assumption of the role of founding Member of GATT in 1947 by India, the rate was zero per cent on milk. It was because we were not self sufficient in milk production and milk powder used to be imported. Scindiaji, you might have been educated in an reputed schools but, we went to village primary school and you might be knowing that we were given this skimmed milk to drink as mid day milk which was supplied in tons from foreign countries. Teachers in the school used to take our help in preparing it and then distribute it among us. I am talking about the schools in rural areas. You might not be aware of it as you have got your education from big and reputed schools. Similarly Soniaji, might not be aware about it also. It is useless to think as we do not expect anything in this regard.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: You have been brought up drinking imported milk.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No, I am not. I was only telling that I have drunk the imported milk which used to come as assistance. But it was noticed that approximately 17000 to 18000 tonnes has arrived and the import duty in zero per cent on it. Then, separate agreements were made with all the concerned countries. The zero percent rate was raised to 60 per cent in the form of import duty on 12 June, 2000.

Now you tell as to how much milk is being imported after it? You cite an example and immediate action will be taken in this regard. But there is no such thing. Rumours are created and you are aware as to why the prices have fallen? There is a reason for it. It is a myth created by you. A rumour is created that when so much is imported it is bound to affect the market. The private traders do not buy the produce of the farmers. The government cannot buy the entire produce of the farmers even if it invests its entire efforts into it but at the same time government wants to buy maximum. The figures reveal that the procurement has been rising during previous years and if we are having second production

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

of foodgrains we are also making record procurement but regarding procurement we don't have ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: 'Loot' is going on ... (*Interruptions*)
You are saying wrong in regard to procurement ... (*Interruptions*) Losses to the tune of crores of rupees are being suffered ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If any foodgrains are to be procured then the problem of storage is there. You are aware that we are making procurement ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You are lying. You are misguiding the House... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Procurement is being made regularly. Coconut is being procured. The hon. MPs from Kerala had met the hon. Prime Minister and you had also convened a meeting in your room. The procurement of coconut shell is going on and it is being done in record quantity to benefit the coconut growers. Not only this, in Andhra Pradesh ... (*Interruptions*) Procurement is going on, what are you talking about ... (*Interruptions*) You are saying that procurement has not been made ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, he is not yielding. Please take your seat. What is this?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, he is not yielding. Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion based on facts should be held in the House. It is the Supreme House. This is the highest body elected by the people.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a good practice.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Even today we are making highest procurement of coconut in Kerala ... (*Interruptions*) The procurement is going on unabated ... (*Interruptions*) The procurement is going on unabated ... (*Interruptions*) Even in Andhra Pradesh, in the matter of Palm Oil marketing international skill we are sharing their burden. The coconut shell is being procured by NAFED and foodgrains are being procured by FCI. Not only this we are having record foodgrains production. FCI has authorised and the cabinet has also decided that State Governments can go in for procurement. Government has taken a policy decision regarding decentralised procurement and State Governments have been informed about it. The State Governments are repeatedly being asked to go in for procurement ... (*Interruptions*) the loss will be borne by us but only few State Governments are doing procurement. Some State Governments do not during procurement. FCI is not the sole agency of the centre which is involved in procurement. Now every state Government has a right to open as many centres as it requires for procurement. The State Governments can open as many centres as possible. What more can be done or the farmers? To check the import, we will increase the import tariff. Even then if the situation does not improve, we will not hesitate to take the anti dumping measures. Nobody would be able to dump cheap commodities. To improve the condition of the farmers, on the one hand procurement is being done and on the other efforts are being made to save them from the dumping. We are taking these measures and the leader of the farmer from Congress party is requested to suggest any other measure if he has in mind. We will consider and try to implement that also.

A high level delegation of Congress party former Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar, Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Shivraj Patil met me and expressed their concern ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, what he said just now is incorrect ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are seriously considering their suggestions. We are ready to take steps in the interest of the farmers by rising above the party lines. You please suggest us as to what steps should be taken. With this objective, we have formulated the agriculture policy. Shri Sangmaji, you mentioned in your speech that we want to attain the growth rate of more than 4 per cent ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a point of clarification ... (Interruptions) Sir, he has made a comment on me, I would like to seek a clarification from him ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please sit down. We are old friends ... (Interruptions) Earlier you were on our side, why did you go to that side. You were with us. You used to speak very good English and when you were in Janata Dal we used to take pride that we have an English speaking leader in our party also who can reply to Shri Somnathji and Shri Scindia. However, you changed your loyalties ... (Interruptions) I listened your speech. There was no logic in that. There was only jargon ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, it shows the hon'ble Minister is not fully confident of his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, some issues have been raised as to what more steps are to be taken in the interest of the farmers. Farmers require loan for which the Union Government has implemented. farmer's credit card scheme and more than 70 lakh farmers have been benefited by it. Credit cards have been distributed more than the target fixed ... (Interruptions) Risk of the farmers should be covered. We all state that farmer is committing suicide but why he is taking such as extreme step. Actually his losses should be covered. That's why insurance cover has been extended to agriculture. Earlier crop insurance scheme was applicable only on those farmers who were taking loans. Now National Agricultural Insurance Scheme has been launched which will be available for those farmers also who are not taking loans. We are also reviewing it with the intention to make the panchayat a unit so that in case of any loss to any unit, it can be suitably compensated. In this regard, we have

called a meeting of the Agriculture Minister of States on 14th September. Then we will take further steps ... (Interruptions)

The Union Government has initiated capital investment subsidy scheme to solve the problem of shortage faced by the farmers. Under this scheme, cold storages will be set up where fruit, vegetables, potatoes etc. can be stored ... (Interruptions) We want to create 12 lakh tonnes of new storage capacity and renewal and modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of existing capacity alongwith the creation of 4.5 lakh tonnes of new storage capacity and renewal and modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of existing capacity alongwith the creation of 14.5 lakh tonnes of storage capacity of onion during 9th Five Year Plan period. Capital Investment subsidy scheme has been initiated to achieve all these targets, 25% capital subsidy will be provided by the Union Government and anybody can avail its benefits be it private or public company, corporation or cooperative sector. A detailed discussion has already been held in the House in this regard. Various schemes have been launched to benefit the farmers.

Sometimes it is alleged that spurious quality of seed is being provided. At present we have Seed Act, Seed Control Order etc. but the responsibility to implement them vests with the States. In the month of June, a complaint was received in Delhi that spurious quality seed is being sold in the market in Andhra Pradesh. State Government was informed about it instantly and it took the action immediately. Raids were conducted at various places and action was taken against the guilty persons. Today, they mentioned about the unavailability of seeds. I do not know but figures are there ... (Interruptions)

Sir, if you permit me, I can explain in detail. The issue of agriculture can be discussed at any length "Hari Anant Hari Katha Ananta." If you permit me, I can discuss in detail each of the issue of Seeds, pesticides, micronutrients, water and electricity separately and about the steps taken by the Government in this regard. There are some irregularities regarding seeds. We have lesser control over seeds. Therefore, we are taking steps to amend the Seed Act, 1966 so that if a crop gets damaged due to the use of a particular seed or if the germination of the seeds could not take place as per the claim of the company, farmers will have the right to get compensation from that company. That's why we want to bring the new Seed Act.

We are working on a Seed Act which provides that only those seed companies would be able to do business here which will register themselves in the country. We will protect the interests of the farmers by bringing this Act. The use of pesticides is declining in our country. It is a good sign. The technologies developed in Integrated

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Pest Management is being disseminated in the villages gradually. Farmers have reduced the use of pesticides. Figures are available regarding pesticides sold and imported from other countries. Even pesticides manufactured in our country in being exported. Therefore, we are taking action on all these points simultaneously and the National Agricultural Policy also focuses on these points. The area which is included under green revolution has to developed and those parts of the eastern area which have great potential to be tapped is also the foremost objective of the agriculture policy. If you will try to understand our policy you will find that we have done a lot for the farmers otherwise you would not find anything. It depends upon your feelings for the farmers. For us they are like God but not for you because you do not have the sympathy for them. You only want to score the points on their issue. Had you really been sympathetic towards them, you would have initiated the discussion on the adjournment motion yesterday itself. Yesterday also, we were ready to hold the discussion but you could decide as to who will move the adjournment motion. You wasted the entire day of the House. To what extent farmers would be benefited by your behaviour. Please give concrete suggestions and discuss the matter patiently. We have presented the agriculture policy in the House. Though the House has discussed the agricultural policy several time before and during the term of 10th Lok Sabha also. We discussed the same but since our independence no agricultural policy has been formulated till now.

In the year 1990, when Shri Jaipal Reddy was in Janata Dal and National Front was in power, the then Finance Minister had stated that there should be a National Agricultural Policy in the country ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You have mentioned my name but you ... (*Interruptions*)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Hon'ble Shri Reddyji, I was not aware that to improve your image in the eyes of hon'ble Sonijai, you would resort to cheap language. I was not expecting that you will say that I am of someone. However, you are well versed with the fact that I am not, I meet the people in a friendly and amicable way but I can not do... I do not know but perhaps you have started it after join that side ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the situation of the farmers in India and this is the type of discussion that we are having. Sir, I am very sorry to say this ... (*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, it is very sad to see the attitude of the Agriculture Minister, This is most inappropriate. It is very sad ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We called the all party meeting which was attended to by the Members of Congress Party also. Farmers' organisations and voluntary organisations were also invited. The meeting was held on 13th September in Parliament House Annexe. On 14th September discussion was held with Agriculture Ministers and Food Ministers of all the States. Now there will be full transparency in all the international agreements. Therefore, before holding the meetings, we sent the related documents to all the parties including Smt. Sonia Gandhi who attended the meeting in the capacity of Party President. Then during the meeting held on 13th and on 14th also when discussion took place between the Agriculture Minister and Food Ministers of all the States, they expressed their considered views. We are preparing the documents as per the consensus evolved in the discussion. On the basis of it, we will express our views on the mandate review going on Agreement on agriculture in WTO. We will raise the demand that developed countries should reduce their domestic subsidy, remove the subsidy on exports and also to make separate provisions for the food security of the countries like us.

Developed countries are indulging in unfair practices in the backdrop of agreements in WTO. Subsidy is generally allowed. You have mentioned about aggregate measure of support. It is a very common thing and all the persons atleast the members of Parliament should be aware of it. I agree that America is giving large subsidy. Other developed countries are also giving much subsidy. Non product specific and product specific subsidy should be added to arrive at aggregate measure of support. It will be in the interest of our country if they agree to do this. The point is that Negative subsidy is being given on agriculture in our country but this is to discuss the issue at WTO forum.

We all are aware that the Union Government gives subsidy on various commodities. It is a separate issue for discussion. We will demand that separate definition of resource poor farmer should be evolved. In my area, farmers with 4-5 acres of land are poor. At some places farmers with 50 acres of land are also poor. Therefore, we demand that uniform definition of resource poor farmer should be evolved and the assistance given to them should not be included under Aggregate measure of support. Shri Scindiaji, it should not be like the last time that who should take the initiative in this regard. Earlier even the Agriculture Ministry used to remain unaware of

the negotiations held by commerce and other ministries in WTO. This time hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that Agriculture Ministry itself will deal with all the agreements regarding agriculture. Agriculture Ministry has prepared it after eliciting the views of the people from all over the country. We will forcefully present it in WTO. Under the able leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister the reputation of our country in the world has gone up. Those days are gone when the President used to meet on working lunch. Those days people always remain ready to extend red carpet welcome. Now the time has changed. Our prestige has gone up ... *(Interruptions)* We will forcefully present our views. We will not back track. We want to rectify the mistakes committed by your Government. You please cooperate in this regard. It is not only in the interest of the farmers but will protect the interests of the entire country. I request holding of wide ranging discussion on agriculture policy to consider the issues relating to farmers. Such issues will continue to be raised for the coming two-three days, thereafter, you please give me the time to reply to these issues at length. With these words, I conclude and request the House to reject the adjournment motion.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those who have participated in the discussion on our Motion of Adjournment. Regrettably, there has been not enough time to accommodate everyone who wanted to speak but enough has been said to enable the House to come to an informed conclusion on the issues raised.

From the speeches of the hon. Members irrespective of party lines, except for a few on the other side and, of course, except for that of the Agriculture Minister, all agree that the agricultural sector deserves immediate and urgent attention. And it is evident that this is only the start; this is only the beginning of a nation wide debate.

The Treasury Benches have failed to respond to our demands. The hon. Minister, of course, has given us an extremely long presentation. He has evaded most of our points. Of course, he had plenty of figures to give us on paper. He has said that he comes from a village. He has said that he lives in a village, we appreciate that. He has also said that he knows how life in the village is. Well, I would like to tell him that he has not convinced us.

And I am sure that he will not be able to convince his own village people. And the answer will come from the Kisans, from the people of our country. It will come from the Kisans of our country and we shall wait for that answer and we know what that answer is going to be.

Our basic point was that the Government has done nothing to curb rising costs or to ensure fair and just prices. And it is a matter of disappointment that the hon. Minister has been unable to give our Kisans, our Khet Majdoors any comfort on either point. We believe, we know, that our Kisans continue to be ground in the Chakki.

Therefore, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want once again to request the House to support this Motion and censure the Government in such a manner that it is obliged to seriously formulate an effective overall agricultural policy to address the grievances of the farmers and stem the downward trend blighting the agricultural sector.

I urge all sections of the House to rise above partisan considerations in solidarity with our Kisans and Khet Majdoors and vote for this Motion of Adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a Division.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Let the Lobbies be cleared.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording system:

1. Before a Division starts, every hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.
2. As may kindly be seen the 'red bulbs above display boards' on either side of hon. Speaker's Chair are already glowing. This means the voting system has been activated.
3. For voting, kindly press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, namely:
 - (i) One 'Red' button in front of the hon. member on the head phone plate and also
 - (ii) Any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of desk of seats:

Ayes	—	Green colour
Noes	—	Red colour
Abstain	—	Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are 'off'.

IMPORTANT: The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Do not press the amber button (P) during Division.
6. Hon. Members can actually 'see' their vote on display boards and on their desk unit. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, three Members, namely Dr. Bikram Sarkar, Shrimati Kumudini Patnaik and Shrimati Rama Pilot have not been allotted seat/division numbers so far. They will be supplied 'Aye'/'No' printed slips for recording their votes.

These Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing their names, identity card numbers, constituency and State and date at the place specified on the slips.

(m5/2050/san-rpm)

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The Lok Sabha divided:

AYES

Division No. 1

20.55 hrs.

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.
Acharia, Shri Basu Deb
Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar
Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.
Alva, Shrimati Marget
Alvi, Shri Rashid
Ambareesha Shri
Athawale, Shri Ramdas*

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.
Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar
Basavanagoud, Shri Kolor
Basavaraj Shri G.S.
Basu, Shri Anil
Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya
Baxla, Shri Joachim
Begum Noor Bano
Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh
Bhagora, Shri Tarachand*
Bhatia, Shri R.L.
Bhuria, Shri Kantilal
Botcha, Shri Satyanarayana
Brar, Shri J.S.
Bundela, Shri Sujan Singh
Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy
Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh
Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
Chinnasamy, Shri M.
Choudhury, Shri Samar
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V.
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar
Eden, Shri George
Farook, Shri M.O.H.

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Galib, Shri G.S.*
 Gamang, Shrimati Hema
 Gamlin, Shri Jarbom
 Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
 Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
 George, Shri K. Francis
 Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
 Gogoi, Shri Tarun
 Govindan, Shri T.

 Hamid, Shri Abdul
 Handique, Shri Bijoy
 Hassan, Shri Moinul

 Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash
 Jalappa, Shri R.L.
 Jos, Shri A.C.
 Kamal Nath, Shri
 Karunakaran, Shri K.*
 Kaur, Shrimati Preneet
 Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat
 Khan, Shri Sunil
 Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
 Kumarasamy, Shri P.
 Kurup, Shri Suresh

 Lahiri, Shri Samik
 Lepcha, Shri S.P.

 Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar
 Mahant, Dr. Charan Das
 Makwana Shri Savshibhai
 Malaisamy, Shri K.
 Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
 Mayawati, Kumari
 Meena, Shri Bherulal

*Voted through Division Slip.

Mohan, Shri P.
 Mollah, Shri Hannan
 Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
 Muraleedharan, Shri K.*
 Murmu, Shri Rupchand
 Murugesan, Shri S.

 Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
 Narah, Shrimati Ranee

 Ola, Shri Sis Ram
 Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam

 Pal, Shri Rupchand
 Pandiyan, Shri P.H.
 Pasi, Shri Suresh
 Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
 Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai
 Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbai
 Patel, Shri Dharm Raj Singh
 Patel, Shri Dinsha
 Patel, Shri Tarachand Shivaji
 Patil, Shri Amarsinh Vasantao
 Patil, Shri Laxmanrao
 Patil, Shri R.S.*
 Patil, Shri Shriniwas
 Patil, Shri Uttamrao
 Pilot, Shrimati Rama*
 Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
 Prasada, Shri Jitendra*

 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab
 Rajendran, Shri P.
 Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh
 Ramulu, Shri H.G.*

*Voted through Division Slip.

Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
 Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda
 Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
 Roy, Shri Sobodh*
 Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

 Sanadi, Prof. I.G.
 Sangma, Shri Purno A.
 Sangtam, Shri K.A.*
 Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
 Saroj, Shri Tufani
 Saroj, Shrimati Sushila
 Saroja, Dr. V.
 Sayeed, Shri P.M.
 Scindia, Shri Madharvao
 Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M.
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 Seth, Shri Lakshman
 Sharma, Capt. Satish
 Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar
 Shukla, Shri Shyamacharan
 Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
 Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
 Singh, Rajkumari Ratna
 Singh, Sardar Buta
 Singh, Shri Balbir*
 Singh, Shri Khel Sai
 Singh, Shri Lakshman
 Singh, Shri Rajo
 Singh, Shrimati Shyama
 Sivakumar, Shri V.S.
 Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
 Sreenivasan, Shri C.

Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M

 Thomas, Shri P.C.
 Tiwari, Shri Narayan Datt*
 Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran*

 Verma, Shri Rajesh
 Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
 Vyas, Dr. Girija

 Wadiyar, Shri S.D.N.R.

 Yadav, Shri Akhilesh
 Yadav, Shri Ramakant

 Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

NOES

A. Narendra, Shri
 Abdullah, Shri Omar
 Acharya, Shri Prasanna
 Adhi Sankar, Shri
 Aditya Nath, Yogi
 Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba
 Advani, Shri L.K.
 Ahmad, Shri Daud
 Ananth Kumar, Shri
 Angle, Shri Ramakant
 Argal, Shri Ashok
 Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita
 Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.
 Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

 Baalu, Shri T.R.
 'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
 Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh
 Baidia, Shri Ramchander
 Bais, Shri Ramesh
 Baitha, Shri Mahendra

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip
 Banerjee, Kumari Mamata
 Bansawal, Shri Shyam Lal
 Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh
 Behera, Shri Padmanava
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
 Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh
 Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan
 Bose, Shrimati Krishna
 Brahmanaiah, Shri A.

 C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)
 Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya
 Chandel, Shri Suresh
 Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
 Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
 Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
 Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
 Chauhan, Shri Shriram
 Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai
 Choudhry, Shri Nikhil Kumar
 Choukhry, Shri Padam Sen
 Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
 Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh

 D'Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix
 Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu
 Dahal, Shri Bhim
 Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru
 Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao
 Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
 Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
 Durai, Shri M.

 Fernandes, Shri George
 Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan

Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
 Gandhi, Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal
 Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
 Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
 Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
 Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala
 Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
 Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
 Goel, Shri Vijay
 Gohain, Shri Rajen
 Gudhe, Shri Anant
 Gupta, Prof, Chaman Lal

 Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz
 Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar

 Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao
 Jag Mohan, Shri
 Jagannath, Dr. Manda
 Jain, Shri Pusp
 Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.
 Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad
 Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan
 Jha, Shri Raghunath
 Joshi, Shri Manohar

 Kamble, Shri Shivaji Vitthalrao
 Kannappan, Shri M.
 Kanungo, Shri Trilochan
 Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram
 Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh
 Katara, Shri Babubhai K.
 Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal
 Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbbhai
 Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh
 Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
 Khan, Shri Hassan

Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar
 Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.
 Khanna, Shri Vinod
 Khunte, Shri P.R.
 Khurana, Shri Madan Lal
 Kriplani, Shri Shrichand
 Krishnamraju, Shri
 Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama
 Krishnan, Dr. C.
 Krishnaswamy, Shri A.
 Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh
 Kumar, Shri Arun
 Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya
 Kuppusami, Shri C.
 Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna

 M. Master Mathan, Shri
 Mahajan, Shri Y.G.
 Mahajhan, Shrimati Sumitra
 Maharia, Shri Subhash
 Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari
 Mahato, Shrimati Abha
 Majhi, Shri Parsuram
 Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar
 Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.
 Malyala, Shri Rajaiah
 Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand
 Mane, Shri Shivaji
 Majay Lal, Shri
 Manjhi, Shri Ramjee
 Mann, Shri Zora Singh
 Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur
 Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti
 Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina
 Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal

Mohite, Shri Subodh
 Mookherjee, Shri S.B.*
 Moorthy, Shri A.K.
 Munda, Shri Kariya
 Muni Lal, Shri
 Murmu, Shri Salkhan
 Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.

 Naik, Shri Ram*
 Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad
 Nitish Kumar, Shri

 Padmanabham, Shri Mudragada
 Palanimanickam, Shri .S.S.
 Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
 Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
 Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
 Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar
 Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
 Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh
 Passi, Shri Raj Narain
 Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
 Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
 Paswan, Shri Ramchandra
 Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
 Patel, Dr. Ashok
 Patel, Shri Chandresh
 Patel, Shri Mansinh
 Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
 Pathak, Shri Harin
 Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
 Patil, Shri Balashaheb Vikhe
 Pati (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad

Patnaik, Shrimati Kumudini*

Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal

Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh

Ponnuswamy, Shri E.*

Potai, Shri Sohan

Pradhan, Dr. Debendra

Pradhan, Shri Ashok*

Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa

Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.

Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon

Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore

Raja, Shri A.

Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara

Ram, Shri Braj Mohan

Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.

Ramaiah, Shri Gunipati

Raman, Dr.

Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.*

Rana, Shri Kashiram

Rana, Shri Raju

Rao, Shri D.V.G. Shankar

Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa

Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana

Rao, Shri Y.V.

Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh

Rawale, Shri Mohan

Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh

Rawat, Shri Pradeep

Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender

Reddy, Shri G. Ganga

Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender

Renu Kumari, Shrimati

*Voted through Division Slip.

Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap

Sahu, Shri Anadi

Sahu, Shri Taranchand

Samantray, Shri Prabhat

Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh

Sarkar, Dr. Bikram*

Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh

Sengupta, Dr. Nitish

Sethi, Shri Arjun

Shah, Shri Manabendra

Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid

Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram

Shanmugam, Shri N.T.

Shanta Kumar, Shri

Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt

Shashi Kumar, Shri

Sikdar, Shri Tapan*

Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari

Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder

Singh, Ch. Tejveer

Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhani

Singh, Shri Bahadur

Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap

Singh, Shri Digvijay

Singh, Shri Maheshwar

Singh, Shri Prabhunath

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan

Singh, Shri Ramjivan

Singh, Shri Rampal

Singh, Shri Sahib

Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba

Sinha, Shri Yashwant

Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh

*Voted through Division Slip.

Somaiya, Shri Kirit

Srikantappa, Shri D.C.

Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava

Swain, Shri Kharabela

Swami, Shri Chinmayanand

Thakur, Dr. C.P.

Thirunavukarasu, Shri

Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand

Tripathi, Shri Ram Naresh

Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore

Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh

Vaiko, Shri

Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari

Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra

Venkataswamy, Dr. N.

Venkateswarlu, Shri B.

Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Prof. Rita

Vetriselvan, Shri V.

Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M.

Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.

Virendra Kumar, Shri

Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma

Wanaga, Shri Chintaman

Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha

Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan

Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad

Yadav, Shri Sharad

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members please take your seats. The Members from the back - benches may please take your seats.

Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

AYES: 139

NOES: 248

The motion was negatived

20.56 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members. Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (i) **Need for early construction of Railway overbridge at Kishangarh-Madanganj in Ajmer district, Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The Ajmer district of Rajasthan has an important commercial centre called Kishangarh Madanganj which is an important production centre of marble and where people from all over India come to buy marbles. At present the town is divided into two parts by the railway line and the National

* Ayes 139 + 14 (S/Shri Ramdas Athawale, Trarachand Bhagora, G.S. Galib, K. Karunakaran, K. Muraleedharan, R.S. Patil, Shrimati Rama Pilot, S/Shri Jitendra Prasada, H.G. Ramulu, Subodh Roy, K.A. Sangtam, Balbir Singh, Narayan Datt Tiwari, Tarit Baran Topdar) = 153

*NOES: 248 + 8 (S/Shri S.B. Mookherjee, Ram Naik, Shrimati Kumudini Patnaik, S/Shri E. Ponnuswamy, Ashok Pradhan, Gingee N. Ramachandran, Dr. Bikram Sarkar, Shri Tapan Sikdar) = 256

** Treated as Laid on the Table of the House

highway. While all the gang machine factories of marble and the centres of finished products are located on the one side while the Madanganj-Kishangarh town is on the other side. The main road linking the two parts lies close to the railway station and the crossing is frequently closed because of the movement of trains, which leads to problems in the smooth flow of traffic between the two sides. Long queues of vehicles for hours cause obstruction in the movement of traders and farmers of nearby villages and common people as well as in the transportation of industrial and agricultural produces to the market. Accidents also take place sometime.

Therefore a railway overbridge needs to be constructed near the railway station on this road. The people representatives, organisations, political parties, commercial organisations have submitted memoranda to the railway officials for the construction of a railway overbridge in Rupangarh road Kishangarh-Madanganj on many occasions but unfortunately no action has been taken. The problems of the people keeps on increasing, inspite of the fact that Government gets huge income from this market and the marble centre by way of taxes.

Therefore, I request the Ministry of Railway, Government of India, to construct a railway overbridge on railway crossing at Rupangarh Road near the railway station in Kishangarh-Madanganj town in the district Ajmer as soon as possible so that the obstruction in transportation is removed.

(ii) Need for Early Construction of a Bye-pass at Ranchi, Proposed Capital of Jharkhand.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems arising due to the absence of a bye pass in Ranchi district. Ranchi is the proposed capital of Jharkhand State and has a population of 15 lakh. The traffic within the city is often obstructed which leads to not only the inconvenience the people but also causes delay in reaching their destinations. Petrol is also wasted due to slow traffic and accidents are common. Even small townships have bye-passes.

There is no bye-pass for Ranchi even though it is the capital of Jharkhand and has a population of 15 lakhs.

I request the Union Government for the construction of a bye pass in Ranchi city in public interest without delay.

(iii) Need to set up TV Transmitters In Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency In Gujarat.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards my

parliamentary constituency Banaskantha on the Pakistan Border where there are no TV transmitters in Thanera, Thara and Dayoder as a result of which people there watch the programmes of Pakistan TV. It is an effort to alienate our citizens from the national mainstream. These places have all the facilities for setting up TV transmitters and it is also in public interest so that we do not fall victim to the malicious propaganda of Pakistan.

I request, through this House that TV transmitters be set up in Thanera, Thara and Dayodar and a radio station be established in Banaskantha as soon as possible.

(iv) Need to take steps for full utilization of storage capacity provided by Food Corporation of India at Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): A recent decision of the Food Corporation of India has caused a crisis before thousands of employees throughout the country. The Food Corporation of India is closing down many of its warehouses at important places which have storage capacities from 10,000 to 14,000 tonnes. It also includes important places like Ratlam which supplies the foodgrain requirements of Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ratlam and Jhabua. This place is linked both with the Broad gauge and Metre gauge as well as with the National Highways and the state Highways. Being an important railway junction, it has all the facilities of loading and unloading of goods. This sudden decision of the corporation has caused a feeling of insecurity of the corporation has caused a feeling of insecurity among thousands of employees on the one hand, and on the other it is also likely to cause disruption in the storage system and supply system in the adjoining districts. If the storage work is handed over to other agencies, it will affect our self dependence and the public may have to suffer a lot of difficulties. Though the storage capacity in Ratlam has been shown as only 9000 tonnes but in reality the storage capacity has always been between 10000 and 14000 tonnes.

Therefore, I request hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to maintain the station considering the central location and storage capacity of Ratlam so that the people continue to get the facilities and the dissatisfaction and the problems of the employees are removed.

(v) Need to expedite construction of Post Office Building at Shekhpura District Headquarter, Bihar.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): The construction of a Post Office building has been sanctioned in Shekhpura district headquarters of my parliamentary constituency

[Shri Rajo Singh]

Begusarai. Land is also available for it but the above mentioned building has not been constructed as yet which is causing great difficulties.

Through the House I want to draw the attention of the Government towards it and request that the order for the construction of the building should be issued immediately. Keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the local people.

(vi) Need to Increase Support Price of Copra from Rs. 5000/- per Quintal.

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): I would like to invite your kind attention towards the problems faced by the coconut growers in Kerala State. The opening up of the country's economy to the world market and the liberalized import of various agricultural economy in the State of Kerala. The crisis has been further deepened by the price crash of coconut and coconut products due to the indiscriminate import of edible oils and flooding in Kerala market with low quality Palmolin carrying a low price of Rs. 23/- per kg. Coconut crop covers nearly 10.5 lakh hectare constitution 34% of cropped area and contribute 35% of agricultural income in the State. It is estimated that 30 lakh farmers are engaged in coconut cultivation, 90% of whom are small and marginal. I may point out that the price of coconut is based on the price of copra and coconut oil. The maximum support price declared by the Govt. of India earlier is totally unremunerative to the farmers and unrealistic in comparison with factors of cost of production of copra.

I therefore, request to the Government to increase the maximum support price of Rs. 5000/- per quintal of copra and also increase the import duty of edible oils.

(vii) Need to Release Funds For village and District Panchayats in Union Territory of Daman and Diu As per Recommendations of Finance Commission.

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): The Finance Commission of the Union Territory of Daman and Diu has studied the functions of District Panchayat, Village Panchayats and Municipalities in Daman and Diu and has since submitted its interim as well as final report to the Government. As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission, each Village Panchayat and District Panchayat should be provided funds to the tune of Rs. 3.00 lakhs and Rs. 10.00 lakhs respectively as one time ad hoc grant. More than three years have elapsed but till date no financial allocation has been made for this purpose.

As such, I request the Government to release the funds for the Village Panchayats and District Panchayats in accordance with the recommendations made by the Finance Commission.

(viii) Need to Review the Decision to Privatisise Mining Sector.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): In a span of three years the Government has for the second time decided to throw open mining as well as of coal and lignite to the private companies apart from public sector companies. Till now coal mining to private companies was only allowed for captive purposes.

In a decision on 6th April, 2000, Cabinet approved suitable amendments to the Coal Mining (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 so that private companies could move in. The Government will now have to introduce a Bill in Parliament to make the proposed amendments. It is not in the interest of the country. It may be recalled that mining was in private hands and corruption was rampant besides coal miners were exploited unchecked by the private mine owners. To end all this, mining was nationalised.

I urge upon the Government not to go for opening up the mining sector for private hands, whose track records have not been good at all. I strongly demand for the public sector of coal mines so that the country could stand on its own feet. In protest of privatisation Coal industry and the delay in finalisation of the Sixth Wage Agreement Central Indian Trade Union called a strike which is going on from 20th Nov. to 22nd November, 2000. About six lakhs employees have taken part as a result all the coal units of coal India have stopped their production.

(ix) Need to Accord Clearance to the Proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for Development of A Nature Park at Vishakhapatnam.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Visakhapatnam city in Andhra Pradesh is a prominent and picturesque urban areas located on the shores of Bay of Bengal and surrounded by hills. The city is a fast growing industrial city and has gained importance as a second capital of the State. A place for environmental education and recreation within the city is quite essential. The Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a detailed project report for the creation and development of a nature park. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 15.82 crores. The nature park is proposed to be developed in an area of 6832 hectares in Kambalankond a forest area block.

I request the Government of India to accord clearance and funding of the project so as to meet the environmental, educational, recreational and aesthetic needs of the Visakhapatnam city.

(x) Need for Adequate funds for providing Adequate facilities at Kumbhmela to be held at Allahabad, UP during December-March 2000-2001

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the first Maha Kumbhmela of 21st century to be held at the banks of the Ganga-Yamuna rivers in Allahabad between December and March. About 7-8 crore devotees from the country and around the world are expected to participate in Mahakumbha mela in Prayag. The Union Government will have to make arrangements of special trains, air services and buses for the people because the large number of devotees would be coming to Kumbhmela and adjoining areas. The arrangement for drinking water, toilets and roads for transportation has to be made for the devotees living at the site of Kumbhmela and adjoining areas. The Defence Department used to construct a temporary Pontoon bridge on Yamuna river on the occasion of Kumbhmela to reduce the pressure of the crowd but this year the bridge is not being constructed by the Department. The non-construction of bridge may lead to over crowding in the Mela and in the event of stampede thousands may die. Therefore, it is important to construct a bridge on the river Yamuna. In addition, the terrorists may cause bomb blast during the Mela.

I demand that the Union Government makes available additional funds to enhance the public facilities in the fair. Also more measures be taken to prevent the occurring of terrorist activities and better arrangements be made to manage the entire fair.

(xi) Need to provide Mobile Telephone Services in Osmanabad Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE (Osmanabad): I want to raise an important matter of great public interest in my constituency, Osmanabad in Maharashtra, regarding Government mobile telephone service.

Telephone department has recently sanctioned Government mobile telephone service to Poona, Aurangabad Nagar in Maharashtra and Goa. BPL, Birla, AT & T etc. are providing mobile telephone service to these big cities. Osmanabad constituency is located in Marathwada which is known as a backward area. Instead of these big cities, Government should provide mobile telephone service in this backward constituency. My information is that Government has collected all necessary information for this purpose. Public is waiting for the positive date of inauguration of mobile telephone services in my Osmanabad constituency.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to look into his matter and provide mobile telephone service in Osmanabad constituency as early as possible.

(xii) Need for early Commissioning of Airport at Kargil.

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): Construction of an airport at Kargil at a cost of Rs. 35 crores so almost complete now. It will link the far-flung and historical place of Kargil with rest of the country when at present it remains cut off for more than six months in a year. An early air link to this bordering district will be a rememberable service to the people of the area as well as to the brave Jawans and their families serving in the region under most inhospitable conditions. Air Service to Kargil is definitely going to attract domestic as well as foreign tourist to the region. As far as the people of India are concerned, Tiger Hill, Tololing, Mushko, Batalik and, Chorbatila in Kargil have become the new shrines of pilgrimages as every Indian knows that these names have brought glory to the nation and pride to Mother India. For the foreign tourists, Kargil is a central place in Ladakh where from they can plan their adventure as well as sight seeing tours to any direction in the region in less time and exertions. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is requested to kindly step up the concluding formalities including a flight plan to this new airport. We the people of Kargil salute to the Airport Authority of India and its executing agencies for their devotion in completing the airport at Kargil in most insecure and inhospitable situations.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

20.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 23, 2000/Agrahayana 2, 1922 (Saka)

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